

PROGRAMME UPDATE



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Fédération internationale des Sociétés de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge
Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja
الاتحاد الدولي لجمعيات الصليب الأحمر والهلال الأحمر

SOUTH AMERICA

19 July 2001

Appeal No. 01.30/2001

Appeal Target CHF 3,940,000

Programme Update No. 1; Period covered: January - March 2001

“At a Glance”

Appeal coverage: 35.5%

Outstanding needs: CHF 2,542,582

Update: The regional delegation assisted national societies in the South American region in responding to various natural disaster situations during the reporting period in addition to capacity building activities. Initial response to the appeal has been low, preventing full implementation of planned programmes.

Operational Developments:

Bolivia experienced exceptionally heavy rains, the worst in 58 years, from December 2000 onwards; they caused floods and landslides in various regions of the country. Seven out of nine departments were affected, and the government declared a state of national emergency in four of them -- La Paz, Oruro, Beni and Cochabamba. In response to a request for aid by the Bolivian Red Cross, the International Federation launched an international appeal.

The regional delegation also monitored the situation in Peru where heavy rainfall caused severe flooding throughout the department of Puno, in the south.

Disaster Response

Bolivia Floods 2001

In Bolivia, exceptionally heavy rainfall caused floods and landslides in January. More than 100,000 people were affected throughout the country. The International Federation launched an appeal for CHF 1,503,575 in order to assist 36,200 beneficiaries.

Both the Regional Disaster Preparedness (DP) delegate and the head of relief operations for the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) participated in an inter-institutional committee made up of representatives from the UN World Food Programme (WFP), PAHO, Doctors without Borders, USAID; CARE, the Ministry of Health and the National Civil Defence Service. The Buenos Aires regional delegation information officer went to Bolivia for

two weeks to contact national and international media in order to support the operation and to prepare situation reports.

Over 40 volunteers of the Bolivian Red Cross were mobilized to carry out damage and needs analysis assessments and a detailed census in the communities involved in the operation. The first transfer of USD 83,980 arrived from the Federation on 8 February, allowing the Bolivian Red Cross to start the relief operation. The first distribution of humanitarian relief took place on 20 February in Oruro and Huanuni, both in the department of Oruro. A total of 636 families received a one-month, 45-kg food package as well as blankets, agricultural tools, water containers and chlorine for purifying water. In addition, the Bolivian Red Cross supported CARITAS in a nationwide "solidarity campaign", collecting and distributing food, blankets, and clothes to the affected population.

The second distribution of relief took place in Guanay on 11 March, in the department of Bení. A total of 1,242 families received relief aid packages similar to those mentioned above. During the distribution in Guanay, Oxfam UK utilized the census and distribution systems of the Bolivian Red Cross to distribute blankets and mattresses. Both operations were carried out at the same time. The operation was very successful and demonstrated the advantages of close cooperation between organizations.

During the reporting period, operational plans were consolidated by the German, Swiss and Spanish Red Cross Societies, which began bilateral relief operations in various parts of the country. The German and Spanish National Societies placed delegates in the country and began operations, while Swiss Red Cross activities were coordinated and implemented by the central office and Santa Cruz branch of the BRC. Both the Swiss and Spanish operations were to be completed by the end of June 2001.

Meetings were held to coordinate the actions of all those involved in order to avoid duplication and to maximize available resources. While these operations are bilateral, the final plans reflect the needs and areas of operation identified in the appeal launched by the Federation. It should be noted that the cooperation shown by all those involved demonstrates a capacity for several actors to play pivotal roles within the parameters of a single appeal. For example, the Spanish Red Cross and the Federation undertook to share personnel in order to ensure the best use of resources, as well as timely distributions. The BRC has done a commendable job in facilitating this coordinated effort.

Based on funds received, both through the Federation's appeal and bilateral agreements, as well as a detailed analysis of needs in the most critically affected areas based on a census carried out by the Red Cross, the Federation and the Bolivian Red Cross planned distributions of humanitarian relief to an additional 2,831 families, to be completed by the end of June.

This will bring the total number of those benefiting from the operations to 10,389 families, or 3,149 families more than the original figure of 7,240. The Bolivian Red Cross, with support from the Federation's delegation, has shown a high degree of efficiency and professionalism throughout the three months of the operation. Distributions reached the most vulnerable communities in a timely manner. Coordination with other governmental and non-governmental organizations continues to improve and the BRC is playing a key role in this process. The operation carried out by the Red Cross to date has been the largest, most organized and most successful in the country.

Peruvian Floods - Puno, 2001

Between December and March 2001, heavy rainfall caused severe flooding throughout the department of Puno. Some 90 per cent of the normal precipitation for this period fell in February alone. From 19-26 February, Lakes Titicaca and Umaya, the laguna Arapa and the Ilave, Zapatilla, Ramis and Coata rivers overflowed. The situation was further complicated by snowfall and hail at high altitudes, which is uncommon at this time of year. The combined effects caused damage to 39,063 hectares of farmland and severely harmed the economic cycle of the area. A total of 7,538 families in eight provinces were affected, 6,942 houses were damaged and 694 were destroyed. Schools were flooded, causing classes to be cancelled, and 1,047 km of roads were severely damaged.

The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC), through its branches in Puno and San Antonio de Putina, has been involved since January in a programme of collection and distribution of clothing and blankets. It has also been a key actor in assessing damage, in coordination with other institutions such as the civil defence, all municipalities in the area, PRONNA (National Food Support Programme), the regional government, regional health authorities and the Ministry of Agriculture. In addition, the PRC forms part of an inter-NGO committee which includes CARE, ADRA, PREDES, CARITAS and OXFAM. Inter-institutional meetings are held monthly in order to coordinate activities and avoid duplication. The Federation has been involved in the assessment and response process.

Disaster Preparedness

Objectives:

- *To expand the Disaster Community Education Programme to more communities.*
- *To train teams of monitors and facilitators in disaster prevention and preparedness.*

Andino Programme

During the reporting period the project, "Community Education for Disaster Preparedness and Prevention in Andean Countries: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Venezuela," got under way. The programme aims to improve and strengthen the ability of 46 communities in the most vulnerable areas of the four countries to respond to natural disasters by strengthening community organization. Specifically, the objectives of the project are:

- to strengthen the basic response capacity of communities in emergencies and disasters ; and,
- to support the institutional development of the Bolivian, Colombian, Ecuadorian and Venezuelan National Red Cross Societies, so that they can implement the programme and specific projects to improve people's response capacity in disasters.

Utilizing a participatory methodology, the project focuses on reducing the conditions of vulnerability in communities and implementing healthy life styles through improved hygiene practices, educational presentations, the detection of risks and threats, training of community resources and Red Cross branch and community emergency plans. Community brigades will be formed, and Red Cross emergency units will be strengthened. Their roles will be clearly defined in community-based disaster preparedness, prevention and response plans.

The programme will train 340 leaders/facilitators in the four countries, who will then pass on the knowledge gained to members of the communities involved in the programme. To date, a total of 184 people were trained as facilitators and returned to their communities in order to share knowledge and skills. In addition, the programme is obtaining results in the following areas:

- improved community organization, including: improved participation by all community sectors, the ability to organize meetings, use of democratic procedures, respect for differences of opinions, taking on responsibility, meeting deadlines and improved communication;
- recognition by institutions of the need to pay more attention to the cultural, social and political realities of the communities. A concrete example of this is the use of bilingual facilitators in certain communities in Ecuador and Bolivia;
- improved analytical and problem solving skills;
- improved capacity by Red Cross volunteers and community members to plan, implement and evaluate ideas/plans/projects;
- improved inter-institutional relations, based on the capacity of community members to articulate needs and lobby officials to implement programmes designed to meet community-identified needs;
- improved conflict resolution skills within the Red Cross branches and in community organizations;
- increased participation by women.

The Programa Andino's main concern is not quantitative impacts, such as the number of communities involved or the number of workshops completed. Its chief focus is on preparing community members in the various aspects of disaster prevention and preparedness. Participants will receive rigorous and systematized training, which will be verifiable through simulation exercises, facilitation skills, planning abilities and concrete implemented actions. Community members will have the necessary skills to assess risks and threats not only in relation to disasters but also in other areas of community concern, such as health and environment. Impact will be measured through constant follow-up, monitoring and evaluation.

The project also aims at being relevant to current situations in the countries. In many of the participating communities in Bolivia, the project is being implemented in areas recently affected by severe flooding. In Colombia, the communities involved are not only vulnerable in terms of disasters but are in areas profoundly impacted by civil unrest, where significant numbers of people are forced to flee to other regions (including across the border into regions of Ecuador where the project is also active).

A significant effect of the workshops and the training that have taken place is the establishment and strengthening of communication between community members, community organizations and other agencies involved in disaster preparedness and prevention. This can be observed as plans for community-based micro-projects are developed. Strategic alliances are being formed and solidified as communities analyze needs and develop coherent and articulate responses to them. In addition, the programme is attempting to support national societies in consolidating policies and practices in areas such as community work and methodology, educational practices and materials, into a coherent and feasible strategy.

The final six months of the project will be dedicated to improving the processes already initiated. The planning and implementation of micro-projects will give structure to the knowledge and skills gained by both Red Cross volunteers and community members. The development of emergency disaster plans and training in their implementation will also further consolidate the community's capacity to quickly and efficiently respond not only to disasters but also to a wide range of challenges.

- To support the structures of the relief departments of the ten national societies of the region through training and equipment.

The regional DP delegate based in Buenos Aires attended a four-day meeting of all National Societies of Central America organized by the delegation in Guatemala. A similar meeting will be held in July in Bolivia with all directors of relief from nine South American countries. Self-administered evaluations, done by all national societies participating, will be evaluated and individualized plans aimed at strengthening headquarters, branches and communities will be developed. Funds provided through DFID will be used to support this project.

- Camalote: To diminish the vulnerability of 14 urban-marginal neighbourhoods along the del Plata Basin in 2001, and 18 in 2002, by encouraging appropriate behaviour for disaster prevention and preparedness and promoting health, environmental sanitation and community development action.

- To promote the implementation of at least five community disaster prevention projects in five national societies.

The experience gained in the Camalote programme underscores the viability of developing low cost projects (half of them cost USD 5,000 per project) with high social profitability that strengthen the communities' ability to face disasters on their own. A project contest will be launched, in order to support five projects annually in the region.

Plans were also developed to support the Camalote programme by integrating community based DPP programmes into project activities. These plans will be further strengthened and training will begin later in the year.

The annual evaluation and planning meeting was organized in March. In this meeting the regional delegation brought together the national and local coordinators as well as donors of both the Amazonico and Camalote

programmes in order to share experience regarding community development and to plan jointly for the rest of 2001. The incorporation of Bolivia into the Camalote programme was also discussed. A separate Amazonico/Camalote meeting report is available upon request.

- *To support, together with the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), the elaboration of a database of available human resources and materials.*
- *To support the realization of at least four national emergency plans in 2001, and three in 2002, together with the PADRU.*

During the reporting period, activities were initiated to develop a Pan-American DPP/DR strategy. In coordination with the DP delegate in the Guatemala delegation and representatives from all national societies, documents are being developed to delineate key areas of focus.

Other Key Activities

In conjunction with the institutional development delegates, a pilot project focusing on gender issues as they relate to DPP/DR strategies is being designed. During the upcoming quarter, this project will be further elaborated, and a national society selected for case study.

Humanitarian Values

- *To support the dissemination of the fundamental principles and the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's humanitarian values through the youth network, promoting among children and young people attitudes of non-violence, tolerance, reciprocal respect and equality of opportunities among men and women.*

A regional non-violence programme for youth, to be developed mainly in school centres, has been started. The Venezuelan Red Cross is in charge of leading the project.

- *To promote volunteering in the region, increasing the participation and commitment of the population in social welfare issues through collaboration with the Red Cross.*

Apart from the activities related to volunteering reported under the institutional development section, there were no other special activities during the reporting period. The majority of the ten national societies of the region are members of the national committees for the International Year of Volunteering.

Health and Care

The regional health delegate finished his contract with the Federation in January and no replacement has yet been recruited. As a result, most activities planned for the reporting period were not carried out. HIV/AIDS prevention and Amazonico activities were carried out by other personnel of the regional delegation.

- *To promote HIV/AIDS prevention education in all national societies which are implementing this programme through youth programmes (five societies in 2001 and five in 2002).*

See youth, under the ID programme heading.

- *To promote a better quality of life in at least 15 communities living in conditions of poverty and marginalization along the Amazonian Basin (Amazonico Programme), through endemic diseases prevention, mother-child health, improved nutrition, sanitation, environmental protection and institutional development.*

The annual evaluation and planning meeting was organized in March. In this meeting the regional delegation brought together the national and local coordinators as well as donors to both the Amazonico and Camalote

programmes in order to share experience regarding community development and to plan jointly for 2001. A separate meeting report is available upon request.

Because there was no health delegate, the delegation's Amazonico activities were confined to programme management.

Institutional and Resource Development

Much of the attention of the two ID delegates of the regional delegation was focused on planning and giving technical support to each national society. Due to a historic lack of funding there were efforts to further cut costs in this programme. This resulted in a major integration of the seven objectives of the ID programme and programming in the core areas which has also had a positive effect on Federation activities with the national societies of the sub-region.

- To facilitate training in the identification, planning, administration and evaluation of plans, programmes and projects in at least six national societies during 2001, and in at least four national societies in 2002.

Meetings with the management of the Argentine Red Cross were held in order to give technical support to the society's 2001 planning process.

In Uruguay, the NDP (national development plan) and LDP (branches' local plans) have not yet been activated. The process is scheduled to start during the next quarter.

- To strengthen the development of economic resources in at least nine national societies of the region in order to improve their financial capacities -- five in 2001, and the remainder in 2002.

Financial resource development was one of the issues on the agenda of the fifth Inter-American Communication and Resource Development Forum in Panama (see below).

The plan is to integrate financial resource development into governance and management as the success of this issue depends upon the commitment of the leadership in each national society. No separate regional seminar will be organized, but the issue will be integrated into regional events regarding governance and management.

The Chilean Red Cross will play a special role in this area, since it has positive experience to share with other national societies. It also became a member of the commission on resource development at the last Inter-American Communication and Resource Development Forum.

- To train the governing and administration bodies of at least five national societies during 2001 and the other five national societies during 2002.

Dates and design of the governance training programme were re-examined in order to determine priority societies.

- To strengthen the internal and external communication of the national societies of the region.

In February, 15 national societies, including five national societies of the sub-region, the Federation and the ICRC, and participating national societies met for the fifth Inter-American Communication and Resource Development Forum in Panama. The forum adopted a number of recommendations to be implemented at national society level in internal communications, dissemination, communications in disasters and resource development. A report on the forum is available upon request.

The distance education programme was delayed because of lack of funding.

The first issue of *Noticias de America Latina* was prepared but not yet printed due to lack of funding.

The updating and improvement of the Buenos Aires regional delegation's web page will not be carried out, following a decision at the forum in Panama to have only one Federation web page for Latin America (www.cruzroja.org) to which all web pages of the national societies are connected.

Media activities were carried out in connection with the El Salvador earthquake and the floods in Bolivia. The information officer of the regional delegation was assigned to the Bolivia floods operation for two weeks. The national society benefited from this mission which also aimed at strengthening its communications department's capacity.

A communications plan for the regional delegation was elaborated.

- To strengthen the structure and to facilitate the development of a youth network in the region

The regional youth plan, "Plan Sur joven", was adopted and distributed within the region.

The youth network gathered for one chat session. After each chat session, minutes are distributed to the national societies.

The youth leadership training scheduled for October was planned for and funds are being raised. Meanwhile, candidates' profiles are being studied.

Despite the lack of a health delegate, special focus was given to the HIV/AIDS programme. During the Third National School of Training (see below) in Chile, a meeting with the youth sexual education and HIV/AIDS prevention commission was held (the Chilean Red Cross leads this group). A questionnaire on the programme was designed, to be sent to all national societies as a first step in the revision of the programme. The programme was analyzed and a proposal developed and sent to the Secretariat.

The Chilean Red Cross' Third National School of Training was held in February. The RD youth officer and the project assistant participated, sharing experience with the regional youth network and the school units with the youth branches directors and volunteers. The video "Living with..." was shared and discussed with all participants.

In February, a new youth bulletin was sent to the regional national societies.

Meetings are held regularly with the Argentine Red Cross' member of the youth commission to discuss various youth issues in the region.

- To promote the incorporation of a gender perspective in national society structures, among staff and volunteers and in their programmes, projects and activities.

During the first quarter, the gender objectives and activities of the Appeal 2001-2002 were revised. The strategy now is to integrate gender activities fully into regional programming and regional events. No separate regional gender workshop will be organized. Instead the topic will be incorporated into a regional workshop on human resources, including volunteering, youth and gender, to be held in September 2001. The integration of gender into core areas is focusing on DP/DR in 2001.

The gender training manual was printed and distributed to national societies and relevant organizations. The gender awareness module was also distributed.

In the annual evaluation and planning meeting of Amazonico and Camalote, the gender issue was further reinforced. In both programmes the issue was clearly introduced. Separate documentation is available upon request.

A special report on the regional delegation's gender project was produced in order to share the experience of the sub-region with the rest of the Americas. The report is available upon request.

A case study on gender and disaster preparedness is being planned with the DP/DR delegate.

During the Chilean Red Cross' Youth Third National School of Training in February, the gender programme was presented to a workshop on gender sensitization. The module and manual were promoted among the participants (30 volunteers).

- To support national societies in strengthening their volunteer base.

During the reporting period the network on volunteering was reactivated.

Regional Cooperation

- To support the reinforcement of regional exchange, cooperation and networking.

None of the activities in the appeal was carried out.

- To strengthen the Regional Delegate Recruitment programme in South America

During the reporting period two Colombian relief delegates were deployed outside the sub-region - one to the El Salvador earthquake operation and the other to the India earthquake operation.

The international recruitment handbook was distributed to the national societies of the region.

Coordination and Management

Regional coordination and cooperation was facilitated through the country based delegates. The P/DR delegate is based in La Paz, Bolivia, maintaining regional responsibilities. In Colombia, a liaison delegate plays an important role in promoting cooperation within the Movement and in Federation support to the Colombian Red Cross. During the reporting period the Colombian Red Cross' headquarters was on strike for two months, with major consequences for the national society and for the Federation. Separate reporting on the Federation's Colombia presence is available upon request. The country delegation in Venezuela had to focus on its downsizing and closing, planned for 30 June.

- To improve the efficiency of Red Cross programmes through better planning and increased resource mobilization.

A joint evaluation and planning meeting for the Camalote and Amazonico programmes was organized in March.

The network of ID delegates of the Americas, created in the Americas ID meeting in December in Geneva, started work. Materials were exchanged and a process of revising was initiated.

The 2001 Appeal was distributed to a number of embassies, agencies, NGOs and the private sector.

- To reinforce partnerships within the Movement and with external partners.

Contacts were made with the World Bank's regional offices, to present projects to the decentralized fund (specific actions on community programmes).

Strategic alliances with the Weather Channel and the newspaper, Le Monde Diplomatique, were maintained. During the reporting period the Ericsson company held a meeting in Buenos Aires for the whole region, at which cooperation with the Federation was introduced. Meetings took place between representatives of Ericsson and the regional delegation.

Monthly meetings took place with the head of regional delegation at ICRC in order to strengthen contacts between the delegations.

A donors' meeting, hosted by the Spanish Red Cross, was held in Madrid, Spain, in January, with the presence of delegates from the Federation's Secretariat, the regional delegation and ICRC headquarters, Geneva.

Four participating societies (the American, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross Societies) took part in the Camalote and Amazonico meeting in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

- To improve the delegation management activities.

No regional reporting delegate was appointed. Instead it was decided to create a regional reporting unit, to be based in Guatemala city together with the regional finance unit. Efforts were made in the regional delegation to improve ECHO reporting: the delegation's administrator participated in Federation-organized ECHO training in Belize.

Outstanding needs

This appeal has not yet received enough funding to enable the regional delegation to implement all of the planned activities. Even after a radical revising and prioritizing of objectives and activities there is still a funding shortfall in both soft and hard pledges.

For further details please contact: Luis Luna, Federation Desk Officer, Phone: 41 22 730 4274; Fax: 41 22 733 03 95; email: luna@ifrc.org

All International Federation Operations seek to adhere to the Code of Conduct and are committed to the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response (SPHERE Project) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For further information concerning Federation operations in this or other countries, please access the Federation web site at <http://www.ifrc.org>.

Peter Rees-Gildea
Head a.i.
Relationship Management Department

Santiago Gil
Head
Americas Department

South America Regional Programmes						ANNEX 1
APPEAL No. 01.30/2001		PLEDGES RECEIVED			17.07.2001	
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
CASH						
REQUESTED IN APPEAL CHF ----->				3,939,655		TOTAL COVERAGE 35.5%
CASH CARRIED FORWARD						
FEDERATION BUDGET				393,739		
FINNISH - GOVT/RC		178,279	EUR	274,264	17.04.01	AMAZONAS PROGRAMMES
SPANISH - RC		8,000,000	ESP	73,352	18.06.2001	ORGANISATIONAL DEV., YOUTH, INFORMATION
SPANISH - RC		4,000	USD	7,078	18.06.2001	SUPPORT TO MAGAZINE
SPANISH - RC				87,600	18.06.01	REGIONAL DELEGATE
SWEDISH - RC		180,700	SEK	31,388	13.03.01	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
SWEDISH - RC		200,000	SEK	34,740	13.03.01	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SWEDISH - RC		19,300	SEK	3,352	13.03.01	COORDINATION & MANAGEMENT
SWEDISH - GOVT		119,300	SEK	20,102	17.05.2001	DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, CAMALOTE
SWEDISH - GOVT		400,000	SEK	67,400	17.05.2001	HEALTH AND CARE
SWEDISH - GOVT		230,700	SEK	38,873	17.05.2001	INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN CASH				1,031,888	CHF	26.2%
KIND AND SERVICES (INCLUDING PERSONNEL)						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
Spain	Delegate(s)			102,669		
Canada	Delegate(s)			55,852		
Sweden	Delegate(s)			49,938		
SPANISH - RC		8,823,306	ESP	80,901	25.06.2001	DP DELEGATE
SWEDISH - GOVT		450,000	SEK	75,825	17.05.2001	IN KIND DONATION DELEGATE SUPPORT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED IN KIND/SERVICES				365,185	CHF	9.3%
ADDITIONAL TO APPEAL BUDGET						
DONOR	CATEGORY	QUANTITY	UNIT	VALUE CHF	DATE	COMMENT
SUB/TOTAL RECEIVED				0	CHF	