

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Brazil: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBR002  
GLIDE n° FL-2008-000010-BRA  
23 January, 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.

**CHF 115,000 (USD 102,862 or EUR 69,697) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 7,500 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** Heavy rainfall in the State of Sao Paulo led to severe flooding, affecting many people by damaging or destroying their homes and goods. The Brazilian Red Cross has been working since the onset of the disaster to provide relief assistance to the affected people.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 03 months, and will therefore be completed by 23 April, 2008; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 23 July, 2008).

[<click here for contact details,](#)  
[or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)



Heavy rainfall caused severe flooding in the state of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Source: Brazilian Red Cross.

## The situation

Since 12 January, heavy rains have caused severe floods in the south coast of the State of Sao Paulo, located in the South East of Brazil. These floods, on their turn, have caused many losses and damages: so far, four deaths have been reported. Some 1,435 people have lost their homes and 12,858 people have been temporarily displaced due to severely damaged houses. Another 35,213 people have sustained minor damages; this accounts for a total of 49,506 people affected.

The distribution of affected people in the municipalities is as follows:

| Municipalities | People who lost their homes | Displaced people due to serious damage | People who suffered minor damages | Sub Total Affected people |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cajati         | 120                         | 6,750                                  | 2,210                             | 9,080                     |
| Jacupiranga    | 31                          | 591                                    | 5,000                             | 5,622                     |
| Itariri        | 5                           | 1,500                                  | 158                               | 1,663                     |
| Pariquera Açú  | 54                          | 1,420                                  | 1,420                             | 2,894                     |
| Miracatu       | 25                          | 97                                     | 284                               | 406                       |
| Juquiá         | 0                           | 0                                      | 75                                | 75                        |
| Iguape         | 0                           | 0                                      | 1,000                             | 1,000                     |
| Eldorado       | 0                           | 100                                    | 66                                | 166                       |
| Peruibe        | 1,200                       | 2,400                                  | 25,000                            | 28,600                    |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>1,435</b>                | <b>12,858</b>                          | <b>35,213</b>                     | <b>49,506</b>             |

The displaced are located both in temporary shelters opened by Civil Defence and in houses of relatives and/or friends.

Since the onset of the emergency, the Brazilian Red Cross has been working to support those affected. National Intervention Team members were activated and deployed to support field assessments and coordination activities. The Red Cross branch in the State of Sao Paulo responded to the disaster by supporting relief actions in the temporary shelters managed by the Civil Defence.

NGOs such as Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) are also present in the areas, carrying out relief actions such as food and clothes distributions.



The floods forced people to leave their homes. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

## Coordination and partnerships

The Brazilian Red Cross is coordinating all actions with local authorities and NGO's present in the affected areas. Internally, the national relief department is providing direct support to the local branch. Coordination with local authorities and civil defence takes place both at state and municipal level.

It is also important to mention the role of the National Intervention Teams (NIT) during the assessments and the development of the Plan of Action, at both field and Headquarter level. In January, 2007, heavy rains caused floods and landslides in the states of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais in South-east Brazil. An emergency operation, covered by DREF, was carried out, and after this operation, 15 NIT-members were trained during the NIT training workshop in March 2007, which was followed by an additional training workshop carried out by the Relief Department and a number of participants of the previous workshop. This

acquired information has proven to be very useful in the current operation, accounting for a quicker response and more efficient assessments and development of the plan of action.

The Country Representation in Brazil is in direct contact with the Brazilian Red Cross in order to provide immediate assistance. The Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the South America Regional Representation are also providing support to the National society through the Country Representation.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

### The needs

According to the field assessment reports, the immediate needs are the provision of food, potable water and non food items such as hygiene kits, cleaning kits and clothes.

Regarding the health sector, no major problems or risk on epidemic outbreaks have been reported and identified.

### The proposed operation

The Brazilian Red Cross Plan of Action (PoA) aims to respond to the needs of 1,500 affected families and increase the capacities of the National Society in disaster response.

The PoA of the Brazilian Red Cross will be implemented over a period of three months.

In addition, it is expected that a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member will support the National Society in implementing the PoA for a period of one month.

The PoA includes another objective, regarding Capacity building: **The capacity of the Brazilian Red Cross in terms of disaster preparedness and humanitarian advocacy is increased.** Capacity building will be carried out through a training course on the Sphere Project for National Society staff.

Funds for this objective will be sought elsewhere; it currently is not covered by this DREF operation.

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

**Objective: Humanitarian aid will be distributed to 1,500 families affected by the floods.**

The table below shows the content of the hygiene kits and cleaning kits which will be distributed to each family to cover their needs for 30 days.

| Hygiene Kit           |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Item                  | Quantity (units) |
| Soap (250g)           | 5                |
| Adult shampoo (250ml) | 5                |
| Toothbrush            | 5                |
| Toothpaste            | 5                |
| Toilet paper          | 12               |
| Sanitary towel        | 3                |
| Disposable razor      | 5                |
| Men's comb            | 1                |
| Women's comb          | 2                |

| Cleaning Kit   |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| Item           | Quantity (units) |
| Broom          | 1                |
| Rake           | 1                |
| Plastic bucket | 1                |
| Detergent      | 250 g/person     |

The items of both kits will be procured locally and in accordance with the Federation's purchasing procedures.

### Activities planned:

- Conduct needs assessments, census 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.

## 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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