

MINOR EMERGENCY



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

BOLIVIA: INTERNAL UNREST

ME no. 05ME033
Update no. 3
24 June 2005

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in over 181 countries.

In Brief

CHF 60,000 (USD 47,300 OR EUR 39,000) HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FROM THE FEDERATION'S DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY FUND (DREF) TO RESPOND TO THIS OPERATION.

UN earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

For information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- *In Bolivia: Dr. Abel Peña y Lillo, President of the Bolivian Red Cross, email: cruzrobo@caoba.entelnet.bo, phone: (5912) 220 2934 / 212 9225 fax: (5912) 235 9102*
- *In Peru: Charlotta Relander, Head of Regional Delegation for South America, Lima Peru, email: ifrcpe01@ifrc.org, phone: (511) 2218333, fax: (511) 441 3607*
- *In Geneva: Olaug Bergseth, Federation Regional Officer for the Americas Department email: olaug.bersegth@ifrc.org, phone (41 22) 730 4535; fax (41 22) 733 0395*

All International Federation assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organisations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

The situation

After the head of the Supreme Court, Eduardo Rodriguez, was sworn in as interim president, he promised to call early presidential elections. The dialogue regarding elections continues to move forward with an intensive schedule of meetings among the government and other interest groups. Elections are currently scheduled to be held in December 2005.

Meanwhile, the security situation in the country appears to be stabilizing with no further strikes or street protests at present. Prices and circulation of supplies have also returned to normal as the population puts its hopes for the future of the country in the forthcoming elections.

Red Cross action taken so far

In accordance with the plan of action drawn up by the Bolivian Red Cross¹ (BRC), 1,000 identified vulnerable families will benefit from non perishable food purchased through an allocation from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund. The targeted families are from District Seven in the neighbourhood of El Alto, located on the outskirts of La Paz. These families have been identified as those most in need following a survey carried out by the Bolivian Red Cross, with the cooperation of the president of the neighbourhood association of El Alto and a representative of OXFAM-GB who is working jointly with the BRC in the region.

El Alto is a highly vulnerable area, with a population of about 800,273 inhabitants, which corresponds to 30.4 percent of the total population of La Paz. In this area, the illiteracy rate stands at 11.39 percent and approximately 239,331 of the total working age population of 468,547 are inactive or unemployed. The percentage of people living below the poverty line was 66.9 in 2001, with 99.81 percent living with inadequate water and sanitation services. Distributions of non perishable food items are scheduled to begin on 25 June. Food packages consist of 15kg sugar, 15kg rice, 5kg pasta, 5kg quinoa, 2lt cooking oil, 2kg salt and 1kg coffee. It is expected that these distributions will help ease the food shortage for these 1,000 families for at least a month.

The needs

It has been announced by the Bolivian Red Cross that there is an immediate need for procurement and distribution of food for the targeted families living in extreme poverty in El Alto. In the longer term, there are serious needs in El Alto for improved health, water and sanitation infrastructure.

Coordination

A memorandum of understanding exists between the Federation and OXFAM-GB which is intended to encourage and facilitate cooperative action between the two organizations in response to emergencies as well as in developmental activities. Staff from OXFAM are currently working in Bolivia and the OXFAM-GB representative worked jointly with the Bolivian Red Cross to identify the most vulnerable persons to benefit from assistance initiatives. OXFAM is also complementing the Federation's food kits by supplying beneficiaries with hygiene kits.

The use and recognition of the Red Cross emblem as a symbol of impartiality is being enhanced. The BRC has played a key role during the most turbulent moments of the internal unrest, supporting the Ministry of Health with ambulances and volunteers. Its work together with the Permanent Assembly of Human Rights and organizations such as the World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, Caritas and the Pan American Health Organization has successfully created spaces for humanitarian assistance which continues to be required.

[Click here to return to the title page and contact information.](#)

¹ Bolivian Red Cross www.cruzrojaboliviana.org