

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Bolivia: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBO005
GLIDE n° FL-2010-000008-BOL
Update n° 1
26 March 2010

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 emergency response. 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: 13 February 2010 to 13 March 2010.

Summary: 146,723 Swiss francs (137,604 US dollars or 99,995 euros) have been allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 1,500 families (approximately 7,500 people). Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Severe rainfall since September 2009 has caused floods and mudslides in Bolivia. The Bolivian Civil Defence's assessments have reported the departments of Beni, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, La Paz and Santa Cruz have been severely affected.



The Bolivian Red Cross worked together with local authorities to distribute emergency relief. Source: Bolivian Red Cross

To date, the Bolivian Red Cross has distributed food and non-food items to 1,200 families in the department of Cochabamba.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 11 May 2010 a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 11 August 2010).

The Canadian government through the Canadian Red Cross contributed 30,000 Canadian dollars (29,990 Swiss francs) and the European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) contributed 79,996 euros (116,733 Swiss francs) to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors is available at: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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The situation

The Bolivian people are still dedicated to responding and attempting to recover from the ongoing rain and flooding. Habitually starting during the month of September, normal precipitation reached a dangerous level by November 2009. Despite the slight decrease in the heavy rains at the end of the year, the intensity and frequency of the rains increased again during January 2010. Four areas in the departments of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Beni and La Paz which were located close to major rivers were declared in red alert due to overflowing.

Following heavy rains and flooding, attributed to El Niño phenomenon, the Bolivian government declared a national emergency on 29 January 2010 to respond to the crisis and deliver emergency relief. During the first seven weeks of this year, abundant rainfall has led to overflowing rivers, flooding and landslides in the departments of Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, Beni, La Paz and Santa Cruz.

Rainfall continued to increase in February. From November 2009 through February 2010, the State reported that the rains and floods affected approximately 45,320 families and caused 16 deaths and 5 people remain missing. The following table reflects the number of affected families according to the General Office for Emergencies and Relief (DGEA)'s Early Warning Unit from November 2009 through February 2010:

Department	Families Affected
Beni	6,642
Chuquisaca	10,904
Cochabamba	12,949
La Paz	3,345
Oruro	3,526
Potosí	2,905
Santa Cruz	4,948
Tarija	11
Total	45,230

Coordination and partnerships

The Bolivian Red Cross maintains strategic institutional coordination with the national and departmental Emergency Operations Centre (COE), organized by the Vice-Ministry of the Civil Defence and the National Council for Risk Reduction and Disaster Attention (CONARADE in Spanish). Governmental bodies, international institutions and non-governmental organizations use this space to share information, optimize resources and skills, coordinate and agree upon response actions. Actors in these spaces work together to share assessments and divide tasks to best respond to the humanitarian needs in the country. Participating in the health working group of the national COE, the BRC and other actors have compiled a data base to identify where each institution works and what type of aid is provided, thus avoiding duplication of efforts.



The Bolivian Red Cross and the Regional Intervention Team member deployed conducted assessments. Source: Bolivian Red Cross

The departmental branches of the BRC not only participate in the response efforts, they are also involved in local coordination with the departmental COEs and community-based groups. To identify the most affected families, the BRC staff and volunteers met with local authorities in Puerto Villarroel, including municipal authorities, emergency coordinators and community-based organizations like small agricultural producers' groups, neighbourhood committees, and women's and youth associations. Additionally, the BRC has coordinated with the La Paz municipality's Office for Comprehensive Risk Management. Not only have these actions allowed for the gathering of more information, this contact has fomented the establishment of community-based and participatory responses.

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for the Andean Region, has been in constant communication with the Bolivian Red Cross. Additionally, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member was deployed to provide assistance in this emergency operation.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Long before the BRC relief distributions began, BRC volunteers and staff were working to identify those families in the highest situation of vulnerability. The BRC has guided the operation from the national headquarters and activated the departmental branches, in particular volunteers, in Cochabamba and La Paz for this relief operation. The actions of the leadership, staff and volunteers of the departmental branches underpin the success of providing relief assistance to the affected communities. These actions are undertaken to complement, and in coordination with, the Vice-Minister of the Civil Defence and other member institutions of the local COEs.

Since the Chapare is the region which receives most rain annually (located in the central part of the country and between the mountain range and the Amazon jungle), the BRC was interested in focusing its response in this area. This decision was also based on the requests from the Puerto Villarroel's municipal authorities including the mayor, the president of the municipal council, the leadership from the small agricultural producers' federation and community members.

The staff from the BRC's national headquarters, in coordination with the BRC president, tendered items locally and received the purchasing committee's approval to sign contracts and accept delivery of the items. Volunteers from the BRC Cochabamba branch packed the materials.

In the respective objective below, more detail will be provided on this distribution.

Progress towards objectives

The BRC leadership, staff and volunteers continue to work diligently to respond to the humanitarian needs of the flood-affected population. Special emphasis, in harmony with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, is given to ensuring that the most vulnerable people are attended to and have the opportunity to participate in the relief actions from which they benefit.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
<p>Objective: 1,500 families (7,500 people) from the departments of Cochabamba and La Paz will benefit from the provision of essential food and non-food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.</p>
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and a 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. • Develop an exit strategy.

Progress:

The BRC has fulfilled 80 per cent of the projected objective of providing food and basic non food items to 1,500 families. During this reporting period, 1,200 families in the Puerto Villarroel municipality received two bags of 50kg of food and a hygiene kit. BRC volunteers and staff, in coordination with local authorities and representatives from the affected communities, identified the remaining 300 families in the Mecapaca municipality.

All of the food and non-food items were locally procured and were based on the needs of a five-person family. The food package was composed of rice, sugar, noodles, flour, salt and cooking oil and the hygiene kit contained toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, detergent, toilet paper, sanitary pads and towels.

In the Puerto Villarroel municipality, located in the Carrasco province (Cochabamba department), the 1,200 families were identified in coordination with the Puerto Villarroel municipality. The families in the 37 communities identified had not benefitted from any other previous humanitarian distributions.

The Bolivian Red Cross conducted assessments to identify the households to be assisted. On the 5 March 2010, the BRC evaluation team, together with the RIT member mobilized by the IFRC, conducted assessments and met with local leaders to determine the distribution methodology (with tickets) and location of distribution centres.

On 12 March 2010, the day before the distribution, BRC volunteers and staff in Cochabamba packed four high-capacity trucks with the food and non-food items. BRC volunteers accompanied the trucks whilst two



BRC Trucks ready for distributions. Source: Bolivian Red Cross

small all-terrain vehicles with staff from the national headquarters, leaders of the BRC Cochabamba branch of and the RIT member accompanied the convoy. The trucks and BRC representatives were located in the different distribution points in the Puerto Villarroel municipality so distributions could be done concurrently.

On 13 March 2010, the CRB distributed food and basic non-food items to 1,200 families in three distribution centres: Ayopaya with 649 families from 20 communities, the Siglo XX community centre with 368 families from 11 communities, and the Belén community centre with 183 families from 6 communities. The following table provides precise information on the quantity of families supported in each of the 37 communities:

Distribution Point	Community	Families
AYOPAYA	SAN JOAQUÍN	13
	ROSARIO B	51
	ROSARIO A	32
	SANTIAGO	22
	INGAVI B	56
	AYOPAYA	90
	VILLA VICTORIA	24
	GUALBERTO VILLARROEL	34
	GUARDIA TUCUMAN	25
	14 DE SEPTIEMBRE	57
	INDEPENDENCIA	42
	VACAS	26
	ISLAS COMUNITARIAS	9
	PALMITOS	40
	VILLA ZARAI	7
	VILLA MONTES	20
	PUERTO ALEGRE A	38
PUERTO ALEGRE B	14	

	INGAVI A	9
	7 ISLAS	40
BELEN	YURACARE	44
	LAGUNILLAS	50
	BELÉN	29
	PAMPA GRANDE	22
	2 DE AGOSTO	31
	CAPINOTA	7
SIGLO XX	NUEVA JERUZALEN	42
	AGROINDUSTRIA VALLE SACTA	41
	SAN LUIS	33
	SAN JUAN DE DIOS	44
	GALINDO	9
	LOS TAJIBOS	37
	SIGLO XX	54
	BANANERA HORIZONTE 2	43
	HORIZONTE 1ra	27
	COTOCA S/L 24	26
	COTOCA 2	12
TOTAL		1,200

Amongst these 1,500 families, 60 will receive kitchen items since these families have been identified as having lost all their household goods. The kitchen kits will include the following items: pots, pans, kettle, cooking spoon and ladle, plates, jug, cutlery, kitchen knife and a gas stove.

Challenges:

Beyond the difficult weather conditions, there are no substantial challenges to report. The Bolivian Red Cross coordinates with national and local authorities, shares relevant information with other actors and engages in community-based identification process of beneficiary households.

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 the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The International Federation's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The International Federation's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- In Bolivia: Ruben Gonzales, National Director, Disaster Relief Unit, Bolivian Red Cross; email: socorro@cruzrojaboliviana.org; phone: 591-2-2202934; fax: 591-2-2359102.
- In Peru: Fernando Casanova, Regional Representative for the Andean Region; email: fernando.casanova@ifrc.org; phone: (511) 221 8151; fax: (511) 441 3607.
- In Panama: Mauricio Bustamante, Acting Head of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit, mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 1001; fax: (507) 316 1082.

- In Panama: Ghotai Ghazialam, PADRU disaster management delegate, email: ghotai.ghazialam@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; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- In Geneva: Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator for the Americas; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41 79) 217 3376.

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