

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Paraguay: Wind and Hail Storm

DREF operation n° MDRPY004
Glide No. ST-2008-000135-PRY
29 May 2009

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 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.



Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers distribute relief items in Concepción. Source: PRC

Summary: CHF 56,605 (USD 53,910 or EUR 34,620) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 20 August 2008, to support the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) in delivering assistance to 106 families dedicated to agricultural labour from the district of Concepción, as well as 169 families with food parcels and 63 families with seedling kits in the district of Horqueta.

On 7 August 2008, the northern part of Paraguay was severely affected by a series of storms combined with wind gusts from 40 km to 80 and in some areas reaching up to 200 km. in other areas. According to the National Meteorology Department, the storms were accompanied by heavy hail weighing approximately 450 to 1,000 grams.

[<Click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

A state of emergency was declared on 8 August 2008 by the central government for the northern areas of Concepción and San Pedro, where winds up to 200km per hour had affected these areas on the night of 7 August.. The storm lasted approximately 15 minutes and was accompanied by heavy winds and hailstones weighing up to one kg. The most affected departments were Presidente Hayes, San Pedro and Concepción. The hailstones and winds damaged infrastructure and four electricity towers that caused power outages and affected 600,000 people during 72 hours. Over 1,800 hectares of agricultural crops were destroyed, including corn, tomatoes, beans, carrots and bananas plantations.

A total of 9,531 families (5,976 families in Concepción, 3,515 families in San Pedro and 40 families in Presidente Hayes) were severely affected by the hail and windstorm, in addition to losing the agricultural crops, their homes were damaged, as roofs were blown off of their houses making them even more vulnerable to the storm.

The National Emergency Secretary (Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional – SEN) reported other affected departments such as Paraguari, Amambay, Alto Paraguay, Boquerón, Canindeyu and Caazapa. Staple crops in the department of Paraguari sustained damages, while in Amambay trade was affected due to an electricity black-out. In Alto Paraguay, Boquerón, Canindeyu the hail and windstorm affected livelihoods, crops, houses, and livestock. At the beginning of the emergency, SEN provided emergency relief assistance to 2,767 families with relief items such as food parcels, roof panels, mattresses, plastic tarps and blankets.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

On the onset of the emergency, the PRC mobilized its relief directors in less than 24 hours to the affected area of Concepción to support the local PRC branch and the Local Emergency Committee (Comité de Emergencial Local - CEL). After carrying out damage and need assessments with the CEL, the Paraguayan Red Cross developed a Plan of Action (PoA) that included the delivery of food items and seedlings for agricultural activities.

The following table presents the food items and seeds distributed by the PRC in the Horqueta district with additional contributions provided by other sources:

District	Communities	Total families	Food Items		Seeds
			September 2008	October 2008	September 2008
	Curupay Loma		0	102	106
Horqueta	Asentamiento 6	113	113	0	4
	Km. 31 San Marcos	59	59	0	59
Total Horqueta		172	172	102	175

The Paraguayan Red Cross with local authorities conducted the first National Contingency and Response Plan workshop on October 2008. Several actors participated in the workshop, led by the PRC, including the Ministry of Public Health, the Fire department, the Armed forces, the municipalities of Loreto and Concepcion, the National Police and the Ministry of Education and Culture. The drafting of a contingency plan for the department of Concepcion was started with the assistance of other government actors.

The International Federation, through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representative for South America at the time (now divided into the regional representations for the Southern Cone and the Andean Region) were in close communication with the PRC since the beginning of the emergency. The International Federation provided support throughout the entire operation to the PRC.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To assist 106 of the most vulnerable families in Concepcion with humanitarian aid in order to compensate for the loss of their livelihoods.

Activities completed:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Distribute complementary food parcels for two months.
- Monitor, report and evaluate the relief activities.

Impact:

Table 1. Seed kit

Seeds for one kit (per family)	Quantity
Tomato	0.20g

Pepper	0.15g
Lettuce	0.06g
Carrot	0.06g
Cabbage	0.06g
Watermelon	0.50g
Melon	0.25g
Corn	6kg
Beans	7kg

169 small farm families were provided with seeds for cultivation and/or sale in order to recover their livelihoods. An engineering consultant specialized in agriculture provided technical assistance during the three months of the operation.

Table 2. Total food and seeds distributed by district and community.

Department	Districts	Communities	Total Families	N° of families that received food parcels		N° of families that received seeds
				September 2008	October 2008	September 2008
Concepción	Concepción	Comité Central de Potrerito	19	19	19	19
		Rincón de Luna Hombres	10	10	10	10
		Sagrada Familia	11	11	11	11
		Teko Pora (Culantrillo)	10	10	10	10
		San Juan Bosco (Culantrillo)	11	11	11	11
		Sagrado Corazón de Jesús	14	14	14	14
		Juancito de León	10	10	10	10
		Yoyaihupea – Potrerito	12	12	12	12
		Rincón de Luna Mujeres	9	9	9	9
	Sub-total Concepción	106	106	106	106	
	Horqueta	Curupay Loma	109	109		
		Km. 31 San Marcos	60	60		
		Asentamiento 10	63			63
	Sub-total Horqueta	232	169	0	63	
Total Concepción			338	275	106	169

The families in the districts of Concepcion and Horqueta received a monthly food parcel weighing 47kg. The Paraguayan Red Cross purchased the food items through six committees in Concepción called Associated Producers (small farm group). This group is part of project carried out by the Concepción local market and the Paraguayan Red Cross to support the local economy. The food parcels provided to the affected families, are complementary food parcels that met Sphere standards.

The Paraguayan Red Cross reached a total of 338 families through the distribution of food parcels and seed kits in the

Challenges:

Due to the weather conditions, the families dedicated to agriculture had to cultivate gradually. Nevertheless, they were able to complete their harvest. Local municipalities supplied relief items due to the increase in the number of affected people, after continuous bad weather conditions.

The PRC planned to request additional funds to extend relief actions in the affected areas for this operation; however the National Society had to focus other capacities to respond to an additional emergency in the Chaco region, where communities were being affected by a drought.

Conclusion

Lessons learnt:

This operation has strengthened relations between the PRC and departmental governments, specifically with the Boquerón departmental government , which requested support to the local PRC branch. There was close coordination between the SEN, the government and municipalities for the development of the activities of the operation regarding the distribution of food items and seeds.

The visibility accomplished through this operation was increased, mainly in the communities involved in the National Society plan of action. The Paraguayan Red Cross plans to include some of these communities in the Risk Reduction Plan of the National Society in order to prepare them for future disasters and sensitize them in the importance of being prepared.

How we work	
<p><i>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.</i></p>	
<p>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".</p>	<p>Global Agenda Goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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	
<p>For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Paraguay: Teresa Gamarra, Paraguayan Red Cross, Teléfono: (595) 21200004; e-mail: tgamarra@togo.com.py • In Panama: Ariel Kestens, Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, email: 	

- ariel.kestens@ifrc.org, phone (506) 316 1001, fax: (506) 316 1082.
- **In Panama:** Jean Pierre Taschereau, Disaster Management Delegate, PADRU; email: jp.taschereau@ifrc.org; phone (507) 316 1001; fax (507) 316 1082
 - **In Buenos Aires:** Gustavo Ramirez, Regional Representative for the Southern Cone; email: gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org
 - **In Panama:** Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org
 - **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; phone (41) 79 217 3376; fax: (41) 22 730 0395; email pablo.medina@ifrc.org.

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

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPY004 - Paraguay - Hailstorm

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/8-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2008/8-2009/5
Appeal	MDRPY004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	56,605					56,605
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	53,913					53,913
C5. Other Income	53,913					53,913
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	53,913					53,913
D. Total Funding = B + C	53,913					53,913
Appeal Coverage	95%					95%

II. Balance of Funds

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	53,913					53,913
E. Expenditure	-53,913					-53,913
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPY004 - Paraguay - Hailstorm

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/8-2009/5
Budget Timeframe	2008/8-2009/5
Appeal	MDRPY004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		56,605					56,605	
Supplies								
Food	16,000	31,789				31,789	-15,789	
Seeds,Plants	18,000	6,261				6,261	11,739	
Total Supplies	34,000	38,050				38,050	-4,050	
Transport & Storage								
Storage		15				15	-15	
Distribution & Monitoring	2,300	1,885				1,885	415	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	4,000	4,590				4,590	-590	
Total Transport & Storage	6,300	6,490				6,490	-190	
Personnel								
National Staff		59				59	-59	
National Society Staff	8,500	4,292				4,292	4,208	
Total Personnel	8,500	4,351				4,351	4,149	
General Expenditure								
Travel	600						600	
Information & Public Relation	1,876	1,284				1,284	592	
Office Costs	500	1,227				1,227	-727	
Communications	300	254				254	46	
Financial Charges	850	-1,246				-1,246	2,096	
Total General Expenditure	4,126	1,518				1,518	2,608	
Programme Support								
Program Support	3,679	3,504				3,504	175	
Total Programme Support	3,679	3,504				3,504	175	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	56,605	53,913				53,913	2,691	
VARIANCE (C - D)		2,691				2,691		