

INFORMATION BULLETIN



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: FLOODS

31 January 2006

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

This Bulletin (no. 01/2006) is being issued for information only, and reflects the status of the situation and information available at this time. The Federation is not seeking funding or other assistance from donors for this operation at this time.

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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 \(NGOs\) 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

Bolivia has been seriously affected by torrential rains in recent days. Rivers such as the Rio Grande, Guanay, Tipuani, Mapiri and Challana among others have overflowed, causing flooding in the cities of La Paz and Trinidad, as well as in several rural communities across the country. According to the National Civil Defence Service and the local media, flooding has affected more than 34,000 families. Landslides and washed out roads have cut off a number of rural communities, particularly in the areas of Los Yungas and San Borja in the departments of La Paz and Beni. Several small bridges have been swept away. The Bolivian government has issued Supreme Decree No. 28610, declaring a national emergency and authorizing the Bolivian authorities to appeal for international assistance.

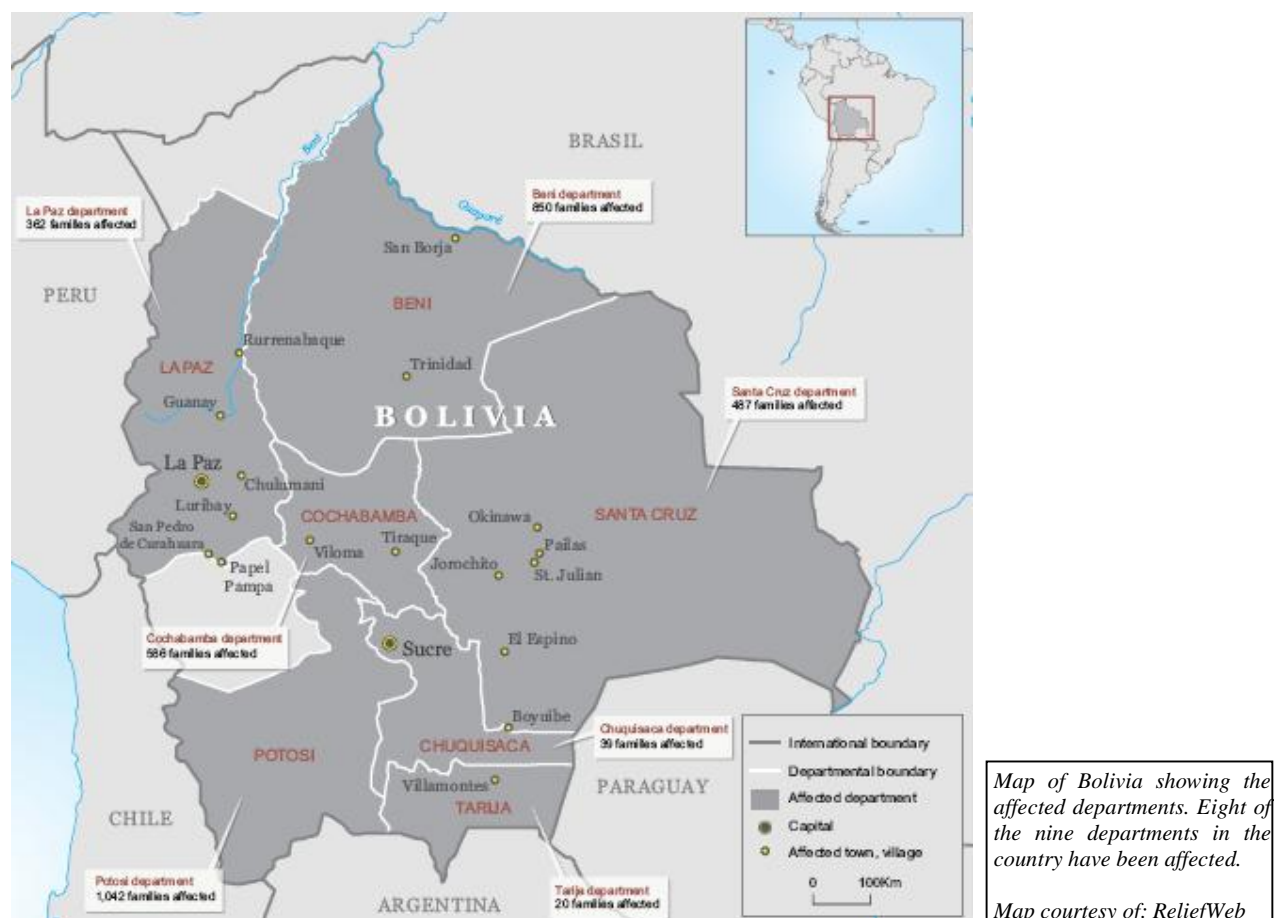
The National Meteorological Service has predicted that rains will continue over the next several weeks. So far, the following areas have been reported as affected:

Department	Affected Areas
La Paz	City of La Paz (several neighborhoods), several communities of Los Yungas (Chulumani, Tipuani, Guanay), Luribay, Papel Pampa, San Pedro de Curahuara
Cochabamba	Viloma, Aymaya, Tiraque
Santa Cruz	Jorochito, Tiquipaya, El Espino, Boyuibe, Pailas, Cuatro Cañadas, San Julián and Okinawa
Beni	Trinidad (several neighbourhoods), San Borja, Rurrenabaque

Damage assessments are ongoing in the departments of Pando, Potosí, Tarija and Chuquisaca.

To date, there have been five reported deaths as a result of the floods, and at least 598 houses have been damaged. There has been significant damage to the agricultural sectors: 80 percent of crops have been destroyed in Potosi, including potatoes, wheat, faba beans, onions, carrots and corn, and 932 hectares of farmland in Cochabamba and 45,000 hectares in Santa Cruz have been destroyed. Large numbers of cattle have also been lost in Santa Cruz and Cochabamba.

The Civil Defense, regional and municipal authorities have begun activities to provide relief to the affected people. In the department of La Paz, the prefecture has allocated USD 625,000 to provide road cleaning services. The World Food Programme (WFP), in coordination with the Civil Defense, is conducting rapid evaluations in affected areas. The WFP is providing food to the communities of Santa Cruz (Jorochito and Tiquipaya) and La Paz (Papel Pampa and San Pedro de Curahuara). World Vision is assisting several communities of Cochabamba.



Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) has been participating in inter-agency meetings with the United Nations, the World Food Programme, World Vision, Medecins du Monde (MdM), Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Bolivian Civil Defence order to coordinate joint actions. As a result, it has been decided that the organizations will cover different areas in order to avoid duplication of efforts. The community risk reduction delegate and the organizational development manager from the Federation's Lima Regional Delegation are present in the country to support the National Society. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) is also in communication with the National Society through the disaster management delegate assigned to the Lima Regional Delegation.

The Bolivian Red Cross is currently engaged in community work through the “Towards a safe and healthy community” project with support from DfID. Through this project, the BRC is increasing its capacity to respond to disasters as a result of training, capacity building and awareness campaigns. Following the results of further assessments, the Bolivian Red Cross will determine the need for relief interventions in coordination with partner organizations.

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