

DREF 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

PERU: COLD WAVE

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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 185 countries.

In Brief

This DREF Bulletin is being issued based on the situation described below reflecting the information available at this time.

- CHF 18,000 (USD 14,634 or EUR 10,909) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 29 June 2007 to cover the costs of assessment missions.
- An additional CHF 170,000 (USD 138,211 or EUR 102,595) was allocated on 17 July 2007 to support the resulting plan of action.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will be completed by 29 September 2007; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 29 December 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

This operation is aligned with the International Federation's 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.

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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>

Background and current situation

Since June, a severe cold wave is affecting ten departments in the high Andean region of Peru (Puno, Tacna, Arequipa, Moquegua, Apurímac, Ayacucho, Cusco, Huancavelica, Junín and Pasco), which are characterized by high levels of poverty and low human development indicators. Extreme cold waves are a recurrent problem in this area, which is regularly affected by these weather patterns during the southern hemisphere's winter season. The winter in southern Peru typically begins in June, but the coldest months of the year are usually July and August. The National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology (SENAMHI) issued several alerts as rain, strong winds and snow storms with temperatures of -25°C swept through the region. The cold front will continue until September and the lowest temperatures are expected for July.

A polar cold front has already affected many other countries in South America such as Argentina - Buenos Aires had the surprise to see snow falling in the capital and its surroundings, which had not been seen since 1918 - Chile, Bolivia and Paraguay, causing the death of dozens of homeless people and the blocking of airports and roads.

On June 15, 2007, the Peruvian government declared through the Supreme Decree N° 050-2007-PCM, a state of emergency for a period of 60 days in the following 13 departments in the country: Ayacucho, Apurímac, Arequipa, Cajamarca, Cusco, Junín, Huánuco, Huancavelica, Loreto, Moquegua, Pasco, Puno and Tacna.

Six days later, on June 21, 2007, through Emergency Decree (E.D) N ° 018-2007-PCM, urgent measures were established for the departments affected by extreme frosts and the anticipation of a harsh cold front in the coming days; the same day, through the S.D. N ° 052-2007-PCM, the government declared an elevated State of Emergency as a result of low temperatures in the Departments of Puno, Tacna, Arequipa, Moquegua, Apurímac, Ayacucho, Cusco, Huancavelica, Junín and Pasco for a period of sixty (60) days with the request for immediate actions seeking the reduction and minimization of the existing risks, in line with that established in the former S.D N ° 50-2007-PCM.



The cold wave is mainly affecting areas located 3,800 metres above sea level. The most recent figures indicate that 67 children under the age of five have died from respiratory illnesses as a result of this extreme weather. This weather is also causing the loss of crops and farm animals - mostly llama, alpaca and sheep - which will have a long-term negative impact on the economic situation of the already poor communities in the area, and will certainly increase their actual vulnerable situation and reduce their coping and resilience capacities.

Left: Temperatures have reached a low of -25°C in some areas.

The Regional Health Services have prepared a Contingency Plan for the cold season, focused on the areas over 3,000 m above sea level.

The Civil Defence Committees are disseminating SENAMHI's weather forecasts through local radio, so that the population can take necessary preventive measures.

All the Provincial and municipal Committees of the Civil Defence are delivering humanitarian aid to the population affected by low temperatures, mainly blankets and clothing for cold weather. The President of the Republic has accompanied some of these distributions.

According to the National Civil Defence Institute (INDECI), the following table illustrates the affected population by the cold wave, up to 17th July 2007:

Department	Number of people who received assistance	Estimated Number of Persons Affected
Apurimac	50,061	74,946
Arequipa	31,409	33,132
Ayacucho	28,917	40,399
Cusco	34,029	179,770
Huancavelica	23,668	41,102
Junín	130,450	130,450
Moquegua	11,897	23,860
Pasco	33,057	84,152
Puno	41,606	257,140
Tacna	3,272	19,621
Total	388,366	884,572

However, because of difficulties in accessing the areas due to bad road conditions and the altitude (between 4,000 and 5,000 metres above sea level), these figures are constantly being updated and the numbers are increasing.

According to INDECI, 124,247 blankets and 221,870 kg of warm clothing have been distributed to date.

Following the official request for international aid made by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Embassies and Consulates in Peru, international relief aid is already arriving:

- Nearly 11 metric tonnes with humanitarian aid consisting of blankets, mattresses, diapers, non perishable food and medicines have been delivered by the Chilean government to Peru to support the populations most exposed to the low temperatures in the High Andean regions of the country.
- The Ecuadorian Government has donated blankets and warm clothing to the Embassy of Ecuador in Peru through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.
- In addition, a contribution of USD 15,000 from the Inter-American Emergency Fund (FONDEM) was donated, on behalf of the 34 members of the Organization of American States (OAS), to the Peruvian government in support of recovery activities.
- WFP has approved an Immediate Response Emergency Operation (IRA EMOP) of US\$488,000 that will be implemented over three months and will assist a total of 34,747 people –approximately 10,000 families– located in the highest areas of the departments of Ayacucho and Huancavelica. It will be mainly focused on the communities located at 3,500 meters above sea level.
- The Peruvian Consulate in France has sent a donation of 106 kg of medicines for respiratory diseases.
- The Swiss Government is supporting the Peruvian Government through the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation –COSUDE– and private donations from the Embassy of Switzerland in Peru and different Swiss private companies based in Peru.

National and international NGOs and private companies are also responding to the needs and the UN agencies are actively supporting the Peruvian government.

Fourteen separate strikes and/or civil demonstrations in Peru are currently underway or planned for the near future, all related to local issues such as tax, education and labour disputes (construction workers, farmers and miners). These nationwide strikes and demonstrations are seriously affecting the access to the affected areas and the response operations.

The districts of Ayacucho, Huancavelica, Huanuco, Ica, Junin, Lambayeque, Loreto, Piura, Puno, San Martin, and Ucayali are most affected by the demonstrations. In the southern region of Puno, protestors stormed an airport and a railway station, and three people have been killed in different clashes across the country and in Pucallpa the airport was closed for more than a week. Certain parts of the capital Lima have also seen recent protests - there have been running battles with the police in the centre of Lima, and the authorities have detained more than 100 union leaders - and additional protests are expected in the coming weeks.

Red Cross action

The Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) is currently focusing its efforts on distributing humanitarian aid in the field. On 18 June, the PRC launched a solidarity campaign called "Cold Wave 2007" that sought to collect humanitarian aid in order to ensure adequate living conditions for the vulnerable people affected by the extreme cold temperatures. The Peruvian population was encouraged to donate warm clothes, blankets and food. Thus far, the PRC through this campaign has been able to distribute relief items to a total of 2,448 families in the departments of Ayacucho, Cusco and Puno.

In addition, despite their remote locations, the Red Cross branches in the affected areas have been assisting high Andean communities affected by extreme temperatures with relief aid; mainly food, boots, clothing and blankets.

This table shows the donations made and number of people assisted by the PRC to date:

Department	Clothing (items)	Rubber boots (unit)	Food (kg)	Blankets (unit)	People assisted
Ayacucho	228	235	90	265	728
Puno	686	165	64	116	967
Cusco	440	220	118	93	753
TOTAL	1,354	620	272	474	2,448

However, as a result of the lack of technical and consolidated information, the need for preliminary assessments on the ground was identified.

Thanks to the allocation of CHF 18,000 from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF), between 1 - 8 July three teams from the PRC headquarters, accompanied by a Federation Disaster Management delegate, supported departmental and provincial branches in field assessments in Puno, Ayacucho and Cusco. In addition, the Federation provided a four wheel drive vehicle fully equipped and a driver at the disposition of the PRC.

Previous to the field assessments, workshops in needs assessments were held with PRC branches in order to reinforce the capacities of the volunteers.

Right: PRC visited communities in remote areas to carry out assessments.

Three departments have been made a priority in the initial phases of this operation in line with assessment reports. Some 2,027 families in the three departments are severely affected by the ongoing cold wave and live in extremely vulnerable conditions, with few resources, making it impossible for them to cope with



this emergency. Many are unable to buy appropriate warm clothing and blankets, especially given their remote and isolated location. Families have been identified in the departments of Ayacucho, Puno and Cusco:

AYACUCHO	N° of Families
Sansainja	138
COCHANI	70
Palpamayo	120
Ranrapata	14
San Martin	30
Huayhuacco	12
Anosmarca	17
Antallacta	131
Huichincha	18
Sayhua	10
Mariscal Caceres	17
Corralpampa	17
Pueblo Libre	60
Condoray	41
Yanacocha	56
TOTAL	751

PUNO	N° of Families
Quenahani	15
Huancasaya	43
Quejoni	70
Cajonhuyo	50
Huaraca	60
Chalanani	60
Huallatiri sector 1	50
TOTAL	348

CUSCO	N° of Families
Pumacpucllo	50
Huinquri	30
Huallpamayo	14
Chiri Bajo	6
Chiri Alto	13
Cacho Limamayo	640
Huaraco	175
TOTAL	928

The PRC prioritizes severely affected families or individuals who are in one or more of the following situations:

- Families living in remote areas affected by the severe weather conditions
- Families who have lost their livestock and/or have livestock at high risk
- Families who have not benefited from other support
- Families with young children
- Single-parent households
- Extremely impoverished families
- Families with members with disabilities

The families have been selected by the PRC in coordination with community authorities and local associations who know the families most in need.

The proposed operation

Emergency relief (food and non-food)

Main Objective: To improve the lives of severely affected families from the high Andean regions by the cold wave and meet the urgent humanitarian needs of 2,027 families.

The plan of action below may be extended depending on the situation in the field and potential contributions to the operation.

Objective 1: 2,027 affected families (10,135 persons) in the departments of Puno (1,740), Ayacucho (3,755) and Cusco (4,640) benefit from the distribution of warm clothing and blankets to face the extreme weather temperatures for a three month period.

The distribution of warm clothing and blankets will provide emergency assistance and give life-saving support to the most affected people. With the DREF support, approximately 3,929 blankets¹ and 4,054 kits of warm clothing (that have been donated) will be immediately distributed among the affected population. An extra 1,000 blankets will be kept at the PRC national headquarters warehouse to ensure a proper response throughout the winter season as new needs will arise in the coming weeks.

Activities planned to reach this objective include:

- Identification and registration of the most vulnerable families with special emphasis on gender inequities and disability conditions.
- Coordination with national, regional, provincial and local authorities.
- Purchasing procedures (requisition, request for quotations, comparative bid analysis, selection of the supplier and technical approval, purchase order and payment)
- Warehousing, dispatch and transportation of blankets and clothes from PRC headquarters to the final destinations.
- Distribution of blankets to identified families by trained PRC volunteers.
- Regular detailed reporting on the distribution.
- Monitoring and evaluation

Objective 2: 2,027 affected families (10,135 persons) in the departments of Puno (1,740), Ayacucho (3,755) and Cusco (4,640) benefit from the distribution of 10 litres collapsible jerry cans to allow the daily storage of the basic water consumption needs.

As a result of the field assessment, the need was identified to support the high Andean communities with a water storage system as they have to collect the water they need very early in the morning to start their daily activities. This is usually carried out by children or women, who have to face the freezing temperatures in these early hours of the day. An extra 500 jerry cans will be kept at the PRC national headquarters warehouse to ensure a proper response throughout the winter season as new needs will arise in the coming weeks.

¹ The remainder will be supported with sleeping bags (see National Society Capacity Building - Objective 2)



Left: A PRC volunteer with a woman collecting water from a river.
Right: Many adults and children are in need of warm clothing to face the cold wave.

Objective 3: 4,054 affected children in the departments of Puno (696), Ayacucho (1,502) and Cusco (1,856) benefit from the distribution of a pair of waterproof boots which help them prevent the effects of the cold wave.

An extra 1,000 pairs of boots will be kept at the PRC national headquarters warehouse to ensure a proper response throughout the winter season as new needs will arise in the coming weeks.

Activities planned to reach this objective include:

- Identification and registration of the most vulnerable families with special emphasis on gender inequities and disability conditions.
- Coordination with national, regional, provincial and local authorities.
- Local procurement of 4,054 pairs of boots.
- Purchasing procedures (requisition, request for quotations, comparative bid analysis, selection of the Supplier and technical approval, purchase order and payment).
- Warehousing, dispatch and transportation of the boots from PRC headquarters to the final destinations.
- Distribution of boots to identified children by trained PRC volunteers.
- Regular detailed reporting on the distribution.
- Monitoring and evaluation

National Society Capacity Building

Objective 1: To improve the capacity of the PRC in needs assessment and humanitarian response.

Activities planned to reach this objective include:

- Mobilisation of a RIT member trained in logistics to carry out the inventory and management of the PRC main warehouse for a month period and provide specific training in logistics to PRC staff.
- Provision of basic office supplies (computers, printers, field kit) and teaching materials
- Organisation of National Intervention Team (NIT) capacity building for PRC volunteers

Objective 2: Organise a case study project to evaluate the effectiveness and cultural acceptance of new shelter material through the distribution of 125 sleeping bags to high Andean communities.

Activities planned to reach this objective include:

- Identification of communities
- Coordination with national, regional, provincial and local authorities.
- Local procurement of 125 sleeping bags
- Purchasing procedures (requisition, request for quotations, comparative bid analysis, selection of the
- Supplier and technical approval, purchase order and payment).
- Warehousing, dispatch and transportation of the sleeping bags from PRC headquarters to the final destinations.
- Distribution of sleeping bags to identified people by trained PRC volunteers.
- Regular detailed reporting on the distribution.
- Monitoring and lessons learned document

Coordination

INDECI is holding weekly meetings in order to ensure a coordinated response to the emergency in which National Ministries, NGOs and the PRC - accompanied by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies - are actively participating.

The PRC is coordinating with the Regional Delegation for South America in Lima, as well as with the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), who jointly are providing technical support for the design, organization and implementation of the operation. A Disaster Management delegate from PADRU and a Federation driver have joined the assessment mission and two RIT members will be deployed to support the PRC.

At the field level, assessment and operational activities are being coordinated with regional, provincial and local branches, authorities and community organisations. During the assessment mission carried out in Puno, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Lima was contacted in order to assess the security situation for the PRC team mobilised to the field as demonstrations have been taking place.

The Regional Delegation in Lima has been in contact with Partner National Societies (PNS), such as the German and the Spanish Red Cross, to consider the possibility of supporting the PRC relief operation.

The Federation will continue to monitor the situation and to support the coordination and execution of activities.

Communication

Two situation reports have been issued through the Disaster Management Information System (DMIS) on the global Federation website. Within the plan of action, a communication plan has been developed (taking into account the delicate situation the PRC is experiencing) to support the additional activities in response to the spread of the cold wave and will target five main audiences: the media, the Red Cross Movement, affected families, local authorities and donors. A media conference will be held in coordination with the PRC and INDECI in order to promote the existing coordination between these actors and to disseminate the PRC's plan of action in support of the most affected families by the cold wave.

The different channels of communication will include national media and the Federation regional and global websites. Special sections will be created on the Federation's regional website – www.cruzroja.org. Visibility items with the Red Cross logo will be designed and disseminated among Red Cross volunteers in order to increase visibility.

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