DREF operation final report

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Argentina: Landslide

Final Report
DREF operation n° MDRAR004
Glide no. MS-2009-000041-ARG
29 October 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.

Summary: CHF 164,000 (USD 141,205 or EUR 109,808) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 18 February 2009 to support the Argentine Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to 1,000 families (5,000 beneficiaries).

The Argentine Red Cross completed the objective of providing 1,000 families (approximately 5,000 people) with relief items and health services including psychosocial support and dengue prevention measures.

During this emergency there were a significant amount of bilateral contributions from partners in-country. In addition, thanks to the assistance of humanitarian organizations and contributions from the general public, an additional objective for dengue prevention was included in light of the current outbreak experienced in the affected province. There was an increase of target beneficiaries from 600 to 1,000 families who received direct help from this project. In total 50,100 people have been reached considering the indirect outreach programming. This objective did not result in an increase in the budget given that the Argentine Red Cross received discounts on relief items from local suppliers and also received many bilateral contributions from partners in-country.

Argentine Red Cross volunteers distributing relief kits in the city of Tartagal. Source: Argentine Red Cross

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The situation

On 9 February 2009, heavy rainfall in the northern Argentine province of Salta caused a landslide of water, mud and wood remains. The landslide swept through the western mountains in the region closest to the Tartagal River into Tartagal city. The city is located in the north-eastern region of the province of Salta, approximately 369 km from the capital city of Salta in north-west Argentina. Additionally, a 50 metre long railroad bridge fell into the river aggravating the situation more since it created a dike in the Tartagal River. This accumulation of water caused flooding in the city of Tartagal, affecting several peripheral neighbourhoods.

Tartagal has an approximate population of 60,000 inhabitants, of which 20,000 people were directly affected according to official reports. Argentine authorities indicated that 742 people were evacuated and placed in four temporary shelters, while another 1,200 people self evacuated. The landslide took the life of four people. The most heavily impacted neighbourhoods were Santa Maria and a settlement located west of the railroad bridge, known as Barrio Punta Saavedra. In addition, a major part of the urban area of the city was covered by mud, reaching in places a depth of up to 1.5 metres. Information on infrastructural damage indicated that 30 houses were destroyed and 300 more damaged, along with other reported losses of personal and commercial property. The majority of the houses damaged or destroyed were located in settlements near the Tartagal River and the houses were made of ceramic and reinforced cement blocks. These homes were damaged by mud and debris brought in by the landslide. Families lost their personal possessions including electrical appliances and furniture. The Provincial Housing Institute (Instituto de la Vivienda Provincial) initiated the reconstruction of the affected houses. The Tartagal municipality provided USD 4,000 to those families who lost everything and were in temporary shelters. This stipend is for the affected families to pay for rent for an alternative home. Most of the families returned to their previous affected homes and installed tents which were provided by the provincial government. The municipality installed bathrooms in the affected area since the sewer system was not working properly as a result of blockages of mud and debris.

At the beginning of the emergency, the 742 people evacuated were housed in temporary shelters as follows:

Temporary shelter	Neighbourhoods	Children	Adults	Total	Total families
Escuela Belgrano	Ferroviario, Santa María, Barrio Militar, Mariano Moreno, Villa Güemes, Villa Saavedra y zonas aledañas al río Tartagal	180	120	300	60
Cáritas		188	124	312	62
Armada Argentina		50	34	84	17
Escuela Uriburu		24	22	46	11
Total		**442**	**300**	**742**	**150**

Since the onset of the emergency, the Tartagal municipality along with sanitary authorities and the Civil Defense were in charge of all the donations received from the Argentine population. The affectation reports were drawn up by the Municipal and Provincial Ministry of Human Development (Ministerio de Desarrollo Humano Municipal y Provincial) and the support from the provincial and national authorities to the affected population has been on-going. The Governor of Salta and the President of the country visited the most affected areas and provided basic humanitarian assistance to the affected people.

Other in-country organizations such as Caritas, UNICEF, Save the Children and local NGOs including Comisión Cascos Blancos, Red Solidaria and La Casa de la Provincia de Salta (House in the Province of Salta) also provided relief assistance from the onset of the emergency.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The local and national government provided essential relief assistance to the affected people in Tartagal. Therefore, the Argentine Red Cross focused its plan of action to cover the remaining identified needs of the population. The immediate needs identified were safe water, sanitary activities (clean-up activities), psychosocial support, basic relief items to replace those items lost as a result of the landslide (hygiene and kitchen kits etc).

Since the onset of the emergency, the Argentine Red Cross completed different local actions in the affected area of Tartagal as well as in the capital city of Salta. Among these activities were:

- Monitoring of the situation in the affected area
- Gathering information concerning the affected neighbourhoods
- Provision of psychosocial support in the temporary shelters
- Holding of meetings with key actors in the city of Tartagal (Municipality, Civil Defense, Caritas, etc)
- Managing of collection centres for donated items

- Procurement of relief kits
- Distribution of spots on dengue preventive measures in local radio stations
- Preparation of relief kits

Argentine Red Cross volunteers carrying out house visits for psychosocial support. Source: Argentine Red Cross

Nationwide, the Argentine Red Cross created a Crisis Technical Committee in Buenos Aires, which implemented the following activities:

- Monitoring of the situation.
- Gathering and sharing of information.
- Strategy design of the intervention (based on the information gathered and local assessments).
- National resource mobilization to the affected areas (a technical team was deployed from the ARC headquarters to Tartagal with four volunteers).
- Volunteer mobilization to other affected local branches.
- Setting up of a bank account for cash donations.

Throughout the entire operation (three months) 17 students from the Sanitary Educator (Educador Sanitario) course from the National University of Salta (Universidad Nacional de Salta) collaborated with the 40 ARC volunteers.

Progress towards objectives

Many of the suppliers that provided items for the relief kits gave discounts and delivered the items to Salta city, reducing the cost of the kits and transportation. In addition, some companies donated items in the kits, for example the litres of bleach and diapers. In light of the DREF funds saved, a new objective for this DREF operation was included, as previously outlined in the last DREF Bulletin update. The additional objective responded to the dengue outbreak that Argentina experienced. Activities were focused on the prevention of new dengue cases in Tartagal by providing 1,000 families with dengue prevention kits.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: 600 families will benefit from the provision of hygiene, kitchen and cleaning kits to recover from the effects of the landslide.

Activities planned:

- Local purchase of kit products
- Preparation of the kits
- Identification and census of beneficiaries
- Distribution of the kits

Impact:

The procurement of items for the hygiene, kitchen and cleaning kits was carried out locally following Federation procurement standards. A total 600 families from the Santa María and Punta Saavedra neighbourhoods, as well as in the indigenous neighbourhoods of Tobas (I and II) and Chorotes received the relief kits. The items included in the hygiene and kitchen kits assisted the affected families in re-starting their daily lives. The criteria for beneficiary selection implemented by the Argentine Red Cross was to prioritize those families that lost all their personal belongings or whose homes sustained most damage. The cleaning kits aided them in cleaning their homes from mud and debris.

The following table shows the number of families benefited per community:

Communities	Number of kits	Benefited families	Benefited people
Santa María	128	128	640
Villa Punta Saavedra	243	243	1.215
Barrio Toba I y II	125	125	625
Barrio Chorote y Asentamiento Toba	104	104	520
TOTAL	**600**	**600**	**3.000**

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

Objective: 600 families will benefit from the provision of water and sanitation kits for one month, adequate sanitation as well as hygiene promotion.

Activities planned:

- Purchase of kit products
- Preparation of the kits
- Identification and census of beneficiaries
- Distribution of the kits
- Distribution of key messages on good hygiene practices (brochures and posters) through house visits and radio spots

Impact:

The procurement of items for the water and sanitation kits was carried out locally following Federation procurement standards. A total of 600 water and sanitation kits were distributed as follows:

Communities	Number of kits	Benefited families	Benefited people
Santa María	128	128	640
Villa Punta Saavedra	243	243	1.215
Barrio Toba I y II	125	125	625
Barrio Chorote y Asentamiento Toba	104	104	520
TOTAL	**600**	**600**	**3.000**

Fifthteen ARC volunteers from the local branch in Salta participated in the distribution activities.

Moreover, brochures and posters were sent from the ARC headquarters to the Tartagal ARC branch in the department of Salta with information on respiratory infections, diarrhoea, dengue, HIV and AIDS, and malaria. In addition, the radio spots with key messages on dengue prevention were distributed to four local radio stations in Tartagal and one in Vespusio. The radio spots were in Spanish and in Wichi, the mother-tongue of the indigenous populations of the area. The number of people reached with key messages disseminated through brochures and house visits were as follows:

Communities or centres	Benefited people
4 (cuatro) Centros de Evacuados	742 personas
Barrio Santa María,	900 personas
Villa Punta Saavedra y Barrio Belén	1050 personas
Barrios Toba I y II y Asentamiento Chorote	1150 personas
Barrio 60 Viviendas	425 personas
Hogar de Ancianos	45 personas
Centros Comerciales, Hospitales, espacios de concurrencia masiva de público, entre otros.	45.788 personas
Total	**50,100 people**

Emergency health

Objective: People that have been evacuated will benefit from psychosocial support and hygiene promotion activities to contribute to their well-being.

Activities planned:

- Recreational activities with children in temporary shelters.
- Psychosocial support for men and women in temporary shelters.
- Workshops in psychosocial support and disease prevention

Impact:
The Argentine Red Cross implemented recreational activities for children in the temporary shelters. The activities included singing, group activities, indoor and outdoor games as well as talks with health messages. There were 442 children that participated in these activities from the temporary shelters and 100 children from the communities of Santa Maria and Villa Punta Saavedra; therefore reaching a total of 542 children through psychosocial support and hygiene promotion activities.

Group dynamics were implemented to address feelings and stress-related symptoms of the children as a result of the landslide. At the same time good hygiene practices during emergencies were taught through games. Additionally, the children were taught how to treat mosquito bites (dengue transmissions).

Psychosocial support was also provided to women and men in the temporary shelters. The Argentine Red Cross included workshops and orientation talks on handling stress and established contacts and agreements with mental health centres. The table below shows the total number of families (adults) that received psychosocial support:

Community	Number of families	# of people (adults)
4 Temporary shelters	150	300
Barrio Santa Maria	180	360
Villa Punta Saavedra y Barrio Belen	210	420
Barrios Toba I and II and Asentamiento Chorote	230	460
Barrio 60 Viviendas	85	170
Families of missing people (dead)	1	3
Elderly home	---	45
Total	**856**	**1,758**

House visits were carried out by the ARC volunteers for families that were not evacuated or had returned to their homes. Brochures on psychosocial support were handed out in the hospital in Tartagal, health centres and the most affected neighbourhoods. Therefore, a total of 2,300 people (542 children and 1,758 adults) were reached through this objective.

Emergency Health (Dengue Prevention)

Objective: 1,000 families (approximately 5,000 beneficiaries) will benefit from the provision of dengue prevention kits.

Activities planned:

- Printing of materials with key health messages relevant to the dengue outbreak.
- Conducting of house visits to promote dengue prevention at the community level.
- Provision of dengue prevention kits to 1,000 families.

This objective was added after the revision of the plan of action as it was essential to address the dengue situation in the affected region. As result 1,000 dengue prevention kits were successfully distributed among the following communities:

Communities	Number of kits	Benefited families	Estimated benefited people
Santa María I	128	128	640
Villa Saavedra	221	221	1.105
Barrio Provincias Unidas	21	21	105
Barrio Toba I y II	125	125	625
Barrio Chorote y Asentamiento Toba	104	104	520
Barrio SUPE - Santa María II	60	60	300
Barrio Belén	210	210	1050
9 de julio tras las vías(sector centro)	61	61	305
Barrio San Miguel – Barrio 365 Viviendas	70	70	350
TOTAL	**1000**	**1000**	**5.000**

Thirty ARC volunteers carried out house visits to distribute the dengue preventions kits.

Conclusion

The Argentine Red Cross reports several positive conclusions in this operation. The local branch in Salta received constant support from the ARC headquarters and there was frequent communication between the two offices. All the objectives proposed in the plan of action were fulfilled and the National Society's operational team from headquarters and in Salta worked in an efficient manner. Thanks to this operation, the ARC increased its recognition among the citizens of Tartagal. In addition, the lines of intervention were well defined since the beginning of the emergency among the local and national authorities, the affected community and the ARC personnel in the field in order to avoid duplication of efforts. Capacities of both the headquarters and the local branch staff in Salta were strengthened during the course of the relief operation since work was carried out in teams within the organization and the communities, uniting efforts and striving to meet the same objective.

The majority of the volunteers had previous emergency operation experience (from the DREF operation carried out in Embarcación in 2008) and felt they had the capacity to ensure the relief response actions. All the volunteers were enthusiastic and committed to the operation. Additionally, there were new volunteers who were recruited and trained during this emergency.

All the relief kits delivered met the needs of the beneficiaries since the items were of good quality. The affected people lost all their personal belongings and these items assisted them to start their daily activities. The community stated that the ARC was the first organization to assess needs and prepare a complete response chronogram of activities.

Lessons learnt:
After the completion of the operation, the ARC learned that glasses should have been included in the water and sanitation kits; and the chlorine should have been in bottles instead of sachets, since some broke during the distributions. In the hygiene kits, regular and pediculosis combs should also have been included. Additionally, the ARC will include in the future operations a soup bowl and a mate gourd with a straw in the kitchen sets, taking into consideration local customs.

During the relief response the ARC acknowledged the need of the local branches to reinforce the communications network to call upon volunteers to intervene in the field. In addition, volunteers need to strengthen their health practices in regards to dengue prevention. The National Society proposes to have ongoing community exercises to keep people aware of the potential of recurring emergencies.

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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<Click here for the final financial report; or here to return to title page>

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRAR004 - Argentina - Landslides

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/02-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2009/02-2009/05
Appeal	MDRAR004
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	**164,000**					**164,000**
B. Opening Balance	**0**					**0**
Income						
Other Income						
Voluntary Income	*148,670*					*148,670*
C5. Other Income	***148,670***					***148,670***
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	**148,670**					**148,670**
D. Total Funding = B +C	**148,670**					**148,670**
Appeal Coverage	**91%**					**91%**

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	148,670					**148,670**
E. Expenditure	-148,670					**-148,670**
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					**0**

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Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/02-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2009/02-2009/05
Appeal	MDRAR004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure						Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL	
	A						B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		**164,000**					**164,000**	
Supplies								
Water & Sanitation	10,200	3,627					3,627	6,573
Utensils & Tools	61,800	36,270					36,270	25,530
Other Supplies & Services	54,600	54,198					54,198	402
Total Supplies	**126,600**	**94,095**					**94,095**	**32,505**
Transport & Storage								
Storage	1,000	834					834	166
Distribution & Monitoring	5,000	1,352					1,352	3,648
Transport & Vehicle Costs	7,000	583					583	6,417
Total Transport & Storage	**13,000**	**2,769**					**2,769**	**10,231**
Personnel								
National Staff	8,000							8,000
National Society Staff		25,236					25,236	-25,236
Total Personnel	**8,000**	**25,236**					**25,236**	**-17,236**
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	2,225	194					194	2,031
Total Workshops & Training	**2,225**	**194**					**194**	**2,031**
General Expenditure								
Information & Public Relation	1,500	4,674					4,674	-3,174
Office Costs	750	2,063					2,063	-1,313
Communications	740	54					54	686
Financial Charges	525	9,921					9,921	-9,396
Total General Expenditure	**3,515**	**16,713**					**16,713**	**-13,198**
Programme Support								
Program Support	10,660	9,664					9,664	996
Total Programme Support	**10,660**	**9,664**					**9,664**	**996**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	**164,000**	**148,670**					**148,670**	**15,330**
VARIANCE (C - D)		**15,330**					**15,330**	