

# DREF operation



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Argentina: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRAR006  
FL-2009-000254-ARG  
3 December 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 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 230,629 (USD 229,848 or EUR 152,957) has been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Argentine Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to some 944 families. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.**

**Summary:** The Argentine National Meteorological Service reported that since 23 November 2009, the provinces of Salta, Chaco, Entre Rios, Corrientes, Santa Fe and Misiones have been affected by heavy rain and floods. The communities at risk are those in low level areas due to their proximity to the overflowed Parana and Uruguay rivers and the Salado del Sur basin. According to the Argentine

Red Cross, approximately 16,600 people have been evacuated and placed in collective centres and an undetermined number of displaced people are being hosted by friends and relatives. In addition, five people have died as a result of this emergency.

This DREF operation is focused on providing health care, essential relief items, hygiene promotion and safe drinking water to the most affected families in the provinces of Chaco, Entre Rios and Corrientes.

This operation is expected to be implemented over a three month period, and will therefore be completed by 2 March 2010; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 2 June 2010).

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



Flooding in the Entre Rios province has damaged houses and property in Concordia in the province of Entre Rios. Source:

## The situation

On 23 November 2009, heavy storms severely affected the provinces located in the north-eastern region of Argentina. The provinces of Chaco, Corrientes, Entre Rios, Formosa, northern Salta and Santa Fe were affected by the storms and floods that caused damages in several communities.

### Province of Chaco

In this province, neighbourhoods were flooded and the electrical services were interrupted temporarily. Approximately, 5,794 people have been evacuated and placed in schools that are currently being used as collective centres, but this number may increase over the upcoming days. School classes had to be postponed and urban transportation has been interrupted. Heavy rainfall in a period of four hours resulted in 98 millimetres of rain in the city of Resistencia, 200mm in the community of Puerto Tirol and 135mm in the community of Margarita Belen.

The most affected neighbourhoods are located in the most vulnerable areas of the southern region and north of the provincial capital. The governor met with the Water Emergency Commission (Comisión de Emergencia Hídrica) and prompted the immediate activation of the contingency plan and collective centres to transfer and assist the most affected people. Several organizations including the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, the Water Services Provincial Administration, municipal authorities from Barranqueras, Resistencia, Puerto Tirol and Fontana, and the Argentine Army have been coordinating response activities. The Argentinean army mobilized 14 teams and 7 trucks to evacuate people to the collective centres.

### Province of Entre Rios

After the Uruguay River overflowed hundreds of people evacuated their homes from the cities of Concordia, Colon and Concepción del Uruguay. The director of the Civil Defence from Entre Rios informed that 14 families from Entre Rios were evacuated in Colon and 343 people in Concepcion del Uruguay. In addition, 80 families in the city of Federal, 13 families in El Cimarron and Aldea San Isidro have been affected by the floods.

The city of Concordia, located near the border with Uruguay, is one of the most affected due to its proximity to the overflowed Uruguay River. More than 6,000 people were evacuated to collective centres and an undetermined number of people are being hosted by friends or relatives. The Civil Defence in Concordia informed that 20 per cent of the city is under water. Currently, there are 28 open collective centres and most of them are school buildings.



A flooded neighbourhood in the most affected city of Concordia in the province of Entre Rios. Source: Argentine Red Cross

In the city of Concepción del Uruguay the municipal authorities, the Civil Defence and other agencies within the Emergency Committee continue working together in the emergency response. The Civil Defence has evacuated 331 people and approximately 160 people were self evacuated. These families are in collective centres, mainly sport facilities and community centres. Municipal authorities and the Civil Defence have been assisting the evacuated people with essential relief items.

The Salto Grande reservoir located in the Uruguay River in the province of Entre Rios is at its maximum capacity since precipitation has caused the water level to surpass the limit of 35 metres and is currently at 37 metres. The reservoir authorities are closely monitoring the situation to control the water levels.

The Health Secretariat of Entre Rios has been visiting the collective centres in the affected areas to carry out immunizations in order to prevent diseases including measles and polio. One of the main activities is to keep providing medical services by visiting the places with most evacuees.

### Province of Corrientes

The city of Goya was the most affected by the heavy rains and floods in this province. The neighbourhoods of Catamarca, Nueva Esperanza, Federal and Cuarteto Santa Ana sustained damages. Moreover, families

were evacuated, but were able to return to their homes after a short period of time. Rain and floods have generated multiple damages, affecting roads and households in more than 20 communities. On 27 November, rains were still ongoing causing additional damages.

A total of 105 people were evacuated in the city of Mercedes due to the overflowing of two creeks, while dozens of people from Chavarria sought shelter. In Curuzu and Caseros, several families sustained damages in their homes, but refused to leave their homes for fear of looting. The fire department along with municipal authorities and the Argentine Red Cross have been assisting the affected people. In addition the municipality in Mercedes mobilized an assistance coordination team to provide humanitarian assistance. The evacuated families are being sheltered in the fire department building. The Municipality and the Health and Social Action Secretariat have been providing food and hygiene items for children and mothers with no social benefits in the municipal collective centre.



Evacuated children watch movies that have been provided by the Culture Department in a collective centre in the Corrientes province. Source: Argentine Red Cross

The Public Service Department is responsible for the transportation of food items. The Culture Department has been providing entertainment for children including the projection of movies and recreational activities in the collective centre to mitigate the effects of the emergency in children.

### **Actions by the Government**

The Health Secretariat has appointed the vice-minister to travel to the city of Concordia and provide sanitary assistance in the province of Entre Rios. In addition the Health Secretariat has carried out assessments focusing on sanitary conditions in the area in order to provide an adequate assistance. National authorities along with the National Department of Sanitary Emergencies (Direccion Nacional de Emergencias Sanitarias) will provide logistical support to dispatch basic relief items including medicines, vaccines, water purification tablets and diapers, as well as milk and water.

The government has carried out assessments and identified the following needs:

- Short supply of water in different regions
- Clothing, footwear, bed linen (for adults and children). The Ministry of Development is covering part of these needs.
- Zinc sheets for those houses that have been considerably damaged.
- Psychosocial support and recreational activities for children.
- The Health Secretariat from the province of Entre Rios advised that the country is facing a dengue epidemic and that sanitary and hygiene promotion should be a priority.

### **Coordination and partnerships**

Coordination and constant communication is essential for the Argentine Red Cross (ARC) and other agencies to improve the impact of the response and guarantee a safe operation. The objectives of this coordination are to:

- assure the immediate needs are met avoiding duplicity of actions;
- assure the proper identification of the affected and most vulnerable communities that have not received any assistance;
- involve the affected population in the relief operation; and
- guarantee the safety of personnel and resources in the operation.

Due to the different emergencies that have affected Argentina this year including drought and floods; the provincial authorities of Chaco, Corrientes and Entre Rios along with the municipal authorities from the affected cities: Resistencia, Concordia, Concepcion del Uruguay and Mercedes have been coordinating the response activities. Several meetings have been held to share information and to make decisions based on the completed assessments.

Several State organizations, non-governmental-organizations (NGOs) and the media have provided essential equipment and resources (logistical and administrative) to the Argentine Red Cross in order to carry out initial assessments and draw up a plan of action.

The Argentine Red Cross has maintained communication with several governmental and non-governmental organizations including the governor of the province of Entre Rios, authorities from the Ministry Social Development in the Entre Rios and Chaco provinces, the municipal authorities of Concordia, Concepción del Uruguay and Mercedes, the Civil Defence of Concordia, collective centres, the police department, the Fire Department and several NGOs, including Caritas and Save the Children amongst others.

Additionally, the ARC is part of the Risk Management Institutional Network (the Argentine Emergency Network) along with Save the Children, Comision Cascos Blancos, Caritas, Scouts of Argentina, Accion Sur and the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The ARC has also been in constant communication with the Civil Protection National Department to obtain information on the affected areas.

## **Red Cross and Red Crescent action**

The Argentine Red Cross has extensive experience in responding to emergencies including the operations in response to floods in Tartagal (2006), floods in Salta (2008), a landslide in Tartagal (2009) and dengue outbreak (2009). The National Society has strengthened its capacity and has 12 volunteers trained as Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members and 10 volunteers trained as National Intervention Team (NIT) members.

Since 1 October 2009, the ARC has been responding at a national and local level carrying out the following activities:

- Monitoring of climate trends during the past months of 2009 and sharing of information with local branches.
- Intervention strategy design (based on assessments and local evaluations).
- Mobilization of national resources to the affected area. To date, one mission including one technician was deployed to Concordia (the most affected city due to the overflowed Uruguay River).

### **ARC local branch in Resistencia**

The local branch in the city of Resistencia (Chaco province) has held meetings with the Civil Defence and other organizations to coordinate the relief activities for families in the collective centres.

### **ARC local branch in Concordia**

Since 16 November, the local branch in Concordia has been delivering relief items to neighbourhoods located in urban and semi-urban areas affected by the recent storms and floods. The items were obtained thanks to a donation campaign implemented by the newspaper "Diario Uno" from Paraná, Concordia and by local radio stations. The local branch contacted the Civil Defence and volunteers from the fire department to distribute 66 parcels containing clothing, footwear and non-perishable food items.

Since 23 November, volunteers from the local branch have been participating in the Operations Centre and assisting affected families in two collective centres. In addition the local branch has been coordinating with the provincial government of Entre Rios, the Civil Defence, the provincial Health Secretariat, the Army and NGOs present in the province.

### **ARC local branch in Mercedes**

The local branch in Mercedes has carried out the following activities:

- Delivery and distribution of humanitarian aid. This aid was obtained from community donations from the city of Mercedes.
- Assessments in collective centres.
- Elaboration of beneficiary lists.
- Provision of psychosocial support and carrying out recreational activities for children.
- Provision meals for families in collective centres.

### **ARC local branch in Concepción del Uruguay**

The local branch has been coordinating with the municipal authorities in three collective centres. There are 331 people in collective centres.

## The needs

### Selection of people to be reached:

Direct assessments were carried out by the ARC through the local branches from Resistencia, Concordia, Mercedes and Concepción del Uruguay.

The criteria to select the beneficiaries will be based on the current sanitary conditions, including psychosocial issues, community health and personal hygiene. The assistance will be focused to those families in collective centres, isolated communities and self evacuated families not assisted by the government.

## The proposed operation

The ARC drew up a plan of action to assist 944 families in the provinces of Chaco, Entre Rios and Corrientes in the following areas:

Problem	Needs
Post traumatic stress	Psychosocial support and recreational activities
Diseases including: Diarrhea, scabies, conjunctivitis, dengue, etc.	Health promotion, hygiene kits and dengue prevention kits.
Access to safe water	Promotion of safe water handling.
Loss of basic domestic supplies	Kitchen kits
Damaged houses	Cleaning kits and tools to clean houses.

The ARC will implement this plan of action in coordination with the plans of the municipalities and other organizations in order to avoid duplication of efforts. In addition, the ARC addresses that due to the imminent spread of water-borne diseases; especially the spread of dengue, an epidemiological surveillance will be implemented.

The following table shows the number of beneficiaries by city:

City	Beneficiaries	Type of action
<b>Resistencia</b>	<b>319 families- 2,427</b> beneficiaries ( 632 adults, 1,595 children over the age of 3 years and 200 children under the age of 3 years)	<b>1) Provision of essential relief items</b> <b>2) Provision of health care</b> <b>3) Water and sanitation activities</b>
<b>Concordia</b>	<b>500 families- 3,700</b> beneficiaries (1,000 adults, 2,500 children over 3 years and 200 children under the age of 3 years)	<b>4) Provision of essential relief items</b> <b>5) Provision of health care</b> <b>6) Water and sanitation activities</b>
<b>Concepción del Uruguay</b>	<b>75 families-798 beneficiaries</b> (150 Adults, 448 children over the age of 3 years and 200 children under the age of 3 years).	<b>7) Provision of essential relief items</b> <b>8) Provision of health care</b> <b>9) Water and sanitation activities</b>
<b>Mercedes</b>	<b>50 families- 450 people</b> (100 adults, 250 children over the age of 3 years and 100 children under the age of 3 years)	<b>10) Provision of essential relief items</b> <b>11) Provision of health care</b>

This DREF operation will cover the costs of the relief items, workshops, visibility and operational costs including an operation coordinator which will be appointed by the National Society.

## Relief distributions (basic non-food items)

**Objective: 944 families will receive hygiene kits, cleaning kits and kitchen kits in the provinces of Chaco, Entre Rios and Corrientes.**

### Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procurement of items for the kits.
- Preparation of kits to be distributed.
- 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.
- Develop an exit strategy.

A total of 944 families in the three provinces will receive essential relief items in following cities:

Province	City
Chaco	Resistencia
Entre Rios	Concordia
	Concepcion del Uruguay
Corrientes	Mercedes

The ARC plans to assist families in collective centres, families that self-evacuated and people in affected houses that refused to evacuate in fear of looting. The following items will be locally procured and distributed:

- 944 hygiene kits
- 944 children hygiene kits
- 944 kitchen kits
- 444 cleaning kits

The ARC will distribute 444 cleaning kits instead of 944, since the governor of the city of Concordia announced the government will provide cleaning items.

The kits will contain the following items:

Hygiene kit (adult)	
1 Family for 7 people for 1 month	
7	Body soaps
7	Toothbrushes
3	Toothpaste
3	Hygiene pads
12	Rolls of toilette paper
1	Shampoo
1	Comb
3	Small towels
3	Large towels
3	Disposable shaving razors

Children Hygiene kits	
For children up to 36 months for 1 month	
120	Diapers (small, medium and large)
2	Cotton bags
1	Shampoo
1	Body soap

Kitchen kits	
1 family for 1 month	
7	Plastic cups
7	Plastic plates
7	Stainless steel spoons
7	Stainless steel forks
7	Stainless steel knives
1	Pot with handles from 5 to 10 litres
2	Match boxes of 250 each
1	Kettle

Cleaning kits	
<b>1 family for 7 people for 1 month</b>	
1	Broom
1	Mop
1	Hand brush
1	Concentrated detergent (5 litres)
10	Plastic trash bags (10 units)
1	Kitchen gloves
1	Chlorine (5 litres)
2	Floor rags
1	10 to12 litre bucket
2	Sponges
2	Kitchen towel
3	White soap
1	Garbage pail

### Emergency health

**Objective: The well-being of the affected families is improved through the provision of psychosocial support to the affected people and recreational activities for children in collective centres in the provinces of Chaco, Entre Rios and Corrientes.**

**Activities planned:**

- Carry out recreational activities with children in collective centres or that have been evacuated.
- Carry out psychosocial support workshops for men and women in collective centres.
- Distribution of informational material on stress management.
- Establish contact and agreements with mental health centres and hospitals.

Children in collective centres will participate in recreational activities that include games, songs and games (with information on for example health issues). Approximately 3,000 affected people will receive psychosocial support through two workshops.

### Water sanitation and hygiene promotion

**Objective: 944 families will receive vector control kits and 444 families will receive water and sanitation kits to reduce the spread of water-borne diseases in the affected provinces of Chaco, Entre Rios and Corrientes.**

**Activities planned:**

- Identification and census list of beneficiaries.
- Procurement of items for the kits.
- Preparation of kits to be distributed.
- Distribution of 944 vector control kits and 444 water and sanitation kits
- Monitor and evaluate the activities and provide reporting on distributions.
- Conduct two workshops on prevention of disease (focusing in respiratory infections, diarrhoea, venomous animals, yellow fever, dengue fever and HIV)
- Distribution of material with information on disease prevention in schools, health centres, hospitals and community centres.
- Dissemination of key messages through radio spots (already designed).
- Conduct community talks on waste management and safe water handling.
- Mobilization of people to assist in community cleaning activities.

The vector control kits will contain the following items:

Vector control kits	
<b>1 family for 7 people for 1 month</b>	
5	Aerosol repellents (adults)
3	Crème repellents (children)

The water and sanitation kits will contain the following items:

Water and sanitation kits	
<b>1 family for 7 people</b>	
1	10 litre jerry can with tap
1	2 litre water jug
2	1 litre of chlorine
1	Dropper

## 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 Argentina: Pablo Bruno, Executive Advisor for Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Response, Argentine Red Cross; email: [pbruno@cruzroja.org.ar](mailto:pbruno@cruzroja.org.ar); phone: (54) 11 4952 7200; fax: (54) 11 4952 7715.
- In Buenos Aires: Gustavo Ramirez, Regional Representative for the Southern Cone and Brazil; email: [gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org](mailto:gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org).
- In Panama: Mauricio Bustamante, Acting Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: [mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org](mailto:mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- In Panama: Francisco Maldonado, Disaster Management delegate, Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: [Francisco.maldonado@ifrc.org](mailto:Francisco.maldonado@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- In Panama: Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; email: [maria.alcazar@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.alcazar@ifrc.org); phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator; email: [pablo.medina@ifrc.org](mailto:pablo.medina@ifrc.org); phone: (41) 79 2173376; fax: (41) 22 730 0395.

[<DREF budget and map below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

## DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY

### Argentina Floods

Annex 1  
MDRAR006

BUDGET CHF

#### RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	67,438
Other Supplies & Services	84,535
<b>Total Relief Needs</b>	<b>151,973</b>

#### CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

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

#### TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	5,290
Distribution & Monitoring	9,656
Transport & Vehicles Costs	2,012
Service fee & Recovery	

#### PERSONNEL

International Staff	
Regionally Deployed Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	10,737
Consultants	

#### WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	8,482
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#### GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	2,540
Information & Public Relations	1,486
Office running costs	3,193
Communication Costs	929
Professional Fees	398
Financial Charges	18,943
Other General Expenses	

#### PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	14,991
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**Total Operational Needs** **78,656**

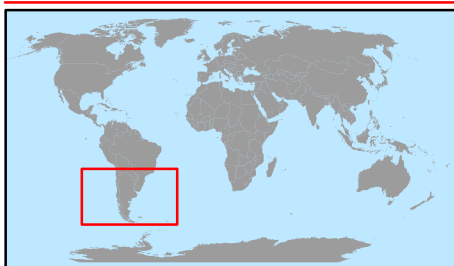
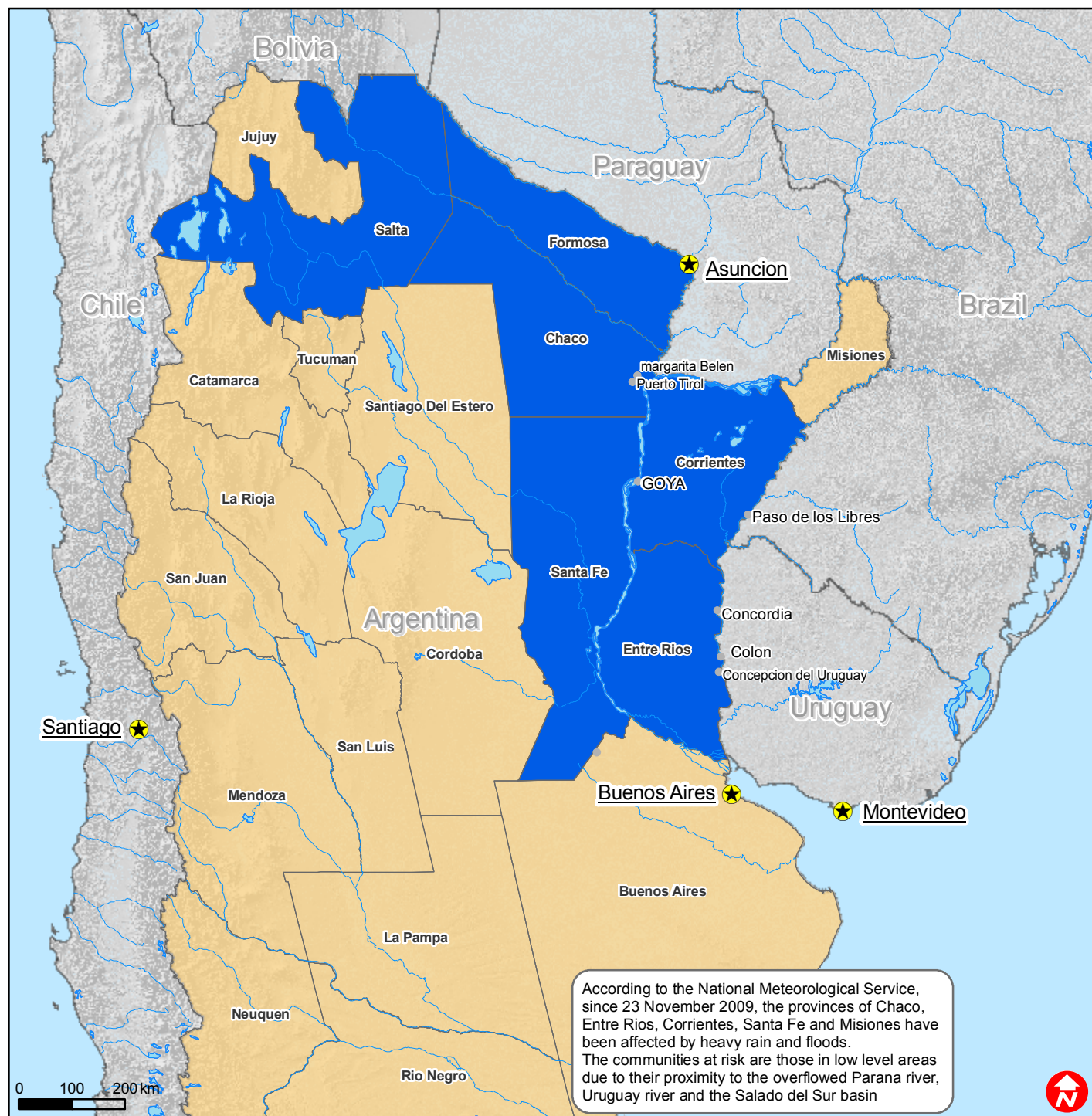
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**DREF ALLOCATION** **230,629**

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# Argentina: Floods



- Settlements
- ★ Capitals
- Lakes
- Rivers
- Most affected area