

# DREF operation update



## Chile: Floods

**DREF operation n° MDRCL005**  
**Glide No. FL-2008-000155-CHL**  
**Update n° 1**  
**2 October 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:** 9 September to 18 September, 2008.

**Summary:** CHF 50,000 (USD 45,455 or EUR 30,960) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 9 September, 2008 to support the National Society with jump starting their early relief and assessment activities.

**A second DREF was approved for CHF 71,384 (USD 64,895 or EUR 44,201)** on 17 September to respond to the needs of 897 families.

On 31 August, 2008, heavy rain affected several regions especially the ninth region in Chile, La Araucania causing flash floods and landslides in 31 communities. This DREF operation update will describe the type of relief that will be supplied to the most affected.

This operation is expected to be implemented in two months, and completed by 8 November, 2008. In line with Federation reporting standards, the Final Report (narrative and financial) is due 90 days after the end of the operation (by 8 February, 2009).

[<click here for the DREF budget,](#)  
[Or here for contact details>](#)



**A flooded street in La Araucania.**  
**Source: Chilean Red Cross**

## The situation

Heavy rain and floods have deeply affected several regions in Chile (Maule, Bio Bio, Los Lagos and Los Rios), especially La Araucania region since 31 August, 2008. More than 81,755 people have been affected and approximately 23,000 people have lost their homes due to landslides and floods. Many lost their homes and infrastructure was severely damaged in many communities. Water supply was shut down due to the overflow of the Rehue river in La Araucania.

The National Emergency Office (Oficina Nacional de Emergencia- Ministry of Interior – ONEMI) has been providing assistance by delivering clothes in the Andean area. ONEMI also distributed 480 zinc sheets, 300 boxes with food items, 80 mattresses and 200 blankets in the region of La Araucania.



A flooded handicraft store in La Araucania.

Source: Chilean Red Cross

The agricultural sector was heavily affected, while most of the people in the area live from agricultural activities. This means that people are also affected on the longer term. Authorities are monitoring the emergency closely: as the sanitary systems were damaged, the risk of outbreaks increases. By monitoring the situation, this can be prevented.

The region of Los Lagos was affected by floods in May 2008, and the Chilean Red Cross is still carrying out response activities for that emergency.

## Coordination and partnerships

The International Federation through the **Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU)** has been in close contact with the Chilean Red Cross (CRC). The CRC has provided information about the current situation through initial assessment reports provided by ONEMI.

PADRU coordinated the deployment of a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member to Chile to support the CRC with its relief activities and the design of a Plan of Action.

In the zones affected by the floods, the UK Department for International Development (DFID) is funding projects concerning disaster risk reduction. Based on further assessments, it will be determined if and how these can support the current relief operation.



Chilean Red Cross volunteers in La Araucania performing water assessments.

Source: Chilean Red Cross

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The regional CRC branch in La Araucania is supported by 29 local branches including experienced volunteers in the areas of first aid and disaster management. The Civil Protection system coordinated by ONEMI considers the CRC to be the institution that provides support during disaster emergency events.

CRC has been monitoring the evolution of the different meteorological fronts through the Early Warning System and technical reports provided by ONEMI. ONEMI completed the damage and need assessments along with a National Intervention Team (NIT).

CRC has distributed food and sanitary items to approximately 800 families and has no additional stock available to distribute to more affected families. CRC elaborated a Plan of Action that will provide an additional 897 families with food and sanitary items.

In May 2008, DREF funds were also allocated to assist the Chilean Red Cross to respond to similar floods experienced. The funds were used to implement a cash voucher programme that helped the beneficiaries to recover from the floods.

## Progress towards objectives

After completing assessments, the CRC elaborated a Plan of Action that includes the delivery of humanitarian aid consisting of hygiene kits, food parcels and blankets to 897 families in the communities of Saavedra, Villarrica and Loncoche in the region of La Araucania.

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

**Objective: To assist 897 families in the communities of Saavedra, Villarica and Loncoche in the region of La Araucania with humanitarian aid.**

#### 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 provide reporting on relief distributions.

Each hygiene kit will contain the following locally procured items:

**Table 1: Hygiene kit (1 per family)**

Item	Quantity
Broom	1 unit
Shovel	1 unit
Dish soap	1 unit
Floor soap	1 unit
Bucket	1 unit
Rags	5 units
Clorox (1 Liter)	1 unit
Masks 3M type	3 units
Cleaning gloves	3 pairs

The composition of the food parcel has been designed by a professional nutritionist and has been adapted to fit to local needs.

**Table 2: Food parcel (1 per family)**

Item	Quantity
Lentils	2 kg
Beans	2 kg
Sugar	1 kg
Box of tea	100 units
Tea herb	500 grams
Cooking oil	2 liter
Noodles	2 kg
Tomato sauce	520 grams

Marmalade	500 grams
Salt	1 kg
Yeast	125 grams
Flour	2 Kg
Fish	850 grams
Rice	1 kg

In addition to the food parcels and hygiene kits, each family will receive three blankets (which adds up to a total of 2,691 blankets).

## 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, Chilean Red Cross; phone: (56) 977 714 069; email: [socorro@cuzroja.cl](mailto:socorro@cuzroja.cl).
- In Panama: Omar Robinson, Water and Sanitation officer of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082; email: [omar.robinson@ifrc.org](mailto:omar.robinson@ifrc.org).
- In Argentina: Gustavo Ramirez, Regional Representative of the Southern Cone, South America; email: [gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org](mailto:gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org)
- In Panama: Maria Alcazar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org).
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (41) 79 217 4300; fax: (41) 22 730 0395; email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org).

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**APPEAL BUDGET SUMMARY**

Annex 1

**CHILE FLOODS****MDRCL005****ORIGINAL****RELIEF NEEDS**

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	28,337
Food	38,158
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	24,802
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>91,297</b>

**CAPITAL EQUIPMENT**

Land & Buildings
Vehicles Purchase
Computers & Telecom Equipment
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.
Medical Equipment
Other Machinery & Equipment

**TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES**

Storage - Warehouse	
Distribution & Monitoring	600
Transport & Vehicles Costs	3,200
Service fee & recovery	

**PERSONNEL**

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300
National Staff	
National Society Staff	
Consultants	

**WORKSHOPS & TRAINING**

Workshops & Training	2,127
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**GENERAL EXPENSES**

Travel	10,449
Information & Public Relations	1,064
Office running costs	425
Communication Costs	532
Professional Fees	
Financial Charges	500
Other General Expenses	

**PROGRAMME SUPPORT**

Programme Support - PSR	7,890
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**Total Operational Needs** **30,087**

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**Total Appeal Budget (Cash & Kind)** **121,384**

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**Available Resources**

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**Net Request** **121,384**

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