

# DREF operation update

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Chile: Earthquake

**DREF operation n° MDRCL002**  
**GLIDE n°. EQ-2007-000207-CHL**  
**Update n° 1**  
**4 December 2007**

The International Federation's 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 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.

**Period covered by this update:**  
17 November to 3 December, 2007.

**Summary** CHF 150,000 (USD 129,422 or EUR 89,659) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 17 November, 2007 to support the national society in delivering assistance to some 6,250 beneficiaries.

This operational update No.1 focuses on the emergency relief part of the operation which will provide 1,250 families with food kits and hygiene kits. This operation is expected to be implemented over a minimum of 3 months and will be completed by 15 February in 2008. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 15 May, 2008).

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Relief items distributed by the Chilean Red Cross. Source. Chilean Red Cross

## The situation

On November 14, 2007, a strong earthquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale hit the northern coast of Chile. The epicentre was located 170 km northeast from the city of Antofagasta, inland near the town of Quillagua. A tsunami alarm was raised, but later discarded by the Hydrographic Services. The earthquake has left two people dead and 155 injured, while it is estimated that a total of 25,000 people have been affected. The area affected by the earthquake is characterized by high levels of poverty and social inequity.

Serious material damages were caused and on the 15 November the local authorities declared the areas of Tocopilla, Maria Elena and Quillagua a catastrophe zone due to the major structural damages sustained in high rise buildings, especially in the city of Antofagasta.

The town most affected is Tocopilla, where according to the National Emergency Office (Oficina Nacional de Emergencia – ONEMI), 80 percent of houses sustained major damages. The local hospital sustained some material damages and therefore could not provide immediate medical assistance. The Chilean army and the Chilean Red Cross installed several tents in order to provide emergency medical assistance to the affected people.

Once the earthquake occurred, the Chilean Red Cross Regional Emergency Committee of Antofagasta, the most affected zone, was conveyed in order to assist the affected people since medical services were limited and mobile medical units were called upon to provide first aid care and psychosocial support.

The Ministry of Housing has said that at least 43 percent of houses will have to be demolished in Tocopilla in order for them to be rebuilt. A commitment has been made by the Ministry to rebuild all houses damaged by the earthquake through a Reconstruction Plan; and the Treasury department will suspend all tax payments.<sup>1</sup> The Government continues with the construction of emergency housing in the areas of Padre Hurtado, La Patria, Tocopilla Magellan pitch Diamond, designated for temporary housing of homeless families .

The main road between Tocopilla and Iquique is obstructed. Utilities such as telephone and internet have since been rehabilitated and water and sanitation needs are being responded to in different ways. While some water services have been restored, in some affected areas the water supply is being contained by water tanks.



**Chilean Red Cross volunteers performing distribution lists. Source: Chilean Red Cross**

The health service and the Army have focused their attention on conditions of water for human consumption, temporary camps, catering areas, solid waste control, vector, pest control and fumigation. In addition, the health service has established measures to prevent hepatitis, epidemiological surveillance, promote prevention of enteric diseases and the early delivery of milk and food programme.

The work to clear debris of damaged houses and demolition continues in the normal way, according to plan. Likewise, the mapping of affected homes is being carried out by authorities with the support of volunteer teams.

Three Community kitchens have been established in the sectors, La Patria, Lieutenant Merino and Padre Hurtado, following hygiene and safety standards.

While communities try to rebuild their lives in the affected areas, tremors continue to be registered. Latest reports indicate that on 26 November, the region of Antofagasta was hit by several tremors with magnitudes ranging between IV and V degrees on the Mercalli scale, according to information provided by the National Emergency Office (ONEMI). No major damages or casualties were reported.

## Coordination and partnerships

The Chilean Red Cross (CRC), since the beginning of the relief operation, has been coordinating all their actions with the government, public institutions and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that operate in the affected zone. The CRC is member of the National Commission for Civil Protection (Comision Nacional

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<sup>1</sup> Relief Web <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/LRON-79FEDN?OpenDocument&rc=2&emid=EQ-2007-000207-CHL>

de Protección Civil) where coordination activities are developed and directed by the Governor of the disaster zone. Other International agencies supporting relief activities in the field are Oxfam and Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). A private company aided the distribution activities by supplying transportation, personnel and offering their own warehouses in order to accomplish the objective of distributing food parcels and hygiene kits to the 1,250 families. Local volunteers also supported these activities by using their personal vehicles to distribute the items.

The CRC is still following and monitoring all the actions undertaken by their own disaster management delegate and National Society counterpart. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) has been coordinating with the CRC by sending a Water and Sanitation officer to the affected area.

There has been close coordination and support to the CRC to increase the visibility of their actions in regards to the communication through PADRU, the Regional Representation Office and the Communications department of the International Federation's Secretariat in Geneva. Furthermore, the communication activities aim at five main target audiences: the media, the Red Cross Movement, beneficiaries, local authorities and donors.

The Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) on the global Federation website has issued reports. An Information Bulletin has been published and one DREF Bulletin has been published on the global Federation website <https://www.ifrc.org> and the regional website [www.cruzroja.org](http://www.cruzroja.org). More will be published as the operation progresses.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

At the beginning of the emergency, the Chilean Red Cross (CRC) National Relief Department activated their response mechanisms and have assisted the people affected by the earthquake. The regional committee from Antofagasta was deployed to the area with a volunteer team setting up two medical posts in coordination with the Health team.

The National Intervention Team (NIT) was activated including three members from the affected zone. With the support of 50 volunteers, including two Regional Intervention Team (RIT) trained volunteers deployed to the affected areas, immediate relief activities are taking place. At the request of the CRC, PADRU deployed an officer specialized in Water and Sanitation to assist operations in the field.

The CRC has been monitoring the evolution of the emergency through their Early Alert System with support from the technical reports submitted by the National Emergency Centre (ONEMI).



Early distribution activities. Source: Chilean Red Cross

To date the following actions have been carried out by the CRC:

- Distributions of humanitarian relief items to affected families between 14 – 27 November in the city of Tocopilla. Overall distributions reached up to 8,000 families in just four days.
- A team of CRC relief volunteers provided specific support to emergency services, vaccination (Hepatitis A and rubella) and provided basic hospital care in coordination with Government Health Service. In addition, the CRC supplied 2,000 vaccines.
- During the first 72 hours, a team of relief volunteers carried out initial psychosocial support actions to 100 people. This crisis intervention involves promoting emotional stability of those affected and making referrals to mental health professionals for more serious cases. Psychosocial support continues.
- From 15 to 23 November, a National Intervention Team (NIT) assessed damages and needs to map vulnerability for the identification of early recovery needs.

- In terms of health security, from 17 November, 500 hygiene kits were distributed to families. These were prepared thanks to local and national contributions.
- The Regional Committee of Antofagasta does not have available stock that they can distribute to the affected people, since their stocks were depleted in the emergencies related to the climate in past months.
- In alliance with Oxfam International, 565 families were surveyed and 314 families were given tents. The CRC is preparing to dispatch diapers and blankets in coordination with the Government.
- In the capital Santiago, the CRC has launched a campaign for the donation of food items.

The local Antofagasta branch is supported by three other local branches and two centres with experienced personnel in first aid care in disaster situation.

The CRC conducted a Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (VCA) and concluded that the most immediate needs are potable water, food items, hygiene kits and clothing. They also requested a NIT-team to provide logistical support to the disaster zones since the affected communities are isolated and consequently a team of eight members was mobilized to support the activities.

Based on those needs identified through assessments, the CRC's Plan of Action aims to provide humanitarian assistance to 1,250 families affected by the earthquake in the catastrophe zone, ensuring food security, adequate water and sanitation, and warm bedclothes. This will be done through the provision of food kits and hygiene kits. The CRC is contemplating the formulation of another objective in Health focusing on psychosocial support to provide additional help to the affected population.

## Progress towards objectives

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

**Objective: 1,250 families (6,250 beneficiaries) in Tocopilla and Maria Elena will benefit from the provision of relief items to recover from the effects of the earthquake.**

**Activities planned: After performing damage and need assessments, the CRC evaluated the gathered information and identified the most vulnerable families in order to receive emergency assistance. The CRC identified as the most immediate needs to be Food parcels and Hygiene kits.**

The food parcels contained:

Food Item	Quantity
Sugar	2 kg
Box of tea	100 units
Cooking Oil	1 litre
Tomato Sauce	260g
Jam	500g
Powdered Milk	2 kg
Salt	1 kg
Yeast	125g
Flour	2 kg
Jurel (canned fish)	850g
Rice	4kg

The hygiene kits contained:

Item	Quantity
Soap 100g (each bar)	5 units

Shampoo 500ml	2 units
Toothbrush	5 units
Toothpaste 50ml	5 units
Razor	10 units
Shaving cream 50ml	2 units
Detergent 800g	3 bags
Toilet paper	3 units
Sanitary pads	4 packets

In order to fulfill this objective the CRC identified the need of the following resources:

- Human Resources
- Transportation and mobilization of volunteers
- Gas and lubricants
- Office and administrative supplies
- Telecommunications

**Progress:** All the food items and hygiene items were procured locally. Once the procurement was completed, distribution activities commenced and were completed on 1 December. 1,250 families received food parcels and hygiene kits.

**Challenges:** The only constraint within this objective was that there was some difficulty in the procurement of the relief items since the prices were much higher than expected. Nevertheless, the constraint was overcome and the distributions were completed in due time.

## How we work

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

The International Federation's activities are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

### Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

## Contact information

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