

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Peru: Floods

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Update n° 2
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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: 19 February to 15 March 2010.

Summary: On 2 February 2010, 171,122 Swiss francs (161,491 US dollars or 116,241 euros) initially was allocated from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Peruvian Red Cross (PRC) in delivering immediate relief assistance to some 1,000 families (5,000 people) in the department of Cusco.

On 18 March 2010 an additional 120,780 Swiss francs was allocated to provide essential relief assistance to 600 families (3,000 people) in the department of Puno.

To date, the PRC has provided assistance to 2,641 families (13,299 personas) with food and non-food items. Whilst this amount surpasses the original target to meet the basic needs of 1,600 families (8,000 people) in the departments of Cusco and Puno, continued actions are moving forward to provide hygiene kits, kitchen sets, tarpaulins and jerry cans.

The Canadian government contributed 35,000 Canadian dollars (34,920 Swiss francs) and ECHO contributed 92,800 euros (136,614 Swiss francs) to the DREF to replenish 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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A community member from Huanané received basic items during the relief distributions carried out in Puno. Source: Peruvian Red Cross.

The situation

It has been more than three months since beginning of increased precipitation levels in Peru. In two of the most affected departments, Cusco and Puno, the National Institute for Civil Defence (INDECI) reports that floods and landslides have affected 62,686 people and 21,571 homes have been destroyed and damaged. Only during the most recent rainfall in mid-March 2010, INDECI reported on 12 March 2010 that 150

hectares of cultivated land and 750 hectares of land to be irrigated have been affected. The damage provoked by rains, floods and landslides has generated economic loss yet to be calculated in these two southern Andean departments.

Since the beginning of 2010, the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology of Peru has forecasted the probability of an increase in precipitation in a large area of the mountain region which has caused, rising water levels, overflowing rivers and causing streams. From the start of the year, there have been 997 emergencies related to the rain, which were caused by floods, landslides and heavy rainfall.

When the rains began in December 2009 until mid-March 2010, the government issued four emergency declarations in the regions of Cusco, Huancavélica, Lima and Puno. The increase in precipitation in the Amazonas, Ancash, Arequipa, Apurímac, Ayacucho, Cajamarca, Cusco, Junín, Lima, La Libertad, Lambayeque, Loreto, Huancavélica, Huanuco, Piura, Puno, San Martín and Tumbes regions have led to 45,496 people losing their homes and 145,751 others who have been affected. Reports indicate that 9,776 homes have been destroyed and 28,645 others affected. Furthermore, this disaster also has affected infrastructure, 21,730 hectares of cultivated land and uncultivated lands used for subsistence agriculture.

The following table summarizes the flood damage from December 2009 to 15 March 2010 in the departments of Cusco and Puno:

Department	People					Homes and Public Infrastructure				Agriculture	
	Affected (with loss of home)	Affected	Deaths	Missing	Wounded	Destroyed homes	Affected homes	Destroyed schools	Affected Schools	Destroyed cultivated lands (in hectares)	Affected cultivated lands (in hectares)
Cusco	25,645	35,192	20	23	870	5,151	7,049	8	47	9,588	4,831
Puno	8,508	27,494	5	0	0	2,570	6,801	0	46	9,540	31,955
TOTAL	34,153	62,686	25	23	870	7,721	13,850	8	93	19,128	36,786

* Consolidated figures based on INDECI, *Situation Report*, 15 March 2010.

The impact of the human damage has included the loss of lives, missing people and injuries. Furthermore, there are people who have lost their homes and are in need of emergency shelter and other humanitarian relief aid, while others who still have their homes but need assistance based on the loss of household goods. The damage assessments overlap with search and rescue activities and humanitarian aid distribution. Evaluation of damage and needs assessments remain necessary to obtain more complete information.

During the month of March, Cusco and Puno continue to endure new damage and loss. The overflow of several rivers has augmented the destruction already experienced in Talca province. Several landslides have affected roads and homes in the Cusco provinces of Paucartambo, Convención, Uruamba and Calca. People who were evacuated by the Quesermayo River overflow were relocated temporarily in tents on a school grounds in the town of Pisac. In the district of Santa Teresa, the water system has collapsed. Cleaning and rehabilitation works have started; the Convención provincial municipality is providing water services via tanks in locations without this vital resource.



An IFRC Regional Intervention Team member participates in assessments in Cusco. Source: Peruvian Red Cross.

In the Puno department, the overflow of two rivers (Coata and Vilque) recently has caused new damages to crops and homes in the provinces of Puno and San Roman. The regional Civil Defence committee has begun the cleaning and construction of coastal defence using polypropylene sacks and heavy machinery in Coata district.

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As the rainy season continues in Peru and more precipitation is forecasted, the state of alert remains active.

Coordination and partnerships

Building upon the established partnership between the PRC and the National Institute for Civil Defence, national coordination mechanisms with state agencies continue to be productive and serve to bolstering the emergency response. Coordination is being conducted through the National Civil Defence System and the humanitarian network. Forming part of the Executive Committee, this network started meeting in February with the aim to improve coordination and information sharing and investigate the possibility of activating the thematic cluster groups at the country level. The PRC is participating in the coordination of temporary emergency shelter.

Given the need to have more consolidated information regarding the impact of the floods, the humanitarian network will conduct a multi-sector and multi-agency mission to Cusco from 22 to 24 March 2010. The CRP will participate in this mission that has the objectives of engaging in shared assessments, drafting recommendations, strengthening State's institutions' leadership, and improving coordination channels.

The PRC intervention is coordinated with the regional and national Emergency Operations Centre (Centro de Operacion de Emergencia - COE) to avoid the duplication of relief actions. As part of the regional COE, composed of INDECI, the PRC and other emergency response institutions, community assessments and beneficiary identification still is underway.

At the local level, the coordination with municipal authorities and community leaders facilitates the orderly and timely coordination of distributions. The PRC has undertaken strategic coordination at the local level with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Caritas Peru and Plan International Peru that are working in regions where it is also active.

The IFRC, through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for Andean Region, is in constant communication with the Peruvian Red Cross. Additionally, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in relief operations and with experience as well in public health in emergencies, was deployed to provide assistance in this emergency operation.



A beneficiary carries her relief items after the distribution in Huancané (Puno). Source: Peruvian Red Cross.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

In response to the increased precipitation and the forecast of the El Niño phenomenon in early 2010, the PRC has implemented a national contingency plan for floods. The PRC staff and volunteers at the national and branch levels have been monitoring and responding to the different emergencies during this extreme rainy season.

Following the unusual rainfall in late January 2010, PRC volunteers in Cusco and Puno mobilized to respond to the evolving situation. In Cusco, the local PRC branch, a support team from the PRC branch in Arequipa, and a National Intervention Team (NIT) leader began assessments. Under the guidance of the directorate of disaster risk management, the assessments conducted allowed this combined group of more than 50 people to organize the first relief distribution in Cusco. In Puno, the PRC branch in Huacane mobilized 30 volunteers and collaborators for assessments and distributions in Puno. A five-member NIT, specialized in disaster response, has been participating in the different response teams as well as the RIT member specialized in relief.

In a workshop facilitated by the PRC's head of disaster management and the RIT member, 19 volunteers from the Cusco branch received training in the application of emergency evaluations and needs assessments. During its assessments, the PRC volunteers took special efforts to identify and include households composed of elderly people and single mothers since these two groups at times are excluded from community registries. Furthermore, since many of the affected communities are composed of Quechua or Aymara speakers, bilingual PRC volunteers were instrumental in communicating with community members during assessments and distributions, as well as transmitting key messages of PRC's actions.

The Peruvian Red Cross continues to provide essential humanitarian aid to families affected by flooding, river overflow, torrential rainstorms, hail and mudslides in Cusco and Puno. The precise characteristics vary from location to location but the humanitarian needs are similar.

Progress towards objectives

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)
Objective: 1,600 families (8,000 people) affected by floods in the departments of Cusco and Puno, will benefit from the provision of essential non-food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.
Activities planned:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments. • Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and 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:

This objective has established a goal of attending 1,600 families (1,000 in Cusco department and 600 in Puno department) with essential non-food items (NFI). As of 15 March 2010, the PRC operation has reached at least 2,641 families. The PRC currently is in the process of verifying distribution data from the field.

Whilst this DREF is funding the PRC essential NFIs, the PRC has obtained additional NFIs for the families which it is reaching in these two departments. In light of the evolving emergency due to increased rainfall in Peru's mountainous region, the PRC started a collection campaign to receive donations for the people in these southern departments. More than 100 volunteers and collaborators worked to receive, pack and send more than 81 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Cusco and Puno.

Since the Peruvian public has donated many food and non-food items (primarily clothing items and blankets), the PRC is distributing these goods as well as those items purchased through this DREF allocation. When possible, the food packages are distributed to communal kitchens in the affected communities. The PRC has been supplementing the DREF-fund supported NFI two blanket distribution with other donated blankets to households with small children, elderly and/or disabled family members.

As of 15 March 2010, the PRC distributed hygiene kits, kitchen set, blankets, tarpaulins, jerry cans, clothing packs, water (5 litres), food packages and mattresses to 1,891 families in the Cusco region and 750 in Puno region, reaching a total of 2,641 families. The tarpaulins are being used to supplement the temporary shelters provided by the Civil Defence or serving as part of the building of transitional shelters using a local design.

The following table provides a summary of the food and non-food items distributed in the departments of Cusco and Puno:

Type of Relief Item	Quantity distributed in Cusco	Quantity distributed in Puno	Total
Hygiene Kit	319	552	871
Kitchen Set	319	552	871
Blanket	4,108	1,600	5,708
Tarpaulins	611	552	1,163
Jerry Can	319	0	319
Clothing Packs	1,509	750	2,259
Water (5 litres)	3,780	552	4,332
Food Packs	1,572	0	1,572
Mattresses	293	0	293

The PRC distributions are preceded by assessments and registries of beneficiary families conducted by PRC volunteers. In Puno, assessment teams conducted 6 missions in the Huancane province and surrounding areas, attending 750 families. In this province, 94 boys and girls from the area of Tuní Grande in the district of Taraco received a specific hygiene kit, clothing pack and boots for children. In Cusco, assessments and distributions were held in 38 communities and 1,891 child hygiene kits were distributed.

Challenges:

The intense rains caused the collapse and destruction of bridges and roads. Access to these regions has been difficult and more so with heavy trucks. At times, there have been time delays in assessments and distributions.

The minimal coordination between agencies in Cusco and the lack of institutions working in the Huancane region of Puno have challenged the efficiency of the emergency response.

With the ongoing heavy rains, the PRC branch in Huancane has delayed certain relief distributions since it could not guarantee the safety of the volunteers participating in these actions.

Whilst there have been no supply shortages due to the PRC's pre-existing stock and the donations from the Peruvian public, efforts are needed to ensure that stocks are replenished since the heavy rain continues.

Emergency Health

Objective: The health risks of the emergency in the most affected areas are reduced through the provision of hygiene promotion campaigns and psychological support to the affected population.

Activities planned:

- Assess the existing health risks and provide epidemiological surveillance.
- Provision of psychosocial support to Peruvian Red Cross volunteers (NIT) and personnel involved in the emergency response.
- Provision of hygiene promotion and first aid training to volunteers involved.
- Identification of affected people to receive psychosocial support in the affected communities.
- Mobilization of National Intervention Teams to identify additional health needs in the affected communities.
- Conduct group and individual psychosocial support activities.
- Disseminate basic information on hygiene promotion, waste management and vector control.
- Disseminate information on common diseases and epidemics prevention.

Progress:

During the period of assessments, attention has been paid to the comprehensive needs of the affected communities. Employing these findings, the PRC will implement the bulk of its activities in this health objective during the second phase of this intervention. Trainings by the PRC national health coordinator, NIT members with health in emergencies experience and PRC volunteers from the 2007 Earthquake operation are planned for late March 2010.

In Huancane, hygiene promotion activities have started in the Tuni Grande in Taraco Huancane. As of 15 March 2010, 172 families, 14 per cent of the proposed objective, have received talks on hygiene promotion.

Challenges:

Given the need to coordinate with local health authorities, the PRC is in the process of strengthening their contacts with local-level health authorities.

As some of the affected communities are composed of Quechua and Aymara-speaking people, special attention should be given to ensure that the health promotion activities are conducted from an intercultural perspective. The bilingual PRC volunteers, who have been essential during the relief distributions in Quechua and Aymara-speaking communities, will continue to assist in this challenge.



PRC volunteers conducted hygiene promotion activities in Huancané (Puno). Source: Peruvian Red Cross.

Water and Sanitation

Objective: The risk of waterborne and water related diseases has been reduced through the provision of water and sanitation supplies for 1,000 families in the department of Puno.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.

- Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procurement of water purification tablets.
- Distribution of water tanks, water purification tablets and safe water.

Progress:

This objective aims to provide 1,000 families in the department of Puno with safe water, water purification tablets for 1,200 families and 600 water tanks. The PRC has distributed more than 10,800 litres of safe water to 1,612 families in Cusco and Puno.

The process of providing and distributing safe water in Puno is underway during the current second phase of the operation. The process to evaluate wells in the affected regions, register communities where interventions will take place and the identification of water supply has been planned in the Huancañe province. The logistics and distribution process will be done during the second half of March.

Challenges:

With the continuous rainfall, the PRC is challenged to balance its operation planning with enough flexibility to respond to the evolving needs in Puno and Cuzco.

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.

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