

DREF operation final report



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Paraguay: Floods

DREF operation n°MDRPY008
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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 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: 256,996 Swiss francs (250,515 US dollars or 170,100 euro) were allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 6 November 2009 to support the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) in delivering assistance to 10,680 beneficiaries in 54 communities in three departments.

The Paraguayan Red Cross completed this three-month DREF operation and has covered the emergency needs of 2,225 families (approximately 11,125 people) with essential relief items including mosquito nets, hygiene kits, and shelter kits in the departments of Alto Paraná, Misiones and Ñeembucú.



A beneficiary from the department of Ñeembucú receives one of the shelter kits that are being distributed by the PRC. Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

In addition, this DREF operation assisted affected people to recover their livelihoods through technical support and provision of seeds for their small-scale subsistence plots. At the end of this three-month operation, the crops have been planted and await harvest. The involvement and logistic support given by the local authorities, especially at the municipal level, bolstered the achievement of these results. Finally, this PRC-led project was coordinated at the national level with the National Emergency Secretariat (Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional - SEN).

The Canadian government contributed 50,000 Canadian dollars to the DREF in replenishment of the allocation made for this operation. Details of donors to the DREF fund are available at: <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

Furthermore, the costs of mosquito nets and hygiene kits for 2,136 families were covered through the tripartite agreement between the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States of America.

[<Click here for the final financial report, or here to view contact details>](#)

The situation

Heavy rains are a serious concern in Paraguay since 85 per cent of the county is located on a floodplain. Following the substantial increase of precipitation in mid-September 2009, water levels in the Paraná River

began rising and this led to flooding. Approximately 2,285 families (12,035 people) were affected in 32 communities in the departments of Alto Paraná, Misiones (Ayolas district), Itaipúa, and Ñeembucú. As a result of water levels also rising around the Posadas-Encarnación, Yacyreta and Itaipú dams, families in these areas were evacuated.

The Paraguayan Red Cross prioritized aid to the three departments which experienced flash floods: Alto Paraná, Misiones and Ñeembucú. In Alto Paraná department, 837 families (approx. 4,035 people) were affected when the Paraná River overflowed in mid-October 2009. The subsequent strong winds and hail, combined with the flooding, led the Paraguayan authorities to declare the department an emergency zone. Following the same overflow in the Paraná River, in the Misiones department 700 families (approx. 2,280 people) in ten communities lost their homes and crops due to the floods. In the Ñeembucú department, 748 families (3,740 people) and 705 hectares of subsistence family crops in the communities of Paso de Patria, General Diaz Mayor Martínez, Villalbin and Cerrito were affected.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Paraguayan Red Cross immediately responded to this emergency by activating its response team, including the deployment of three National Intervention Team (NIT) members, and establishing a plan of action for this DREF operation. The PRC staff and volunteers were mobilized in the affected departments to conduct damage and needs assessments in coordination with SEN, the Emergency Operations Centres (COEs) and local authorities.

This DREF operation established three objectives to respond to the floods and subsequent challenges. The first objective, focused on relief distribution of hygiene kits and mosquito nets for 2,136 families, was successfully completed. The second objective to support livelihoods rehabilitation for 1,099 affected households was surpassed; a total of 1,108 households received technical agricultural support as well as fruit and vegetable seeds. The final objective which aimed to provide shelter kits to 320 families whose homes were damaged severely during the disaster was fulfilled in the Ñeembucú municipality.

As an added value to this DREF operation, the Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers were trained in shelter management and had the opportunity to supplement their newly-acquired skills by learning-by-doing. The volunteers were trained by two PRC volunteers and Regional Intervention Team (RIT) members who previously received instruction in the area of shelter by the IFRC's specialists.



Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers distributed essential non-food items to affected people in the department of Misiones. Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

During the implementation period of this DREF operation, the IFRC, through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for the Southern Cone and Brazil, provided technical and logistical support to the PRC.

This operation used 100 per cent of the DREF funds during the three-month period to fulfil the stated objectives. The majority of the funds were implemented directly by the IFRC to purchase mosquito nets, hygiene kits and covered transportation costs by air and sea.

To complement this DREF operation, the Paraguayan Red Cross requested and received financial support from international cooperation agencies to attend to

the humanitarian needs of more affected families. The ECHO delegation in Paraguay provided funding via a Small Scale Decision, the Finnish Red Cross submitted a proposal to ECHO and the Paraguayan Red Cross implemented the complementary actions funded by ECHO for this emergency. Moreover, the Spanish Red Cross and the Swiss Red Cross provided emergency funds to complement DREF-funded activities. All funds obtained were incorporated fully into this operation. Furthermore, the PRC coordinated with the United

Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to facilitate and coordinate other aspects of the response and recovery actions.

Achievements against objectives

The PRC drew up a plan of action to assist 2,136 families in the departments of Ñeembucú, Misiones and Alto Paraná. This plan of action included relief distributions (non-food items such as hygiene kits, shelter kits and mosquito nets) and rehabilitation of livelihoods in the agricultural sector through the distribution of seeds and other agricultural supplies. The DREF funds also covered incentives, meals and accommodations for volunteers, as well as visibility, communications, distribution and monitoring costs.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: To assist 2,136 of the most vulnerable families in the departments of Misiones, Ñeembucú and Alto Paraná with humanitarian aid non food items such as hygiene kits and mosquito nets.

Activities planned:

- Conduct further needs and capacity assessments.
- Coordinate with SEN, the municipalities involved and the leaders of each community to explain the methodology of the intervention (administrative procedures).
- Develop 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.

Impact:

The damage to homes and loss of household goods due to the floods made the already vulnerable families more susceptible to vector-borne illnesses, as well as challenging their recovery to resume regular domestic activities. This objective responded to their needs for mosquito nets and hygiene kits for families in the departments of Misiones, Ñeembucú and Alto Paraná. The impact of this activity was felt not only in allowing people to have personal and family hygiene items, but also in diminishing concerns related to the spread of vector-borne illnesses.

The objective of providing 2,136 families (13,507 people) with insecticide-treated mosquito nets, following IFRC standards, was fully accomplished. The targeted

number was based on assessments and reflects the coverage of all the affected families in these locations. Distributions were held in 54 communities/neighbourhoods in four municipalities in the aforementioned departments. Each family received two mosquito nets. The following table summarizes the mosquito net distribution per department:



Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers and staff developed distribution lists prior to the distribution of relief items in the department of Ñeembucú. Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

Department	Number of families	Quantity of mosquito nets
Misiones	700	1,400
Alto Paraná	837	1,674
Ñeembucú	599	1,198
Total	2,136	4,272

In light of the loss of personal belongings and/or the rapid evacuation of people from their homes due to the flash floods, hygiene kits were distributed to these same families. A total of 2,136 families were reached in the following municipalities: 700 in Ayolas, 109 in General Diaz Mayor Martínez, 491 in Cerrito and 836 in Ciudad del Este.

The following table details the location and overall hygiene kit distribution figures:

Department	Municipality	Community/ Neighbourhood	Number of families
Misiones	Ayolas	San Jose Mi	206
		Maria Auxiliadora	31
		Isla San Rafael	53
		San José Obrero	21
		Coratei	133
		Isla Timbo	18
		Isla Yegros	42
		Isla Pantita Kue	13
		San Pablo	57
		Isla Atinguy	19
		Isla Kuña Paso	7
		Isla Puku	54
		Isla Mborevi	6
		Isla Yegros 2	18
		Mbocayaty	22
Ñeembucú	General Diaz Mayor Martínez	Kurusu Kuatia	26
		Fuerte Kue	16
		Itacora 1	47
		Itacora 2	20
	Cerrito	Paso Tajy	45
		Compañía Kurusu Ava	47
		Tacuruty	47
		Yrybucua	24
		Costa'i 1	45
		Sanjarugua 1	47
		Villa'i	20
		Barrio Obrero	34
		Barrio Sur	13
		Barrio Central	26
		Cerro Ñu	35
Barrio Aviación	20		
Barrio Noreste	32		
Barrio Norte 1	56		
Alto Paraná	Ciudad del Este	Remansito	24
		Barrio Fatima	50
		San Roque	30
		Che La Reina	37
		San Antonio	34

	San José	15
	Agua Viva	20
	Don Bosco	50
	Asentamiento Santa Librada	22
	Asentamiento 1 de mayo	25
	Asentamiento Villa Florida	30
	San Miguel	24
	Barrio 23 de octubre	50
	Barrio Villa Elvira	24
	San Juan - Pdte. Franco	30
	San Rafael	178
	San Agustin	193
	Total	2,136

Challenges:

Having a qualified team of committed and trained volunteers, the Paraguayan Red Cross did not experience any significant challenges related to distribution. Assessments were conducted to identify affected households in coordination with national and local state institutions. Support from donors before and during the disaster allowed the PRC to strengthen its disaster management capacities.

Rehabilitation of livelihoods

Objective: 1,099 of the most affected small farming families in the departments of Misiones and Ñeembucú will receive seeds to sow new crops.

Activities planned:

- Develop a strategy of intervention and agricultural improvement in flood affected land.
- Develop terms of reference of the agricultural engineer for the operation.
- Hire an engineer
- Once agricultural engineers perform damage and need assessments in the communities affected by the flood, a diagnosis of beneficiary communities will be drawn up in the area of crops with respect to types of crops, losses of crop, potential crops that will flourish in the flood zone and development of the strategy of intervention in the sector and the schedule will be developed.
- Prepare a work schedule in terms of assistance, training and supply of seed.
- Selection and census of beneficiaries.
- Selection of suppliers.
- Distribution of seeds to affected families.
- Agricultural engineer will provide technical assistance.
- Monitoring and evaluation.

Impact:

This objective aimed to assist small-scale agricultural producers in the departments of Misiones and Ñeembucú to recover their crops and initiate a process to introduce agricultural products appropriate for this floodplain and climate. The affected families were able to regain and take steps to improve their agricultural production as a result of the technical support and accompaniment of an agronomist complemented with the provision of seeds and other farming supplies.

The impact was especially significant since these households are small-scale agricultural producers that depend on the subsistence crops for their daily income. Furthermore, the work carried out to fulfil this objective also strengthened the Paraguayan Red Cross's experience in livelihood support.

The objective to reach 1,099 affected families was fulfilled and surpassed. A total of 1,108 families (4,799 people) from three municipalities in 34 communities or neighbourhoods received support for their plots of 100m², totalling 110,800m² of cultivated land.

This operation's agronomist gave on-going technical assistance to families including soil preparation, use of organic pesticides and support when there were incidents of disease. Following this first stage, seeds

were distributed. The following vegetable and fruit seeds were provided to affected families: two types of maize (Tupi Karape Pyete and Locro), green beans (Kumanda'i), lettuce, chard (Silverbeet), scallion, cabbage, carrot, tomato, pepper, beet, pumpkin, squash and watermelon.

The following table indicates the communities reached through seed distribution:

Department	Municipality	Community	Households	People
Misiones	Ayolas	San Jose Mi	33	152
		Maria Auxiliadora	31	29
		San José Obrero	18	102
		Coratei	91	384
		Isla Yegros	42	200
		Isla Pantita Kue	13	54
		Isla Atinguy	18	84
		Isla Kuña Paso	7	39
		Isla Puku	52	258
		Isla Mborevi	9	41
		Isla Yegros 2	18	99
		Cristo Rey	28	126
		Virgen del Pilar	28	146
		Sirenas	38	207
		Coeyu	43	186
		Las Mercedes	31	180
Ñeembucú	General Díaz Mayor Martínez	Yatayty	54	164
		Potrero Bordon	35	161
		Kurusu Kuatia	14	51
		Fuerte Kue 1 y 2	9	35
	Cerrito	Cerrito 1	50	211
		Cerrito 2	50	214
		Cerrito 3	14	55
		Cerrito 4	27	125
		Paso Tajy 1	49	180
		Paso Tajy 2	12	42
		Compañía Kurusu Ava	34	132
		Ytacuruty 2	50	251
		Itacuruty 1	50	210
		Sanjarugua 2	36	146
		Costa'i 2	45	188
		Yrybucua	16	67
		Costa'i 1	50	226
		Sanjarugua 1	13	54
Total			1,108	4,799

Challenges:

Whilst the soil conditions were favourable for the seeds chosen, the excessive heat was a challenge to ensure the planted vegetables and fruit reached harvest without damage. The agronomist worked with the communities to mitigate the heat and plan for contingency measures for crop protection.

Although this DREF operation was a three-month project, the actions taken merit more technical support and accompaniment to guarantee their sustainability. The PRC continues coordinating with the respective departmental authorities so they can contribute to the support and aid that these recovering communities need.

Shelter

Objective (immediate needs): Provision of 320 Shelter Kits to 320 households with severely damaged houses in the community of Ñeembucú

Activities planned:

- Coordinate with SEN, the municipalities involved and the leaders of each community to explain the methodology of the intervention (training and working groups)
- Develop a plan for distribution and training in communities where shelter kits will be distributed.
- Develop forms for recipient database.
- Train volunteers on the use of shelter kits.
- Prepare material on use of shelter kits for dissemination
- Train final users on the use of the shelter kits and delivery of the kits.
- Supervise and monitor the use of the shelter kits
- Conduct workshops on 'Managing Temporary Collective Centres'
- Organize of work teams by sector

Impact:

Providing shelter kits for selected households had a significant impact in allowing flood-affected people to live in transitional housing during the disaster and take steps to initiate their recovery process. The activities carried out to achieve this objective also helped to strengthen PRC's capacities through trainings in the area of shelter. Two RIT members from the PRC who had received shelter training from the IFRC prior to the disaster led trainings for volunteers which were successfully reproduced for the households receiving shelter kits.

The standard IFRC shelter kits distributed included two 4 x 6 metres tarpaulins, 30 metres of rope, a handsaw, two sizes of nails for roofing and wood, a shovel, a hoe, a machete, shears, tie wire, and a claw hammer. Since the population salvaged wood from former structures, no additional material was necessary.

Based on needs assessments and in coordination with the Cerrito municipality (Ñeembucú department), shelter kits were provided to 12 communities or neighbourhoods in this municipality. Additionally the PRC coordinated with the SEN and the local municipality to share technical information regarding the emergency shelter solutions employed.

The PRC volunteers gave workshops for affected households which included education about the tools and material provided, as well as the methodology necessary to build these shelters. Trainings were held in the following areas: barrio Aviación, barrio Norte (North neighbourhood), barrio Noreste (Northeast neighbourhood), barrio Obrero, Villa'i, Kurusu Ava, Paso Tajy and Central.

The following table details where the shelter kits were distributed:

Municipality	Location/ Neighbourhood	Number of families that received shelter kits
Cerrito	Paso Tajy	13
	Compañía Kurusu Ava	47
	Carrizal	10
	Yrybucua	18
	Villa'i	19
	Barrio Obrero	34
	Barrio Sur	13
	Barrio Central	25
	Cerro Ñu	35
	Barrio Aviacion	20
	Barrio Noreste	31
	Barrio Norte 1	55
Total	320	

Challenges:

This objective was successfully fulfilled. However, more advocacy work and information sharing will be necessary with the national, departmental and local state institutions and authorities to contribute to strengthening the shelter aspect of emergency response mechanisms.

The PRC is challenged to train more volunteers in the area of shelter as part of its disaster management actions at the national and local levels, and thus contribute to capacities to be employed in future disasters.

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:

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRPY008 - Paraguay - Floods

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/11-2010/05
Budget Timeframe	2009/11-2010/02
Appeal	MDRPY008
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	256,996					256,996
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>Voluntary Income</i>	242,712					242,712
C6. Other Income	242,712					242,712
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)	242,712					242,712
D. Total Funding = B + C	242,712					242,712
Appeal Coverage	94%					94%

II. Balance of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	242,712					242,712
E. Expenditure	-242,712					-242,712
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2009/11-2010/05
Budget Timeframe	2009/11-2010/02
Appeal	MDRPY008
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
BUDGET (C)		256,996					256,996	
Supplies								
Shelter - Relief	18,656	18,831					18,831	-175
Clothing & textiles	21,830	23,091					23,091	-1,261
Seeds, Plants	67,446	67,670					67,670	-224
Other Supplies & Services	49,149	49,720					49,720	-570
Total Supplies	157,081	159,311					159,311	-2,230
Transport & Storage								
Storage		1,151					1,151	-1,151
Distribution & Monitoring	34,895	31,616					31,616	3,279
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,285	7,186					7,186	1,099
Total Transport & Storage	43,180	39,952					39,952	3,228
Personnel								
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300							3,300
National Society Staff	13,297	11,103					11,103	2,194
Consultants	2,301	2,276					2,276	25
Total Personnel	18,898	13,379					13,379	5,519
General Expenditure								
Travel	5,626							5,626
Information & Public Relation	205	2,090					2,090	-1,885
Office Costs	1,227	784					784	443
Communications	1,994	349					349	1,645
Professional Fees	1,381	1,403					1,403	-22
Financial Charges	4,699	1,843					1,843	2,856
Total General Expenditure	15,132	6,468					6,468	8,664
Programme Support								
Program Support	16,705	15,278					15,278	1,427
Total Programme Support	16,705	15,278					15,278	1,427
Services								
Services & Recoveries	6,000	8,324					8,324	-2,324
Total Services	6,000	8,324					8,324	-2,324
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	256,996	242,712					242,712	14,284
VARIANCE (C - D)		14,284					14,284	