DREF operation final report

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Paraguay: Drought

DREF operation n° MDRPY007
Glide No. DR-2009-000104-PRY
Final Report
23 November 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 237,515 (USD 218,944 or EUR 156,360) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 26 May 2009 to support the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,624 families (approximately 8,120 beneficiaries).

The Paraguayan Red Cross completed a plan of action and implemented it to meet the needs of those affected in five departments (Concepción, Ñeembucú, Presidente Hayes, Boquerón and Alto Paraguay) in Paraguay. Priority was given to five rural and fishing communities in the districts of Horqueta, Concepción (in the department of Concepción), and Tacuaras, Paso de Patria and Isla Umbu (in the department of Ñeembucú).

Beneficiaries sowing crops with the seeds provided by the Paraguayan Red Cross. Source: International Federation

This operation initially was established to benefit 1,100 families in the areas referred to above. However, the National Society was able to increase its target to 1,624 families thanks to the support of the Paraguayan government as explained in the DREF Update n° 1. At the close of the operation, it was possible to reach a total of 1,743 rural families with food and seeds for revival of their crops damaged by drought. This significant achievement was due to the support from the government's National Emergency Secretariat which covered logistics costs (transport and fuel) that enabled the PRC to optimize resources to reach more people affected by the situation in those departments.

In terms of results set out for this intervention both objectives were accomplished. Particularly the second objective, which refers to the recovery of crops, has had a positive impact on the affected families who benefited from the distribution of seeds and tools. This objective incorporated technical assistance thanks agronomists as an added value to the operation. At the closing of this final report, the crops are in full growth stage. This DREF operation was completed in three months.

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on: http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp

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The situation

On 11 May 2009, the Paraguayan government declared a state of emergency due to the severe drought in the departments of Concepción, Ñeembucú, Presidente Hayes, Boquerón and Alto Paraguay. The state of emergency prompted the intervention of all Ministries and government institutions, including the National Emergency Secretariat (Secretaría Nacional de Emergencia - SEN). Emergency measures were implemented and the SEN assisted the affected communities, both indigenous, rural and other affected populations through actions including rehabilitation of livelihoods focused on agriculture, social assistance and health.

Shade cloths used to protect harvested crops. Source: International Federation

Damage assessments performed by the SEN and reports from the departmental authorities of Concepción described a lack of water and high risk of outbreaks of fires. Between 30,000 and 50,000 families were affected by the emergency.

In the department of Ñeembucú, there was a lack of water and food items. According to the report from the SEN there were approximately 25,000 people affected. The drastic climatic changes experienced during the past years in the region and especially the yearly droughts had affected the agricultural sector. This situation was critical since farmers have not been able to produce food and the access to food items was scarce. The Ministry of Agriculture reported a decrease in the production levels of crops, including maize, beans and yucca over recent years.

Thus, the operation financed by the DREF funds prioritized the distribution of food items to the most affected communities in Concepción and Ñeembucú. Additionally, the agricultural rehabilitation was included in the assistance in order to boost the families' livelihoods.

Initially, the plan of action intended to assist 1,110 families working in agricultural activities, with food items and seeds. As a result of the efficient joint coordination with the government, specifically with the logistical resources provided by governmental agencies, the assistance reached an additional 643 families than originally planned. This increase in families reached has reinforced the positive impact of the operation since it is foreseen that between November and December the rehabilitated crops will produce the first harvest.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

This emergency operation, which started at the end of May 2009 and was completed by 26 August 2009, aimed to provide emergency assistance to the rural and peri-urban families affected by the drought in the departments of Concepcion and Ñeembucú. The objective consisted in providing food items and seeds to rehabilitate the crops in the departments of Concepción and Ñeembucú for 1,100 families. As mentioned above, this DREF operation was able to surpass the initial target and reach 1,743 families.

The Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member facilitating the Early Recovery workshop with Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers. Source: International Federation

Interviews conducted by the PRC volunteers with the affected families indicated the most viable means of subsistence are vegetable crops which are able to resist the low temperatures of the Chaco region. Two local agronomists with ample experience in the area and the type of crops and soil of the region were hired. The agronomists made an analysis and drew up a work plan in order to reactivate agricultural activities. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member was deployed to Paraguay in mid July to support the National Society with the rehabilitation of livelihoods.

Achievements against objectives

The main objective of supplying families with food kits of 47 kg. (1,046 kilocalories each kit) for one month and rehabilitating their crops for their daily subsistence was fulfilled. A total of 1,743 families received complementary food parcels and 1,270 families received seeds and technical assistances to rehabilitate their crops.

Food items: It was initially planned to procure 1,100 food parcels for the affected families including the bags for distribution; but since there were savings due to the transportation provided by the National Emergency Secretariat which covered all transportation costs for the distributions, additional food parcels were purchased, and a total of 1,743 families were reached through the distributions.

Seeds and agricultural tools: Since the beginning of the operation it was planned to provide 1,100 seed kits, but due to negotiations between the PRC and the supplier, the number of families targeted was increased. After the assessments carried out by the agronomists, the following products were procured:

Seeds	34,836,46 kilos
Shade cloth	6,000 meters
Silos	140 units for 7 communities
Fungicide	7 litres

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To assist 1,100 of the most vulnerable families in the departments of Concepción and Ñeembucú with humanitarian aid consisting of supplementary food items.

Activities completed:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Coordinate with the local branch president in Concepcion for presentation of proposal.
- Coordinate with municipalities involved and community leaders.
- Visits to the benefited communities.
- Selection of suppliers.
- Monthly distribution of a 47kg food parcel to the 1,100 families that are small farmers.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.
- Develop an exit strategy.

Impact:
1,743 families received food items to cover their nutritional needs for one month. The table below shows in detail the number of benefited families from each district in each department:

DEPARTMENT OF CONCEPCIÓN				
District	**Community**	**Nucleus or Committee**	**N° of families**	**N° of people**
Horqueta	Arroyito	Nucleus one	114	591
		Nucleus two	77	400
		Nucleus three	256	1325
		Nucleus four	104	627
		Nucleus five	83	434
		Nucleus six	104	553
		Nucleus seven	61	344
Concepción	Associate Producers (Productores Asociados del	San Juan Bosco Committee – Culantrillo	12	84
		Mujeres María Auxiliadora Committee – Culantrillo	7	34
		Jacinto de León Committee –	9	52

	Centro de Acopio de Concepción – PACAC)	Culantrillo		
		Mujeres San Cayetano Committee – Culantrillo	10	56
		Rincón de Luna Committee – Santa Rosa	9	54
		Chokokue Aty Committee– Culantrillo	6	33
		Central Committee – Potrerito	17	122
		Sagrado Corazón de Jesús Committee – Culantrillo	15	99
		Mujeres Juaihupá Committee– potrerito	12	101
		Sagrada Familia Committee – Sagrada Familia	8	40
		Teko Pora Committee – Culantrillo	10	45
		Integral de Calle 11 Committee	9	60
Horqueta	Peguaho Guazu		120	600
Total Department of Concepción			**1,043**	**5,654**
DEPARTMENT OF ÑEEMBUCÚ				
District	**Community**		**N° of families**	**N° of people**
Tacuaras	Belén		153	671
Paso de Patria	Paso de Patria		200	713
Isla Umbú	Tacurú Pucú		35	111
	Valle Poí		55	190
	Loma Clavel		30	97
	Camba Cuá		32	128
	Boquerón		51	163
	Islerias		87	224
	Costa Pucú		57	222
Total Department of Ñeembucú			**700**	**2,519**
TOTAL DEPARTAMENTS CONCEPCIÓN AND ÑEEMBUCÚ			**1,743**	**8,173**

Challenges:
The major challenge identified in this sector was to guarantee the families' food security in the long term since the provision of food parcels through this DREF allocation was for one month. Nevertheless, the National Society held meetings with local authorities to seek viable alternatives for the affected communities.

Rehabilitation of livelihoods

Objective: 1,100 of the most affected small farmer families in the departments of Concepción and Ñeembucú will receive seeds to sow new crops.

Activities completed:

- Two agronomists will perform damage and needs assessments in the communities affected by the drought and will provide a proposal for each department.
- The agronomists will elaborate a chronogram of activities on the distribution of the seeds.
- Selection and census of beneficiaries.
- Selection of suppliers and procurement.
- Distribution of seeds to affected families.
- Agronomists will provide technical assistance.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Impact:

The agronomists hired to support the operation prepared a field study to draw up a plan prior to the distribution of the seed kits, to assist the small farmer families in the departments of Concepcion and Ñeembucú. The climate conditions among both departments are different as well as the type of soil. As a result of the field study completed by the agronomists it was decided to provide the appropriate type of seeds depending on the climate and type of soil of each department. In addition, the agronomists carried out training workshops and developed a planting manual to instruct the benefited families on how to use and sow the seeds distributed and how to prepare the soil before planting the seeds.

A total of 1,270 families rehabilitated 1,160 hectares of crops with the seed kits (one kit per family) and technical assistance provided by the agronomists. The families have started to obtain harvested food from these crops to sell or for self-consumption.

The following table shows the number of families by district and departments:

DEPARTAMENT OF CONCEPCIÓN				
District	**Community**	**Nucleus or Committee**	**N° of families**	**N° of people**
Horqueta	Arroyito	Nucleus one	114	591
		Nucleus two	77	400
		Nucleus three	256	1325
		Nucleus four	104	627
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		Nucleus seven	61	344
Concepción	Productores Asociados del Centro de Acopio de Concepción - PACAC	San Juan Bosco Committee – Culantrillo	12	84
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		Sagrada Familia Committee – Sagrada Familia	8	40
		Teko Pora Committee – Culantrillo	10	45
		Integral de Calle 11 Committee	9	60
Total Department of Concepción			**923**	**5,054**
DEPARTMENT OF ÑEEMBUCU				

District	Communities	N° of families	N° of people
Isla Umbú	Tacurú Pucú	35	111
	Valle Poí	55	190
	Loma Clavel	30	97
	Camba Cuá	32	128
	Boquerón	51	163
	Islerias	87	224
	Costa Pucú	57	222
Total Department of Ñeembucú		**347**	**1,135**
TOTAL DEPARTAMENT OF CONCEPCION AND ÑEEMBUCU		**1,270**	**6,189**

Each seed kit distributed contained the following:

CONCEPCIÓN

Nº	Crop	Quantity
1	Maize Tupí	7.5 g
2	Maize Chipa	7.5 g
3	Maize Pichinga	3.5g
4	Bean	7.5g
5	Pea	5g
6	Tomato	10g
7	Pepper	10g
8	Carrot	5g
9	Chard	5g
10	Onion	3g
11	Cabbage	3g
12	Lettuce	5g

ÑEEMBUCÚ

Crop	Grams per family
Lettuce	5g
Chard	10g
Onion	3g
Cabbage	3g
Carrots	8g
Tomato	4g
Locote (type of tomato)	5g
Beets	10g

Crop	Seeds Kg/Ha
Maize Tupí	15kg
Maize Chipa	15kg
Maize Locro	15kg
Peanut	65kg
Bean	10kg
Squash	1kg
Pumpkin	1kg
Watermelon	1kg
Melon	1kg

The RIT deployed to Paraguay provided support to the National Society and carried out an Early Recovery workshop. A total of 28 PRC volunteers participated in the ten-hour workshop where valuable development techniques in Early Recovery activities were learned for future projects.

This DREF operation also covered per diem and mobilization costs of volunteers and the RIT supporting the operation as well as visibility materials (stickers and t.-shirts), service fees, office and communications costs.

Challenges:
The challenge identified within this objective is related to the sustainability of this type of seed distribution activity. However, it was accomplished successfully and the benefited families have rehabilitated their crops.

Conclusion
The activities within the operation were completed successfully due to the efficient coordination between the Paraguayan Red Cross, the targeted communities and the close relation with the National Emergency Secretariat. This coordination optimized the resources available allowing the National Society to reach additional families with food items and seeds to rehabilitate damaged crops. A total of 1,743 families were reached, 643 more than originally planned, thanks to the good relationship established between the Paraguayan Red Cross and the local authorities. The National Society received letters of appreciation from all involved actors.

The National Society increased its capacity to respond to this type of emergency situation, but also gained expertise in early recovery activities. This has been the third intervention in drought-related emergencies and past lessons learnt were used especially in performing assessments and identifying the techniques to improve the livelihoods of the affected families.

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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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPY007 - Paraguay - Drought

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/05-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2009/05-2009/08
Appeal	MDRPY007
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	**237,515**					**237,515**
B. Opening Balance	**0**					**0**
Income						
Other Income						
Voluntary Income	*231,623*					*231,623*
C5. Other Income	***231,623***					***231,623***
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	**231,623**					**231,623**
D. Total Funding = B +C	**231,623**					**231,623**
Appeal Coverage	**98%**					**98%**

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	231,623					**231,623**
E. Expenditure	-231,623					**-231,623**
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					**0**

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Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/05-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2009/05-2009/08
Appeal	MDRPY007
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)		**237,515**					**237,515**	
Supplies								
Food	98,186	94,084					94,084	4,102
Seeds,Plants	85,921	82,186					82,186	3,735
Total Supplies	**184,107**	**176,269**					**176,269**	**7,838**
Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,021	7,897					7,897	-2,876
Total Transport & Storage	**5,021**	**7,897**					**7,897**	**-2,876**
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,347	3,254					3,254	93
National Society Staff	13,948	10,007					10,007	3,941
Consultants	5,021	7,186					7,186	-2,165
Total Personnel	**22,316**	**20,447**					**20,447**	**1,869**
General Expenditure								
Travel	4,463	2,876					2,876	1,588
Information & Public Relation	1,985	2,198					2,198	-213
Office Costs	1,004	2,605					2,605	-1,600
Communications	1,060	487					487	573
Professional Fees		337					337	-337
Financial Charges	2,120	3,452					3,452	-1,332
Total General Expenditure	**10,633**	**11,954**					**11,954**	**-1,321**
Programme Support								
Program Support	15,438	15,056					15,056	383
Total Programme Support	**15,438**	**15,056**					**15,056**	**383**
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	**237,515**	**231,623**					**231,623**	**5,892**
VARIANCE (C - D)		**5,892**					**5,892**	