

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Brazil: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBR002
GLIDE n° FL-2008-00010-BRA
Update n° 01
26 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: 23 January to 25 February 2008.

Summary: 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.

Heavy rainfall in the State of Sao Paulo led to severe flooding, affecting at least 49,506 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 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 23 April, 2008; the final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 23 July, 2008).

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Heavy rainfall in the State of Sao Paulo led to severe flooding. Source: Brazilian Red Cross.

The situation

Since 12 January 2008, continuous rain caused severe flooding in the south coast of the State of Sao Paulo, located in the south-east of Brazil. According to the reports of the Civil Defence of Sao Paulo a total of 49,506 persons are affected by the floods, while four deaths have been reported. Some 1,435 people lost their homes and 12,858 people were temporarily displaced due to severely damaged houses. Another 35,213 people sustained minor damages.

The Civil Defence opened temporary shelters for the displaced that could not be located in houses of relatives and/or friends.

The declared state of emergency in the most affected municipalities of Cajatí and Peruibe, is no longer effective, as water levels considerably receded and most families returned home. Most villagers have gradually returned to their normal lives, although the most affected are still in the process of reconstructing their homes and livelihoods.



According to local authorities there is no risk of epidemics and the health systems are functioning properly. Although the water treatment plant of the local water company (SABESP) was affected by the severe rains, it was immediately restored and is well functioning.

Streets were severely flooded in the state of Sao Paulo. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

Coordination and partnerships

The Brazilian Red Cross (BRC), with the support of the Federation has participated in several coordination meetings with local authorities and civil defence, both at state and municipal level, in order to coordinate emergency response and avoid duplication of efforts.

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. In Peruibe, besides the local authorities, the Civil Defence and the BRC no other humanitarian organization is providing humanitarian aid.

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 Regional Representation Office for South America are also providing support to the National Society through the Country Representation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Brazilian Red Cross Plan of Action (PoA) aims to respond to the needs of 1,500 affected families (7,500 beneficiaries) and increase the capacities of the National Society in disaster response.

According to the plan of action, the Brazilian Red Cross, with the support of the Federation will meet the basic needs of the affected families in the municipalities of Peruibe, Cajatí and Jacupiranga by distributing non food items such as hygiene kits and cleaning kits.

Distributions are planned as follows:

State	Municipality	Communities	Families	Necessities	Date of planned distribution
Sao Paulo	Cajatí	6	700	Hygiene Kit Cleaning kits	01/03/08
Sao Paulo	Jacupiranga	1	100		02/03/08
Sao Paulo	Peruibe	5	700		03/03/08

Communities in Cajatí: Inhunguira, Jardim Old, Vila Vitoria, Jardim Muniz, Bico do Pato, Parafuso.

Communities in Jacupiranga: Jacupiranga

Communities in Peruibe: Jardim Venesa, Caraguava, Jardim Brasil, Jardim das Flores, Santa Isabel.

In coordination with the Civil Defence, the BRC local branch in Sao Paulo immediately responded to the emergency by distributing clothing and mattresses to those located in temporary shelters.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Humanitarian aid will be distributed to 1,500 families (7,500 beneficiaries) affected by the floods.

The hygiene and cleaning kits will provide a family of five people with items to last one month and will contain the following items:

Hygiene Kit	
Product	Quantity
Soap (250g)	5
Adult Shampoo (250ml)	5
Toothbrush	5
Toothpaste - tube of 90 gr	5
Toilet paper	5
Sanitary towel	3
Disposable razor	5
Men's comb	5
Women's comb	5

Cleaning Kit	
Product	Quantity
Broom	1
Rake	1
Plastic bucket	1
Detergent (250gr/ person)	1

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

Progress and impact:

The BRC is currently processing the census data for the various municipalities as brought forward by the Civil Defense. In the following week, the identified beneficiary families will be given their coupons that they will later redeem for the relief items. At the same time, the procurement process for the relief items for both kits has commenced. All relief items are procured locally and in accordance with the Federation's purchasing procedures.

The distributions of relief items to the communities of municipality Cajati are scheduled for 1 March 2008 while distributions to the communities in the municipality of Jacupiranga are planned for 2 March 2008. The programmed date of the last distributions to the communities in the municipality of Peruibe is 3 March 2008,

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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