

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bolivia: Floods

DREF Operation nº MDRBO003
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Update nº 1
15 February 2008

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: 28 January to 13 February 2008.

Summary: CHF 125,000 (USD 110,132 or EUR 75,758) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Fund (DREF) on 28 January 2008 to support the Bolivian Red Cross in delivering humanitarian assistance to 6,500 beneficiaries affected by the floods.

Since November 2007, continuous rain in Bolivia has caused floods that have severely affected communities in various departments, an approximate of 56,986 families. This DREF operation is focused on distributing humanitarian assistance to those

affected.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 28 April 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 28 July 2008).

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Floods in the department of Beni. Source: International Federation.

The Situation

Since November 2007, continuous rainfall has affected several departments in Bolivia due to the climatic phenomena known as La Niña. Latest reports from the Civil Defense indicate to date 52 deaths, four missing and more than 56,986 affected families. The most affected departments are Santa Cruz, Beni, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca and La Paz.

At this time, **Beni** is the second most affected department, but has suffered the most serious impact on its territory. On 9 February, the Emergency Operative Centre (EOC) reported approximately 11,087 families are affected in some nine municipalities (300 communities). More than 30 camps have been established so far, housing more than 3,400 families. The accumulated water level - which has increased due to rain and

the overflowing of rivers surrounding the city of Trinidad - has reached the maximum security level. Evacuation of people already in temporary shelters has started due to infiltrations reported in some areas of El Pantanal. Areas have been identified outside Trinidad - on the way to Santa Cruz - in order to relocate evacuated people. Camps are being set up in urban areas; however, in rural sectors the population has sought refuge mainly in schools.



Tents set up in the department of Beni. Source: International Federation.

The health situation is rapidly deteriorating as some people have contracted dengue and other water-borne diseases (diarrhea, respiratory infections, etc.). Therefore, the immediate needs for this emergency are emergency shelter, health and water, and sanitation. The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) is preparing a proposal for the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in order to assist the affected people with support from the Bolivian Ministry of Health and the United Nations system.

Livelihoods have become affected due to the loss of crops and livestock, which will require medium-term action in order to recover the affected people's means of subsistence.

The World Food Programme (WFP) as well as the Red Cross and other organisations, are

guaranteeing the provision of food items to the affected population. UNICEF will provide specific portions of food for children under two years of age.

In addition, the Civil Defense and the Joint Command for Natural Disasters (Comando conjunto para desastres naturales) have developed a coordinated method for identifying and fulfilling the basic needs of the affected population, thus avoiding duplication of efforts.

On 12 February, the government issued a country-wide disaster alert, under decree No.29438, due to the prevailing critical condition in the country.

Coordination and partnerships

The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) and the Federation – through a Disaster Management delegated deployed by the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) - has participated in general meetings which coincide with the National Society's line of action (water and sanitation, health, food and nutrition). The coordination is maintained nationally as well as departmentally, where the BRC local branches participated with the EOC. Regular communication and coordination among agencies such as the United Nations (UN), NGOs and other organisations is done through periodic cooperative meetings. The Federation is in constant communication and coordination with the UN, especially with the United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) present in the country.

The National Societies from Spain and Switzerland will be supporting the emergency as well.

Red Cross Action

The BRC, with support from the Federation's DM delegate present in country, is completing a general plan of action which will supply basic needs such as food and non-food items (hygiene kits, jerry cans and mosquito nets) to the affected families in the departments of Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, el Beni and La Paz.

With support from the Federation's DREF, 1,300 families will receive food parcels and hygiene kits for one month in the departments of La Paz, Cochabamba and Santa Cruz.

The following areas will benefit from these emergency funds:

Departament	Province	Municipality	Community	Families	Needs	Planned dates of distribution
La Paz	Murillo	Meca peca	Huayhuasi	239	Food parcels and hygiene kits	17/02
Cochabamba	Carrasco	Chimoré	n/a	500		24/02
Santa Cruz	Santisteban	Minero	n/a	300		23/02
	Guarayos	El Puente	n/a	261		
TOTAL				1,300 families		



Floods in the department of Beni. Source: International Federation.

The BRC is considering expanding the plan of action to provide food and non-food items (hygiene kits and mosquito nets) to at least 1,400 families in the department of Beni due to bilateral contributions from the Spanish Red Cross and the Chinese government.

Specifically, the Spanish Red Cross has shipped 7,200 mosquito nets and 5,040 jerry cans (20 liters) in order to support the emergency response from the BRC. This humanitarian aid will arrive in the following days.

In Santa Cruz, the Swiss Red Cross will supply food items and hygiene kits to an additional 400 families.

The BRC has also received donations from local banks in Santa Cruz which will be used to complement the distribution of food parcels, hygiene kits and mosquito nets to the three departments most affected (La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz).

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective 1: 1,300 affected families (6,500 persons) in the departments of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and La Paz benefit from food items in order to help them recuperate from the effects of the floods.

The complimentary food kit will provide a family of five people with items to last one month and will contain the following items:

Item	Quantity
Rice	15 Kg.
Sugar	10 Kg.
Noodles	10 Kg.
Flour	5 Kg.
Salt	2 Kg.
Coffee	1 Kg.
Cooking oil	2 liters

Activities planned:

- Conduct needs assessments, survey and beneficiary targeting.
- Procurement of relief supplies according to Federation procedures.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:

To date, evaluations are still on-going in the affected departments of La Paz, Cochabamba and La Cruz. The **survey** has been completed and identification cards have been distributed in the municipality of Meca peca. Once the food parcels and hygiene kits distributions take place, a school kit will also be distributed. The programmed date of distribution is 17 February. At this moment, quotations are being carried out. On 12

February a purchase committee was organized and on 13 February a meeting was held in order to coordinate the procurement of the food items and hygiene articles.

The distributions for the departments of Cochabamba and Santa Cruz are scheduled for 23 and 24 of February.

Challenges:

At this moment, no challenges are reported within this objective.

Objective 2: 1,300 families (6,500 people) affected by the floods see their immediate needs met through the distribution of 1,300 hygiene kits to help them recover from the emergency.

Hygiene kits will be distributed to each family and will cover their needs for 30 days and will contain:

Item	Quantity	Observations
Tooth paste	3	Units of 150 gr.
Tooth brush	5	Units
Soap	3	Units of 200 gr.
Medium towel	2	Units
Detergent	3	Bags of 250 gr.
Sanitary pads	3	10 unit package
Toilet paper	10	Rolls

Activities planned:

- Conduct needs assessments, survey and beneficiaries targeting.
- Procurement of relief supplies according to Federation procedures.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

Progress:

The purchase committee has decided who will supply the relief items; therefore the procurement process has commenced. The hygiene kits and the food parcels will be distributed at the same time and are scheduled to be handed out on 17, 23 and 24 February.

Challenges:

At this moment, no challenges are reported within this objective.

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

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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