

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Chile: Volcanic Eruption

DREF operation n° MDRCL003
GLIDE No. VO-2008-000056-CHL
14 May, 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 75,000 (USD 72,115 or EUR 46,439) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the national society in delivering immediate assistance to some 5,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: At 02:00 hours on 2 May, 2008 a red alert was issued in the community of Chaitén in the southern region of Chile due to the extreme volcanic activity of the Chaitén volcano. It then started to erupt after having been inactive for many years. Local authorities from Chaitén and Futaleufú have evacuated approximately 8,000 people to other regions. The DREF funds will be used to assist the most affected people by providing hygiene kits and psychosocial support.

This operation is expected to be implemented in two months, and will therefore be completed by 13 July, 2008; a

Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 13 October, 2008).

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



Volcanic ash in the region of Futaleufú, Chile.

Source: Reuters

The situation

On 2 May 2008, the Chaitén volcano, located 760 miles south of the Chilean capital Santiago, started to erupt and spew molten rock and ash after having been dormant for 173 years, according to the National Service of Geology and Mining. This forced people living within a 30 mile radius from the volcano to be evacuated from their houses. According to the National Emergency Office (Oficina Nacional de Emergencia



The Chaitén volcano is spewing ash over the surrounding areas.
Source: BBC

– ONEMI), some 8,000 people from the affected areas have been evacuated to Puerto Montt and Castro, but there are some people in the areas of Palena and Futaleufú that cannot be evacuated by air due to the ash clouds. The ash clouds have reached 14 km of altitude. Since the Chaitén volcano had not been monitored until its recent awakening, authorities cannot predict its behaviour, how long the emergency situation will last and if there will be a need to relocate the evacuated residents permanently.

The most affected communities are the city of Chaitén, Futuleufú, El Amarillo and Chana. Local authorities have paralyzed the water service in Chaitén as a preventive measure. The other utility services are still operating.

The Armed Forces have sent a water tank to Chaitén holding 70,000 litres of water to be distributed. Ashes have reached communities in the Andean mountains of Chile and Argentina forcing schools to close. Some 90 percent of the evacuees are currently staying with friends or family; the other 10 percent is housed in common shelters. These have been set up in Castro and Puerto Montt.

On 10 May 2008, the Ministry of Interior ordered additional evacuations of nearby communities due to the continued volcanic activity. The common shelters are covering short term needs like food, sanitary items and clothes. The Ministry of Health is providing psychosocial support services in these shelters as well. In the community of Villa Santa Lucia in the commune of Chaitén food parcels were distributed to the affected people.

Western winds are predicted for the upcoming week for the central and southern zones of the country which will force the ashes to the neighbouring country of Argentina.

Coordination and partnerships

The CRC has been coordinating all relief actions with the government, State Institutions (ONEMI) and non-governmental agencies (NGO's) present in the field. On 12 May, 2008 the Spanish Red Cross deployed a team of experts to the affected area coordinated by the CRC National Relief Director in order to develop a psychosocial support plan for the people in shelters.

The CRC is also a member of the National Commission of Civil Protection (Comisión Nacional de Protección Civil) and coordinates activities with the Civil Protection Provincial Committee (Comité Provincial de Protección Civil) headed by the governor of the disaster area.

Coordination meetings are being held between the Emergency Regional Committee headed by the Chilean President, the Ministry of Defence, the National Director from ONEMI and regional authorities.

Since the beginning of the emergency, the International Federation through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for South America has been closely monitoring the events and is coordinating all response activities with the Chilean Red Cross (CRC).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the emergency, the Chilean Red Cross (CRC) has activated several local branches and has mobilized 50 volunteers from the local branches of Los Rios, Los Lagos and Aysen to provide psychosocial support to 1,000 people in the shelters in Puerto Montt and Castro. The psychosocial effect of traumatic events, such as the eruption itself and the subsequent displacement of people who are forced to leave their houses is widely acknowledged and requires immediate action. These actions have been undertaken in coordination with the National System for Civil Protection. The following communities were reached:

Area	# of people
Puerto Montt	313
Quellón	14
Castro	94
Chonchi	42
Osorno	50
Total	513

The CRC also started a solidarity campaign with the support of the Ministry of Interior, to gather relief items such as clothes and hygiene items from private companies, universities, colleges and other organizations.

The second phase of this emergency will be covered by the DREF funds that will provide 1,000 families with hygiene kits and psychosocial support. For these actions, and considering the isolated locations of affected communities in the disaster zone (90 percent of total evacuated), the CRC has identified the need for a National Intervention Team (NIT) of five members and five members from the Regional Relief Department. The CRC is requesting the deployment of a psychosocial Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member for capacity building and general support to their campaign. They are also requesting the deployment of a water and sanitation RIT to carry out an assessment of the situation, determine needs and potential areas of intervention along with worst-case scenarios. PADRU has emitted a RIT alert and is awaiting confirmation of possible candidates.

The needs

The immediate needs for this emergency are hygiene kits and psychosocial support for the people placed in temporary shelters. Following the National System of Civil Protection, the International Federation and Sphere project standards, a detailed needs and damage assessment was completed in the areas declared as a catastrophe zone. The evaluations were carried out by the CRC National relief Director, who is an expert in civilian protection and was accredited by the Ministry of the Interior. The information from these evaluations will allow for the identification of the most affected families that are most vulnerable.

As the displacement of populations from one place to another during emergency or disaster situations produces serious psychosocial effects, it is put high on the agenda of relief activities. Therefore, the CRC works together with the Commission for First Psychosocial Aid in Emergencies or Disasters (consisting of ONEMI, the Pontificia Catholic University and the University of Chile) during this operation, in a joint effort to tackle the problems of the affected population, produced by this volcanic activity and the subsequent evacuations.

The proposed operation

The proposed operation is to provide 1,000 families living in temporary shelters and/or living with family members with hygiene kits and psychosocial support.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) of the most affected people in Chaitén and Futaleufú will benefit from hygiene kits in order to maintain adequate sanitation standards.

Table 1. Hygiene kit

Item	Quantity
Soap bar 100 gr.	5 units

Shampoo 500 ml	2 bottles
Toothbrush	5 units
Tooth paste 50 ml	5 units
Razor	10 units
Shaving cream 50 ml	2 units
Detergent 800 gr.	3 bags
4 rolls of toilet paper	3 units
soap 100 gr.	5 units
Sanitary pads	4 packages

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and report on the progress.
- Develop an exit strategy.

Emergency health

Objective: 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries) will have access to psychosocial support (PSP) in order to assist them in recovering from the effects of the emergency.

To reach this objective, it is planned to train CRC volunteers and psychologists from the Lake District on First Psychosocial Aid and community organization, so that the psychosocial support can be provided to the evacuated people. In addition, psychosocial support will be provided to the operators that have worked with the communities.

Therefore, the planned activities consist of the following:

- Training of the volunteers and psychologists in First Psychosocial Support on community level.
- Provision of psychosocial support to the vulnerable communities and affected population.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the psychosocial support activities and reporting on the progress.

These activities will be carried out by 50 CRC volunteers, 10 NIT volunteers and five psychologists in the region.

The following resources are needed:

- Office Materials
- Human Resources
- Transportation and volunteer mobilisation
- Gasoline and lubricants
- Telecommunications

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.

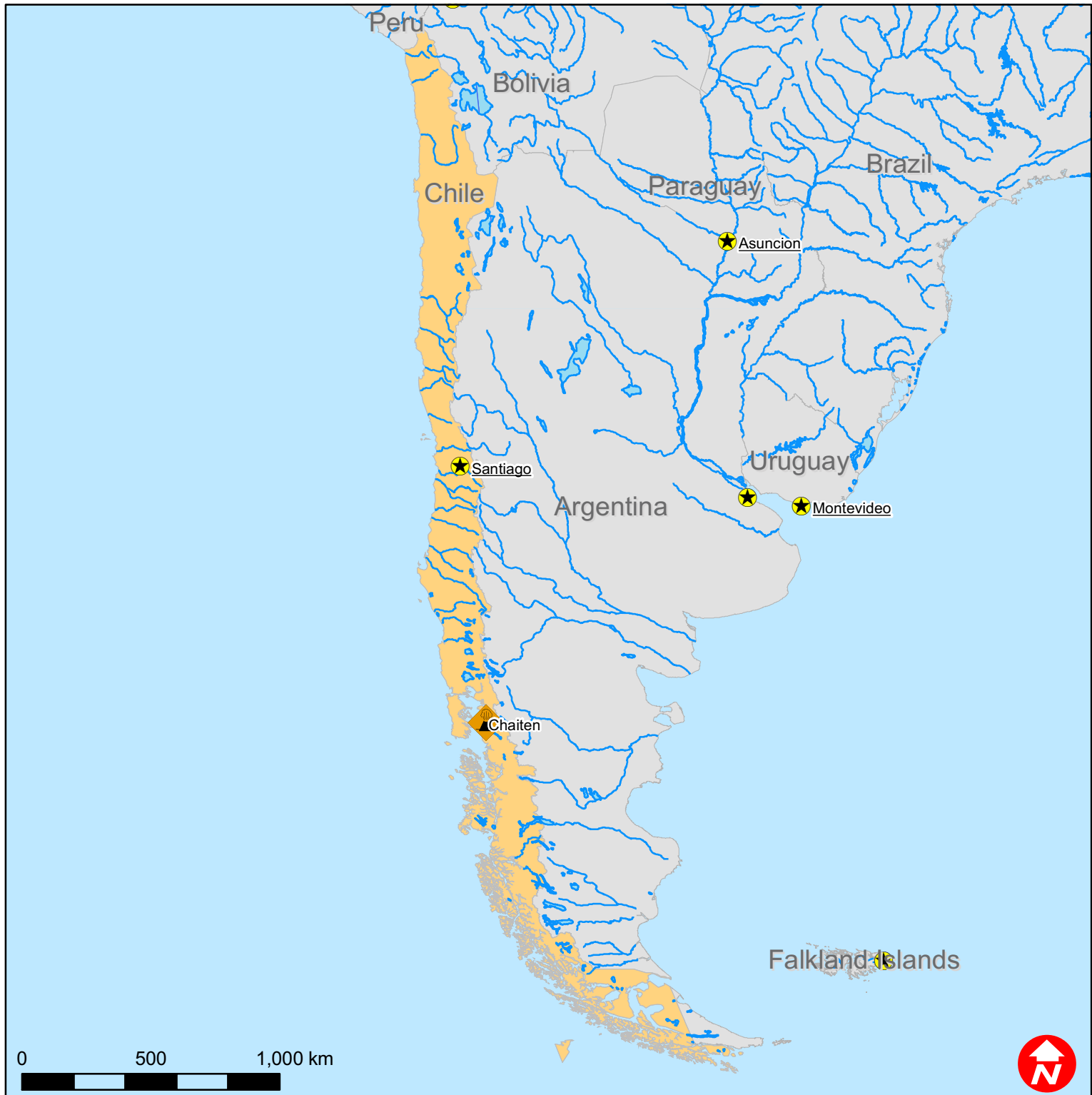
Contact information**For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:**

- In Chile: Cristian Ramírez, Relief Director, Red Cross Society of Chile; phone: (+56) 977 714 069; email: socorro@cruzroja.cl.
- In Panama: Jean Pierre Taschereau, Disaster Management Delegate of the Federation Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (+507) 316-1001; Fax: (+507) 316-1082; email: jp.taschereau@ifrc.org.
- In Peru: Giorgio Ferrario, Regional Representative of Regional Representation for South America; phone: (+511) 221 8151; fax: (+511) 441 3607; email: giorgio.ferrario@ifrc.org.
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; phone: (+507) 380 0250; fax: (+507) 317 1304; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org.
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (+41) 79 2173376; fax: (+41) 22 730 0395; email pablo.medina@ifrc.org.

[<Map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)



Chile: Volcano



On 2 May, 2008 at 02:00 hours the Chaitén volcano started to erupt after being inactive for many years. A red alert was issued in the community of Chaitén, due to the extreme volcanic activity. Local authorities from Chaitén and Futaleufú have evacuated approximately 8,000 people to other regions.

