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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

Bolivia, Floods, Americas

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation n° MDRBO009; Glide n° FL-2014-000008-BOL
Date of issue: 20 February 2014	Date of disaster: 24 January 2014 (slow onset)
Operation manager: Felipe Del Cid Operation start date: 19 February Overall operation budget: 331,399 Swiss francs	Point of contact: Dr. Abel Peña y Lillo Telleria Expected timeframe: 3 months
Number of people affected: 290,200 people (58,040 families) Host National Society: Bolivian Red Cross	Number of people to be assisted: 4,500 people (900 families)
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): Germany Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: ECHO, UN, OXFAM, Save the Children, Cascos Blancos, CARE, CRS, Plan Internacional, Acción contra el hambre, Visión Mundial.	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

331,399 Swiss francs are requested from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bolivian Red Cross National Society in delivering immediate assistance to about 4,500 beneficiaries in Beni department in Bolivia with livelihoods recovery, health and hygiene promotion, and water and sanitation actions.

Although the rainy season in Bolivia started in November 2013, the rains intensified significantly this year and are expected to continue for two more months according to the reports of the meteorological services, affecting both the

Andean and Amazonian regions of the country. As a consequence of the rains, several floods, the blocking of the access and overflowing of rivers, 58,040 families in 9 departments of the country have been affected, 56 people have died and 11 people are missing. On the last week of January, the government of Bolivia declared a state of emergency but confirmed that resources in the country were sufficient. Yet, with every new event since then, the situation has slowly worsened, and as of 10 February the departments of Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Beni, La Paz, Potosí and Pando have been declared in a state of emergency.



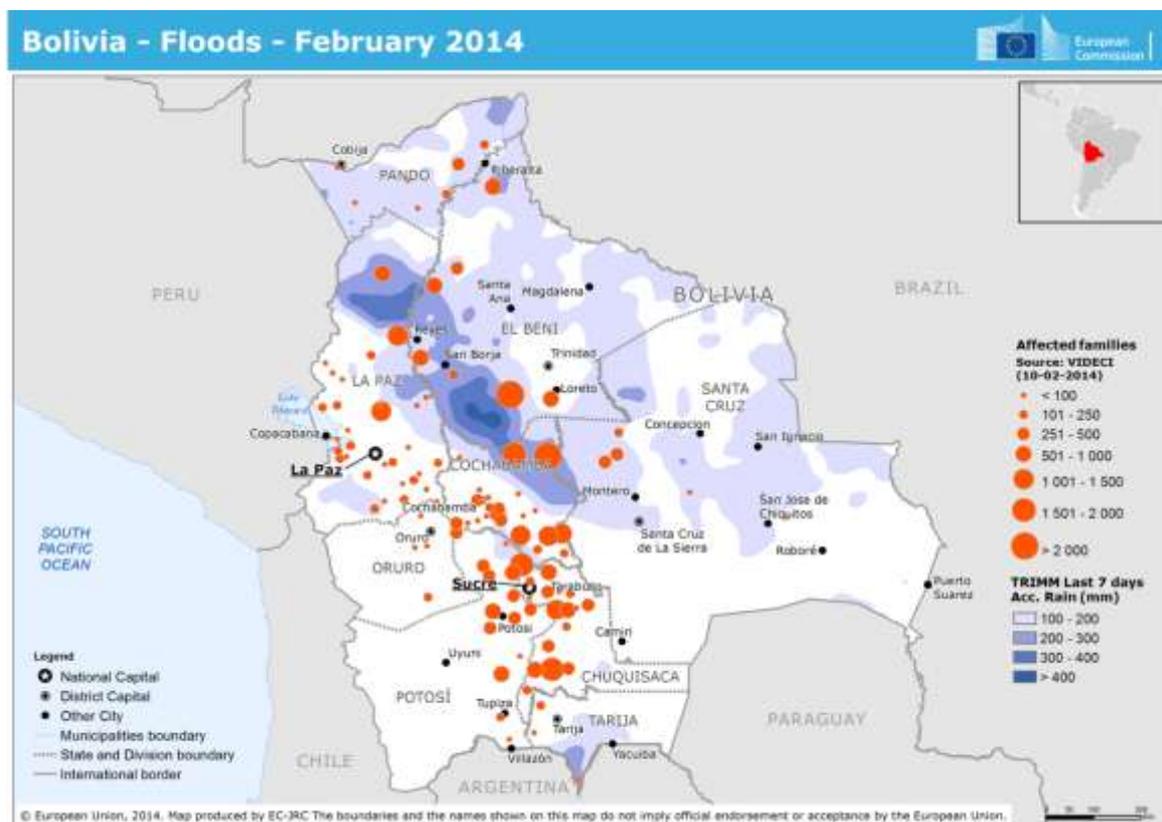
Since the start of the rainy season in Bolivia, the country has been affected by an increasing number of weather-related emergencies.
Source: <http://www.infobae.com/> AFP

Number of affected families by department:

Department	Families affected
Beni	7,758
Chuquisaca	10,544
Cochabamba	19,071
La Paz	8,338
Oruro	170
Potosí	5,042
Santa Cruz	4,841
Tarija	566
Pando	1,710
TOTAL	58,040

Source Defence Vice-Ministry Report– 12 February 2014

- About 36,726 hectares of crops are reported as damaged since the floods started to occur. The most affected ones are corn and vegetable crops—the main product in the country.
- About 12,000 livestock heads have been lost and 1,000 are seriously affected and in danger of being lost. However, farmers' associations in the affected departments estimate the loss in 42,000 livestock heads.
- About 7,000 families require the provision of safe water in shelters, as well as health and hygiene promotion services.
- There are 100 suspected dengue cases and more than 260 confirmed; there are also suspected cases of Hantavirus.
- Some health centres have been affected by floods, and others have limited capacity of providing services to the affected population due to communications cut-offs or restricted road access. In many areas access is possible only by river, but this is currently limited due to strong river currents.



Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) has responded to the emergency through their branches in the nine departments affected. At the moment, the National Society is supporting with evacuation and rapid assessments at the local level alongside the authorities. The headquarters in La Paz have been participating in coordination meetings with the vice-minister of defense, the United Nations, the European Union representatives and other international organizations in Bolivia.

The BRC consists of its headquarters and the National Directorate based in the capital city of La Paz, and nine departmental branches with their respective directorates (one in each department of the country). BRC also has municipal branches, which have experience in dealing with emergencies and disasters relating to natural hazards, domestic violence and health.

The BRC is divided into an administrative and accounting area, and a management area with national units of relief, health, youth, volunteering, doctrine and communications. The national disaster relief unit is responsible for implementing and monitoring the objectives of this plan of action. The National Society implements activities through its network of volunteers spread across the 9 departmental and the 23 local branches in the country. Throughout the years floods and landslides have become much more frequent in Bolivia, improving the response capacities of the National Society, with volunteers trained as National Intervention Teams (NITs) in water and sanitation, hygiene promotion, health in emergencies, as well as general NITs.

Before the imminent occurrence of an event, alerts are emitted by the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) of the BRC, which activates the structure for executive decision-making in case of emergencies and disasters. The EOC has a minimum permanent structure responsible for promoting, planning, and maintaining coordination during operations among different levels and jurisdictions of the Bolivian Red Cross that are involved in the preparation and response to emergencies and disasters. The same structure is replicated in every BRC branch affected.

At the field level, and in coordination with the municipal EOC and the Civil Defence, the BRC volunteers are mobilized to provide pre-hospital care to the affected population, and to implement a command post to manage the mobilization of volunteer brigades.

The disaster relief unit of BRC is also responsible for the risk management programmes. The BRC implements regular programmes on community-based disaster prevention and preparedness through inter-institutional projects and activities coordinated with the Vice-ministry of Civil Defence and the risk management units in each departmental government, as well as programmes implemented with the support of Movement partners. In order to provide immediate response, BRC does permanent monitoring of the events that may cause emergencies or disasters.

Overview of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in the country

Currently, the IFRC's disaster management delegate is in Bolivia to support the development of the plan of action, as well as the coordination with other humanitarian actors and the damage assessments.

There are also delegates from the Swiss Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross who are monitoring various development projects. Also, the German Red Cross and the Finnish Red Cross have development projects without the presence of an international delegate.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has a representative office in Bolivia to support the integration, implementation and dissemination of the International Humanitarian Law and of the standards on the use of force, to visit detainees, provide structural support for the penitentiary system, assist people affected by violence, and promote the strengthening of capacities of the forensic system. It also works alongside the Bolivian Red Cross to respond to emergency situations and strengthen their capacity to respond.

The BRC promotes and maintains close communication and coordination with the ICRC and Partner National Societies (PNS) present in the country.

Movement coordination

At the time of drawing up this Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA), no Movement coordination meetings have been held. However, information on the situation and actions to be taken have been provided by the BRC and the IFRC secretariat to all Movement partners.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Coordination meetings among international agencies present in the country were held. The Humanitarian Country Team made up of UN agencies coordinated by OCHA, the Consortium of Humanitarian Organizations and BRC met in order to share and analyse information on the situation. The first situation progress report was prepared in coordination with these organizations.

ECHO convened a meeting attended by all international organizations, agencies, embassies and consulates of the European Union member countries. The meeting was attended by the deputy defence minister, who requested support from the agencies to assist with setting up camps for the affected people, with damage assessments, roads restoration and water and sanitation actions.

Currently there is no activation of CERF funds by the UN, but the agencies have made resources (boats and tents) available to the government, pre-positioned in the regional warehouse in Panama.

An activation of ECHO small-scale disasters funds is expected so that local organizations can apply. ECHO has also showed willingness to reimburse DREF funds.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Livelihoods:

In agriculture, 36,726 hectares of crops were reported as damaged between the start of the floods in November 2013 and 12 February 2014. The types of crops differ depending on whether the areas are situated in the Andes or in the Amazon basin. However, the main impact has been on corn and vegetable crops which are the most common in the country. Many of the affected families are from indigenous groups that depend on subsistence agriculture, and with the floods occurring just before the harvest period, the families lost not only access to food, but also the resources to restart on the next cycle.

Affectation of crops by department

Department	Affected hectares
Beni	140
Chuquisaca	5,846
Cochabamba	6,676
La Paz	4,733
Oruro	0
Potosí	2,317
San Cruz	675
Tarija	95.53
Pando	0

Source: report of the Vice-ministry of Defence– 12 February 2014

As part of the government's response, a transfer of 24 million bolivianos to the National Institute of Agricultural Insurance (INSA) has been authorized to compensate families that own a maximum of three hectares, but so far this compensation has not become effective.

In relation to livestock, the Ministry of Rural Development and Land (MDRyT), reports that floods have caused the death of at least 12,000 cattle heads, while 1,000 remain seriously affected. However, the farmers' associations in the departments affected estimate that as much as 42,000 cattle heads have been affected. The estimation of damage in Beni department is particularly difficult, as many of the areas are still inaccessible and the figure confirmed officially is

known to be much lower than the actual damage. Cochabamba department informed on the distribution of food items for 1,450 heads of cattle in the Central Valley (Tiquipaya, Quillacollo and Colcapirhua).

Water and sanitation:

Currently there is no specific data on damage to water systems, water quality or the specific needs in this area; however, according to the Ministry of Defence, the main need is the provision of safe water in collective centres sheltering some 7,000 families across the country. At the moment the families are being supplied with bottled and rain water to meet their individual needs and also be used for household hygiene.

Due to the large number of people in collective centres, the need to develop health and hygiene promotion activities is imminent. Household visits in communities affected by the floods are also necessary.

According to a progress report from UN, UNICEF has supported the Ministry of Environment and Water with the provision of 1,297 water filters that will be distributed to the most affected areas.

Health:

Up to the draw up of this emergency plan of action, the Cochabamba department health service reported 117 suspected cases of dengue and 31 confirmed dengue cases; moreover, there are 3 suspected cases of Hantavirus and 2 positive cases of leptospirosis. In Santa Cruz, 231 dengue cases were confirmed. Some health centres have been affected by floods and others are limited in their provision of services to the affected population due to communications and road cut offs. In many areas, regular access is only possible by river, but this is currently limited due to strong river currents.

The Ministry of Health reported the activation of its Disaster Contingency Plan, the deployment of 64 brigades and 136 doctors to provide care to 7,500 people, and the investment of approximately 114,000 US dollars in medicines, transportation and other medical costs.

The Medical Residency of Intercultural Community Family Health (Residencia Médica Familiar Comunitaria Intercultural) of the Ministry of Health and Sports reports assisting with the following clinical cases:

Clinical situation	N° of cases
Acute respiratory infection without pneumonia	1,468
Cutaneous mycoses	871
Parasites	824
Acute diarrhoea disease	554
Low back pain	258
Other causes	2,154
Total	6,129

Source: UN Situation Report 2

Shelter:

The information is limited and a validation of data on the numbers of people sheltered and the status of the centres is required. According to the Vice-ministry of Defence, in Beni alone there are 6,997 families in collective centres. These families require food and water among others supplies. The shelter working group reports that, as of 10 February, 1,067 families in 42 collective centres nationwide require blankets, food and mosquito nets.

The government is covering the need for food in collective centres at national level and has enabled "community pots" for the preparation of hot food for families. The government also reported the mobilization of 240 tons of aid (unspecified items) and initial assistance to about 15,000 families.

In a meeting with international organizations, the vice-minister stressed that the greatest need they have at the moment is the provision of tents—currently, 6,997 units are required to establish camps because the schools and other available buildings are already being used. The World Food Programme informed the minister of around 2,400 tents available to be mobilized from its regional warehouse in Panama.

Beneficiary selection

Although the criteria for the selection of beneficiaries will be specified once the feasibility study is concluded, the decision will take into account the following categories:

- Families owning a maximum of three hectares;
- Families which depend on subsistence agriculture;
- Families whose homes suffered structural damages;
- Families that haven't received support from other actors;
- Families without a permanent source of income (salary);
- Families with vulnerable members (elderly, pregnant women, small children).

Risk assessment:

According to information from the National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology, rains will continue throughout February and March, which represents a serious concern due to saturated soils and high river levels. If the forecast is correct, the humanitarian situation can be expected to further deteriorate. Moreover, there is the long-term effect of accumulation of water in the flat areas of the Amazon forest. It is estimated that the drying of the flooded areas in some communities can take up to two months.

An additional element to take into account is the location of many affected areas, with difficult access via land roads and/or rivers. Currently, access to many communities is not possible due to the rivers' strong currents and the damage of bridges and roads. Furthermore, constant rains and saturated soils have caused landslides and road closures. Access is difficult both in winter and summer time due to the topography of the area. As a result, most aid provided by the government is sent by air using small aircrafts to the largest cities and then using helicopters to enter smaller locations. In view of this situation, the current plan of action will reduce the delivery of relief items, and a programme of cash transfers will be prioritized in the first month according to the capacity of the markets and the provision of seeds and fertilisers once the roads are rehabilitated.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

To reduce the effects caused by floods in Bolivia for 900 families in Beni department through the implementation of participatory livelihood activities, local market development, health, and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.

Proposed strategy

The project starts with a detailed damage assessment to be done with the support of the IFRC secretariat. A feasibility study for the cash transfer programme and its impact on markets will be carried out; thereby a Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) modality will be identified to support the immediate food needs or any other needs identified in the detailed assessment. The study will also include the criteria for selecting beneficiaries depending on the livelihood group to be assisted by the project. Also, a mechanism to socialize the project and incorporate community involvement will be developed.

The BRC will also complement the health care services provided by the governmental authorities by carrying out community-based health promotion campaigns with the support of community leaders. An important part of this will be the implementation of hygiene promotion activities in collective centres to reduce the risk of diseases in the highly populated shelters.

Finally, an evaluation incorporating a beneficiary satisfaction survey and other methods will be carried out, in order to determine the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the activities implemented, and the level of compliance with the standards and policies of the IFRC and the minimum Sphere standards.

Operational support services

Human resources

The operation will be led by the BRC Relief and Disaster National Unit. In order to improve coordination in the project area, a field coordinator will be hired and he/she will be responsible for coordination at the local level, working with communities and including volunteers from the branches; the coordinator will have knowledge regarding agricultural techniques, in order to support the implementation of the livelihood component of the plan of action. IFRC insurance will be provided to volunteers.

The IFRC's disaster management delegate is in the country providing technical support to the National Society for the CTP feasibility study; the final report for the feasibility study will be ready early next week. Furthermore, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member will be mobilized to support the operation and will be responsible for providing technical field support during the implementation of activities.

The Regional Representation Office for the Andean countries of the IFRC provides technical support to the National Society, and the regional disaster management delegate based in Peru will be responsible for coordinating the mobilization of human, logistical and financial resources for the project implementation alongside the National Society.

Logistics and supply chain

The operation does not include international purchases or transfers of equipment from other countries. All purchases will be made at the national level according to Bolivian Red Cross procedures and in accordance with standard policies and procedures of the IFRC.

The Global Logistics Service (GLS) has maintained constant communication with the IFRC delegate responsible for the operation, and provided technical advice and information on the resources available in the regional warehouse in Panama and quotations.

Communications

During the past weeks the floods in Bolivia have been highlighted in the Latin American news, providing an excellent opportunity to position the Bolivian Red Cross in their auxiliary role in the country. To accomplish this, a series of activities will be completed to inform the Bolivian citizens, as well as the rest of the continent and the world about the situation and the actions being undertaken to support the communities. The operation will support at least one the following activities:

- Develop in conjunction with the Zone communications unit a web note/press release on the DREF operation, with photos of volunteers in action, quotes from operational/technical staff, volunteers and beneficiaries. This will be published on www.ifrc/americas.org; www.cruzroja.org, and will be disseminated through BRC's and IFRC's social networks.
- Prepare notes for the web and write a case study on the Cash Transfer Programme and communication with beneficiaries.
- Create a 5-6 minute video to highlight the operation, the use of the Cash Transfer Programme and the beneficiary satisfaction survey.

Security

BRC has a safety guide that applies to all activities carried out at national level; the guide can be downloaded from the following link: <http://www.cruzrojaboliviana.org/revista/pdf/seguridad.pdf>

The security standards of BRC aim at decreasing the risks associated with institutional tasks in the field in times of crisis. However, no significant safety issues are present in the intervention area and most are related to decreasing the risk of accidents while mobilizing volunteers and resources to implement activities. To this end the following basic safety measures shall be followed:

1. A human resources focal point will be responsible for the personnel that will participate in the action, taking into account the following requirements for field operations:
 - Majority of age;
 - General knowledge of all institutional areas;
 - Good health, physical fitness, maturity, self-control;
 - Capacity to assess a situation in difficult times, determination and experience;
 - Be registered in the system of life insurance for volunteers.

2. Team members will be aware of evacuation plans in case of emergency, be familiar with the geography, resources and capabilities in the area and have a list of contacts.
3. The field teams will preferably be formed by few people and be customized according to the situation and needs.
4. Involvement of persons from outside the Red Cross will be avoided for working in particularly tense areas.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

The project will include the following mechanisms for monitoring, evaluation and reporting:

1. An update report 40 days after the start of operation;
2. A beneficiary satisfaction survey;
3. A final assessment of impact on communities;
4. A final report at the end of the operation.

The regional disaster management delegate will conduct at least three field visits to the project (at the beginning, the middle and the end of the operation), and the BRC will receive technical support from the regional office and the Americas Zone office.

Administration and Finance

The BRC will be responsible for managing the funds in the country in accordance with standard practices for IFRC on operational transfers, based on the requirements and justifications specified in the letter of agreement to be signed between the National Society and IFRC for the execution of the project.

Accounting procedures of BRC can be downloaded at the following link:
<http://www.cruzrojaboliviana.org/revista/pdf/madmcont.pdf>.

The IFRC through the department of finance provides the necessary operational support for review, validation of budgets, bank transfers, and technical assistance to the National Societies on procedures for justification of expenditures, including the review and validation of invoices.

The DREF will also support the rent of an office space in Rurrenabaque, in Beni department, during the time of the operation, as the closest Red Cross branch is 20 hours away from the area of implementation and volunteers in the area are currently using their own houses to coordinate actions.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS
Outcome 1 Continuous assessment, monitoring and communication with beneficiaries is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation.	Number of assessments conducted throughout the three-month operation (general and/or sectoral)
Output 1.1 Initial needs assessment are updated following consultation with beneficiaries.	# of beneficiaries consulted through a satisfaction survey Assessment reports provide data on affected population disaggregated by sex, age and vulnerabilities
Output 1.2 The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system	Plan of action and sectoral plans for which a monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed Final evaluation with lessons learned and

One hundred households visits for hygiene promotion													
Conduct an assessment of hygiene in communities and prioritized shelters for intervention strategy													

Health

Needs analysis: Health care services are being provided to affected families by mobile medical brigades; however, there is a need to contribute with the promotion of health habits in the affected areas. Furthermore, community work with leaders, children and adults to control vectors will be essential once the flood water recedes. As this is a need that will continue for several months and will be present in very isolated areas, the current operation will train leaders of indigenous organizations that had agreed to continue the work in the areas were Red Cross presence is hard to maintain.

Population to be assisted: 500 families in Beni department will be reached by the support of BRC. All actions carried out will focus on community participation.

OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS											
Outcome: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced.	Mortality and morbidity of acute respiratory diseases and vector-borne diseases in targeted affected areas % of people in the BRC catchment area who can access appropriate health promotion											
Output 1.1 Epidemic prevention measures carried out	# of people reached with community-based epidemic prevention and control activities (Participant register from sensitization sessions/trainings/other events).											
Activities Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Conduct a CBHFA workshop for volunteers												
Ten CBHFA replications in collective centres and communities by volunteers												
CBHFA training for community leaders												
Five hundred households visits to promote health in affected communities												

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Needs analysis: Many of the affected families are from indigenous groups that depend on subsistence agriculture, and with the floods occurring just before the harvest period, the families lost not only access to food, but also the resources to restart on the next cycle. The current strategy aims at reducing the possibility of families selling their remaining assets to satisfy their needs.

Interviews in the field highlighted that families use between 300 and 400 bolivianos per week for food and other household needs. As it is estimated that the water will remain around two months in the floodplain, the cash flow of the families will be diminished during this period. The BRC considers the possibility of carrying out a CTP project based on the minimum wage in Bolivia (1,200 bolivianos) to meet the immediate food and household needs. This amount is also in line with other CTP development programmes in the country and the information gathered during the field

MDRBO009 Bolivia - Floods

20/02/2014

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF	Expenditure CHF
Shelter - Relief	0			0	0
Shelter - Transitional	0			0	0
Construction - Housing	0			0	0
Construction - Facilities	0			0	0
Construction - Materials	0			0	0
Clothing & Textiles	0			0	0
Food	0			0	0
Seeds & Plants	80,667			80,667	80,667
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0			0	0
Medical & First Aid	0			0	0
Teaching Materials	11,024			11,024	11,024
Ustensils & Tools	0			0	0
Other Supplies & Services	0			0	0
Emergency Response Units	0			0	0
Cash Disbursements	145,201			145,201	145,201
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	236,892	0	0	236,892	236,892
Land & Buildings	0			0	0
Vehicles Purchase	0			0	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0			0	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0			0	0
Medical Equipment	0			0	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0
Storage, Warehousing	0			0	0
Distribution & Monitoring	6,184			6,184	6,184
Transport & Vehicle Costs	8,201			8,201	8,201
Logistics Services	0			0	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	14,386	0	0	14,386	14,386
International Staff	16,133			16,133	16,133
National Staff	0			0	0
National Society Staff	8,604			8,604	8,604
Volunteers	3,944			3,944	3,944
Total PERSONNEL	28,682	0	0	28,682	28,682
Consultants	8,963			8,963	8,963
Professional Fees	0			0	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	8,963	0	0	8,963	8,963
Workshops & Training	10,039			10,039	10,039
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	10,039	0	0	10,039	10,039
Travel	3,764			3,764	3,764
Information & Public Relations	3,137			3,137	3,137
Office Costs	2,823			2,823	2,823
Communications	1,681			1,681	1,681
Financial Charges	807			807	807
Other General Expenses	0			0	0
Shared Support Services	0			0	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	12,212	0	0	12,212	12,212
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	20,226	0	0	20,226	20,226
Total INDIRECT COSTS	20,226	0	0	20,226	20,226
TOTAL BUDGET	331,399	0	0	331,399	331,399
Available Resources					
Multilateral Contributions				0	
Bilateral Contributions				0	
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0	0	0	
NET DREF NEEDS	331,399	0	0	331,399	331,399