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DREF Emergency Plan of Action Update

Brazil: Floods

 Federación Internacional de Sociedades de la Cruz Roja y de la Media Luna Roja

DREF Operation update no.1	Operation no. MDRBR007; Glide no. FL-2015-000092-BRA
Date issued: 29 October 2015	Date of disaster: 14 July 2015
Operation manager (responsible for this EPoA): Pabel Angeles - IFRC Disaster Management Coordinator for South America	Point of contact in National Society: Oscar Zuluaga, programme manager.
Operation Start Date: 31 July 2015	Expected timeframe: 3 months with an extension of one additional month , the operation will now end on 30 November 2015.
Number of people affected: 283,140 people	Number of people to be assisted: 2,500 people (500 families)
Host National Society: 21 branches, 5,000 volunteers and 300 staff members.	
Number of National Societies involved in the operation: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Civil Defence, Secretariat of Government, Social Assistance, Secretariat of Health, Secretariat of Works, Secretariat of Urban Mobilization, Secretariat of Security	
Non-governmental organizations: Rio Grandense de Saneamiento Company, Rio Grande Energy (RGE), Boy Scouts, Club de las Madres, National Organization for Animal Protection (ONDA for its acronym in Portuguese).	

Summary to date

This DREF operations update no.1 reflects the activities undertaken by the Brazilian Red Cross to date. This update also reflects a time extension of one additional month to allow the proper completion of activities, which include finishing the final financial reporting and reconciliation. This operation will now end on 30 November 2015.

In summary, the National Society has reached **337 families** through health promotion activities, including talks to the community on the prevention of leptospirosis, meningitis C, respiratory illnesses, and first aid. Since the beginning of the emergency, the National Society worked on issues relating to psychosocial support for 47 sheltered families. To date, **373 food kits** have been distributed in Cachoeirinha do Sul and Gravataí, and distribution will continue in the coming days. The procurement and distribution of 500 hygiene kits were completed, and 373 families have received hygiene kits in both municipalities. The rest of the kits will be distributed in the upcoming week. The 500 kitchen kits have been procured and will be distributed in the upcoming week. The procurement of 2,500 blankets has been completed, and # **339 families** have received blankets to date. Additionally, 270 mattresses were distributed to the families that did not receive them from the local authorities.

A. Situation analysis

A.1 Description of the disaster

On 14 July 2015, the Civil Defence of Rio Grande Do Sul declared an emergency at the municipal level, reporting flooding in several cities. The Uruguay River's water level reached 13.57 meters; the river's average water level is only five or six meters. This situation was a result of heavy rains in the region and the overflow of the Rio Gravataí and Arrolo Sapucaya Du. According information provided by Brazil's Civil Defence, the rivers flooded 264 towns, affecting 283,140 people in the states of Parana, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande du Sul, A total of 8,063 people were forced to seek shelter in evacuation centres. After the emergency in July, rains continued in the affected areas, affecting new places and once again flooding areas that were affected in July in some cases. As of October 2015, 7,488 families have fled their homes, of which 1,283 are staying in public housing and 6,205 families are staying with friends or relatives in the state of Rio Grande do Sul.



Beneficiaries receive food and cleaning kits. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

On 1 October 2015, the state of Rio Grande do Sul, through Supreme Decree No. 52.591, issued a new declaration of emergency in 34 municipalities, including the municipalities of Cachoeira do Sul and Gravataí, where this operation is taking place; the state of emergency was for a period of 180 days.

Last week, strong hail in the towns of Santiago in the central region affected 20 families while over 300 households and agriculture were affected in the Valle del Rio Pardo. The most affected cities were: Esteio, Riozinho, Sapucaia do Sul, Gravataí, Cachoeirinha, Canoas, Porto Alegre, Venancio Aires, Novo Hamburgo, Montenegro, Pelotas, Rio Grande and Arvorezinha.

Civil Defence has the situation involving the Uruguay, Caí and Sinos Rivers under control, and it has put security measures in place in the area. The increased flow of the Uruguay River has caused concern for the municipalities of Iraí, Rio Pardo, Uruguaiana, Itaqui and Barra do Quaraí. Similarly, in the case of Rio dos Sinos, the municipalities that might be affected by flooding are Novo Hamburgo, São Leopoldo, Esteio and Parobé. Montenegro and Sao Sebastiao do Cai. The monitoring continues due to the rivers' slow return to normal water levels.

Impact to Southern Regions

State	Number of cities	People affected	People in evacuation centres
Paraná	36	94,362	3,339
Santa Catarina	97	29,985	1,873
Río Grande Du Sul	131	158,793	2,851
TOTAL	264	283,140	8,063

Source: Civil Defence Report

A.2 Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

Given the current emergency situation, the Brazilian Red Cross is no longer working in the evacuation centres since they all closed at the end of August. While additional rainfall forced authorities to reopen - an evacuation centre in Cachoerinha in early October, the number of sheltered families is only 11 according to the local authorities. This evacuation centre did not require the National Society to intervene.

The Porto Alegre branch is conducting activities to promote health and hygiene and distributing food, blankets and hygiene kits to the targeted communities in the plan of action. The National Society's headquarters is providing support to the branch through the mobilization of technicians from the different departments involved in the operation. .

In late October, new areas were affected due to heavy rain. The Brazilian Red Cross relief teams conducted assessments and provided humanitarian assistance.

Overview of the Red Cross - Red Crescent Movement in the country

Since the beginning of the emergency and through this DREF operation, IFRC staff has been sent to the emergency area, including a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Uruguayan Red Cross. The disaster management coordinator for South America was also deployed to the area to support the operation and monitor the distributions. An IFRC logistics officer was mobilized to provide support on all logistics procedures and guidance to the National Society.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Through periodic coordination meetings, the National Society works in close coordination with the Civil Defense and the Prefecture of Rios Grande Do Sul and its municipalities. . These partnerships have been beneficial for coordination purposes and to the previous work relationship between the Brazilian Red Cross and the authorities. One of the most important aspects is to ensure access to communities, especially in the high risk areas; the authorities have provided information and supported contact with the leaders and the community.

The municipality provided a bus to transport the affected families to the distribution points; this action promoted the safety of the beneficiaries and enabled for them to receive mattresses, food, utensils and clothes once they arrived at the distribution points. Firefighters supported the rescue and evacuation of people from the flooded areas. Since the water systems were affected, the Civil Defence distributed water by tanker trucks to the affected families.

The municipality of Cachoerina relocated 117 families living in flood-prone areas; these families are now in new residential areas.

A.3 Needs analysis and scenario planning

Livelihoods

The main activities of the affected communities of Cachoerinha and Garavatá are agriculture and fishing; collecting and recycling waste and paper is another main livelihood activity in the two aforementioned communities, while other people in the community work in shops and in the municipality's industrial zone. However, there is no place to work at the moment since homes and land in the community are flooded and waste and paper were swept away by the overflowing river waters and contaminated. Therefore, their livelihoods have been completely disrupted; the affected population is now looking for ways to get



Distribution of humanitarian aid to families sheltered in Gravataí. Source: Brazilian Red Cross.

temporary jobs despite the government's efforts to assist them in this regard.

Food and nutrition

After the emergency in July, the families returned to their livelihood activities in order to cover their food needs. During the emergency, it was determined that the families had been unable to prepare their own food since they left their homes. Currently, the families are receiving support from the Brazilian Red Cross and other actors that have provided food items to the evacuation centres.

Given the community's characteristics, it is a challenge for the families living in these communities to reach adequate levels of nutrition; therefore, there is a clear need to provide food to them. Moreover, the new floods could cause greater needs in this sector.

Water and sanitation

According to the Civil Defense, 103 cities are flooded in Rio Grande do Sul, of which 66 declared a state of emergency. The large amount of rain in a short period of time in the municipality of Cachoeirinha, affected Meu Rincao, (the community selected for the intervention)'s water supply from its wells because it came in contact with waste. As a result, Civil Defense has been distributing water through water tankers.

This situation highlights the need to promote hygiene, hand washing and good domestic water management practices in the communities where interventions are staged. It was determined that families have nowhere to safely store water, necessitating the use of containers for storing drinking water and avoiding further contamination.

Health

There is a heightened risk of skin infections, respiratory infections, waterborne diseases and vector-borne diseases within the communities; this is due to the poor hygiene and sanitation conditions. Moreover, a need psychosocial support for the affected population was identified. Another important aspect is the cold temperatures, which has generated an increase in influenza cases. There have been six cases of meningitis bacterial type C identified to date.

The health promotion activities conducted by the health centres were very limited. There is a health centre and a hospital 20 kilometres away. Therefore, these activities are being promoted through the Porto Alegre branch health teams in order to provide assistance to the evacuation centres.



First aid promotion activities for families in an evacuation centre in the municipality of Gravataí. Source: Brazilian Red Cross-Brasilera.

Evacuation centres

Houses in flat areas were rendered uninhabitable and inaccessible by the flooding. As a result, the villagers had to leave their homes, and the government opened evacuation centres to shelter people from the affected municipalities.

Affected families took shelter with family members, while others remained in their homes or went to the evacuation centres. Civil Defense asked the Brazilian Red Cross to help manage the evacuation centres. Given the nature of the event, the distribution of non-food items will provide support to the affected population, including hygiene and kitchen kits, blankets and mattresses.

The Brazilian Red Cross also supported the provision of first aid care in the collective centres, where people presented with ailments such as high blood pressure, rashes from the contaminated floodwaters, minor injuries, etc.

Beneficiary selection

The Brazilian Red Cross will assist 500 families (2,500 people benefited directly) who have been affected by the floods, lost their household items and have limited access to safe water. The operation established selection criteria at the community and familiar level.

The following criteria will be used to select beneficiaries:

- Families affected by the event in critical areas (structural damage to home or home rendered uninhabitable, lack of access to basic services, lives and health of family members have been disrupted)
- Families with children under 5 years of age, older adults, pregnant women, people with disabilities.
- Health and life are at risk
- Families whose livelihoods have been affected.
- Low socioeconomic level
- Families not receiving similar non-complementary aid from other institutions.

Target population of the operation:

Municipality	Community	Families	Total persons
Garavatí	Villa Rica	196	980
	Villa Maria	50	250
Cachoeirinha	Vila Olaria	120	600
	Meu Rincão	134	670
Total		500	2,500

Risk Assessment

A large number of families did not flee their homes when their homes flooded for fear of losing their belongings. Additionally the access to flooded communities was difficult. The weather service predicted that the rains will continue in the area.

Moreover, there are issues of urban violence in the communities. However, community members respect the Red Cross symbol, and the Brazilian Red Cross has safety guidelines for its volunteers. There were arrests in September, which limited activities in the community; due to the arrests, coordination with the military and police to mitigate the risk for Brazilian Red Cross volunteers will continue.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall Objective

To meet the prioritized needs of the most vulnerable populations affected by floods in urban areas in the cities of Cachoeirinha and Gravataí in the respective areas of Villa Olaria, Meu Rincão, Vila Rica and Vila Maria, by providing a response that contributes to sustainable and resilient communities.

Proposed strategy

The initial field assessment in the cities of Cachoeirinha and Gravataí was conducted in the first phase and the second phase by sector technical volunteers, who sought to identify major changes in the affected population's quality of life.



Actions related to first aid in temporary shelters and flood-affected areas as well as hygiene promotion and recovery are essential belongings.

Preparation of 500 food and hygiene kits. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

Direct talks with beneficiaries and community leaders and questionnaires helped identify activities to continue the provision of humanitarian aid by conveying key messages to the community on health and hygiene in order to reduce the risk of disease characteristic of this type of emergency. .

The intervention activities are:

- Distribution of food kits
- Distribution of hygiene kits
- Distribution of water reservoirs in communities without access to safe water
- Distribution of blankets
- Health Promotion (Leptospirosis, meningitis C, respiratory diseases)
- Hygiene promotion
- Distribution of mattresses
- Distribution of kitchen kits
- First aid care in evacuation centres

B2 Operational support services

Human Resources

The operation requires the hiring of a full-time operation coordinator and an administrator to provide him or her with administrative, financial and logistical support at the local level (Porto Alegre). He or she will also have support from the Brazilian Red Cross's headquarters. The Rio Grande do Sul branch has 200 volunteers, who are informed of current and future activities through the branch's internal media.

A team of volunteers providing support to the operation is fully insured. A general Regional Intervention Team (RIT) with experience in logistics has been deployed, and it is supporting all activities conducted by the National Society. The personnel who are currently working for the operation are as follows:

- 1 operations coordinator
- 1 administrator
- 1 volunteer / a person responsible for water and sanitation
- 1 volunteer / a person responsible for health activities
- 1 representative from the Communications and Reporting department at the headquarter level.
- 30 volunteers with specializations, such as physicians, nurses, psychologists, etc.
- 1 driver
- Technical staff of the Brazilian Red Cross's national headquarters

The IFRC is providing support through the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the regional disaster management coordinator, including all specialized technical units. A general RIT member specialized in logistics from the Uruguayan Red Cross is in-country providing support to the implementation of the activities with the Brazilian Red Cross.

Logistics and supply chain

The IFRC Global Logistics Unit (GLS) deployed a logistics officer to provide technical support to the National Society on the procurement process. All procurements were made locally, and the new procurement procedures manual of the National Society meets the IFRC's criteria.

Information Technology

Communication has taken place via cell phones, and the distributions will use low frequency radio equipment. .

Communications

The Brazilian Red Cross has a National Communications Department which administers its institutional website (www.cruzvermelha.org.br) and an official Facebook page (Cruz Vermelha Brasileira- ORGAO Central).

These resources are being used to support the operation with support from the Brazilian Red Cross's headquarters. The activities being undertaken are being disseminated through various types of media, such as television, local newspapers, and social networks. The links are as follows.

Media information:

<https://www.ifrc.org/es/noticias/noticias/americas/brazil/cruz-roja-brasilena-responde-ante-las-inundaciones-del-sur-69511/>

<https://www.ifrc.org/es/noticias/noticias/americas/brazil/inundaciones-en-brasil-69100/>

<http://g1.globo.com/rs/rio-grande-do-sul/rbs-noticias/videos/t/edicoes/v/moradores-de-porto-alegre-e-de-cachoeirinha-recebem-donativos-no-rs/4546149/>

<http://g1.globo.com/jornal-nacional/edicoes/2015/10/17.html>

<http://www.cruzvermelha.org.br/news/cruz-vermelha-brasileira-ajuda-aos-desabrigados-do-sul/>

<http://www.cruzvermelha.org.br/news/ajuda-da-cruz-vermelha-brasileira-aos-desabrigados-do-sul-prosseque/>

<http://www.cruzvermelha.org.br/news/cruz-vermelha-brasileira-ajuda-moradores-ilhados-no-sul/>

<http://www.cruzvermelha.org.br/news/kit-de-limpeza-da-cruz-vermelha-faz-sucesso-entre-desabrigados-em-dia-de-sol/>

Security

The security situation in Porto Alegre, particularly in the intervention areas, is very delicate. This situation worsened when the police went on strike, which ramped up the disputes between drug traffickers and led to a spike in murders; due to the heightened insecurity, the Brazilian Red Cross had to reconsider ways to gain access to some of the communities.

As for the access roads to the community, three of the four cities present access problems since the streets are not paved and tend to get washed out during heavy rains, further hindering access to these communities. For this reason, trucks were rented to facilitate entries and exits from these communities.

Security plans have been developed for the two municipalities to have clear guidelines to reduce risks during the operation. The volunteers have visibility material (shirt and cap) and protective equipment for the activities in the communities, and there are also visibility elements (magnets) for vehicles; so far, there have been no reported security incidents.

There were 60 personal protective kits procured for volunteers to ensure good working conditions, and all of the staff involved in the operation is insured through the IFRC.

Volunteer protection kit

ITEM	Quantity
Plastic Helmet	1
Raincoat	1
Plastic rain boots	1
Pair of work gloves	1
AA flashlight batteries	1

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

Since the beginning of the operation, the Brazilian Red Cross's Finance Department in its headquarters has worked closely with the administrator and the operations team in the Porto Alegre branch to ensure transparency in the use of the DREF funds and compliance with the National Society's procurement procedures.

The operations team, which is comprised of the DREF operations coordinator, the relief department and supported by the RIT, has been conducting the technical assessments.

Administration and finance

The National Society has a Finance Department at its headquarters, which works with the administrator that was hired to manage the DREF funds and ensure the transparency of the National Society's use of the DREF funds.

The National Society developed new procurement procedures manual that will serve as a tool to ensure the use of operational funds in the operation is transparent.



Coordination visit along with the Gravatai, community from the Vila Rica Civil Defence. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming/ Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 1 Continuous and detailed assessment and analysis are used to inform the operation's design and the implementation of conducted evaluations (general and detailed)	Outputs		% achieved
	Output 1.1 Initial needs assessments are conducted in consultation with beneficiaries and authorities		
Output 1.2 The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system			60%
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Emergency rapid assessment	X		100%
Sector assessment		X	100%
Beneficiary registration	X		100%
Monitoring and follow up by the IFRC	X		80%

Monitoring visits to targeted communities		X	60%
Support and monitoring by GLS	X		80%
Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey	X		0%

a) Emergency rapid assessment

The Brazilian Red Cross and a PADRU delegate conducted the rapid emergency assessment in the affected area. . They also had the support of the prefecture and Civil Defence survey data for the assessment t. Given the present weather conditions, in which the rains are intense and frequent, evaluations will continue to be conducted in the communities in order to identify any changes in the situation and any corresponding changes to the operational strategy that need to be made.

b) Assessment by sectors

Sector evaluations were carried out by a subsidiary of Porto Alegre's Department of Relief through its director, the operations coordinator and the RIT deployed for the operation. The assessments aimed to identify if the needs had changed since the start of the emergency, as well as to make staff aware of the activities of other actors in order to avoid duplicating aid.



Sector evaluations carried out by the field teams from Brazilian Red Cross. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

c) Beneficiary registration

The registration of beneficiaries was done with the involvement of the Welfare Department in the prefectures of Cachoeirinha do Sul and Gravataí and the community leaders.

d) Monitoring and follow up from the IFRC

The IFRC is providing ongoing support to the operation through the deployment of a RIT member from the Uruguayan Red Cross and through the visit of the disaster management coordinator for South America, who held meetings with coordination and monitoring representatives and technical staff from the National Society, visited the affected area and participated in the distribution and health promotion activities. The IFRC's GLS in Panama also provided support to the operation's implementation of the operation through the visit of one of its logistics officers.

e) Monitoring visits to targeted communities

Monitoring visits were made with the support of the Department Of Communications And Media, programme area managers and the Finance Department and volunteers from headquarters.

f) Support and monitoring by GLS

The IFRC supported the start of the operation with the deployment of a GLS delegate for two weeks to train and support the National Society in logistics; the delegate also performed an analysis of emergency logistics, procurement procedures and the services available to the National Society when support is required.

g) Beneficiary satisfaction survey

The Beneficiary satisfaction Survey has been planned for the end of the operation when all of the families have been reached and results can be provided. The surveys will be conducted at least 10 per cent of the population of each community that was reached.

Challenges:

The communities' prevailing weather conditions and access issues due to insecurity have posed challenges to the operation.

Adopted measures:

Through coordination with the Civil Defence, the police and the military, the safety risks have been reduced while visiting the communities. All-terrain vehicles and boats have been used to overcome the access issues caused by the poor weather conditions.

Health & care

Needs analysis:

The communities are facing a health-related situation as there have been reports of cases of meningococcal meningitis; this has quickly become the greatest cause for concern for the Brazilian Red Cross during these floods. There have also been confirmed cases of meningitis type C in the municipality of Cachoeirinha, resulting in the death of three males (8, 17 and 18 years of age) and three females (two 12-year-olds and a 27-year-old). Furthermore, a total of 48 cases have been reported to the State Epidemiological Surveillance Centre over a period of 6 months, which in turn has requested the suspension of classes in the unaffected areas in the municipality of Cachoeirinha to avoid an epidemic. Due to the heightened vulnerability of the affected families due to their exposure to weather and unhygienic conditions that are favourable to the transmission of diseases and the recurrence of heavy rainfall that is affecting their emotional wellbeing, a team of experienced health volunteers is providing them with psychosocial support.

Population to be assisted:

The 2,500 people affected by the flood. The Brazilian Red Cross is providing support through its staff trained in first aid and psychosocial support to promote habits that prevent the spread of meningitis C, leptospirosis and respiratory diseases in the affected communities.

Outcome 1: The flood's adverse effects on the health of the affected population are reduced through first aid, disease prevention and health promotion activities.	Outputs		% achieved
	Output 1.1 500 families have access to information on how to prevent existing diseases in the community with a special focus placed on the prevention of bacterial meningitis through participatory mobilization activities in community health.		59%
	Output 1.2 Three evacuation centres have first aid services.		100%
	Output 1.3 250 affected families have psychological first aid and psychosocial support activities with differentiated approaches		75%
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Developing visual materials for health activities	X		100%
Community mobilization activities		X	67%
Community respiratory disease prevention material		X	10%
Workshops to train first aid brigades in evacuation centres.	X		100%
Providing volunteers to deliver first aid care in evacuation centres.	X		100%

Psychological first aid training workshop for volunteers and local leaders of targeted communities	X		50%
Providing volunteers to deliver psychosocial support in evacuation centres.	X		100%

a) Development of visual materials for health activities

Graphic materials on community health and psychosocial support, such as banners and small guides, have been developed, and they are being distributed to beneficiaries.

b) Community mobilization activities

Talks were given to the community on the prevention of leptospirosis, meningitis C, respiratory illnesses and first aid. To date, 337 families have been reached through hygiene promotion activities.



Volunteer providing first aid care.
Source: Brazilian Red Cross

Health Promotion Activities		
Municipality	Community	No. of families
Gravataí	Villa Maria	150
	Villa Rica	50
Cachoeirinha	Villa Olaria	97
	Meu Rincao	40
TOTAL		337

c) Community respiratory disease prevention material

Graphic materials for the prevention of respiratory diseases are being developed by the Porto Alegre branch's health team, in conjunction with the Brazilian Red Cross's headquarters.

d) Workshops to train first aid brigades in evacuation centres.

At the beginning of the emergency, first aid training for community leaders and 47 families in the evacuation centres to improve the response in the evacuation centres was conducted.

e) Providing volunteers to deliver first aid care in evacuation centres

Since the beginning of the emergency, 36 volunteers provided first aid to affected families in the three evacuation centres.

f) Psychological first aid training workshop for volunteers and local leaders of targeted communities

Since the beginning of the emergency, the National Society worked on issues relating to psychosocial support for 47 families in the evacuation centres. The training of new volunteers is still pending.

g) Providing volunteers to deliver psychosocial support in evacuation centres.

Since the evacuation centres were first opened, volunteers have been providing support. The Porto Alegre branch has volunteers that work in this health area who were able to provide psychosocial support to affected people in the evacuation centres. The branch provided this service for three weeks with 37 volunteers working for the 47 families in the three evacuation centres.

Challenges:

- The closing of the evacuation centres led to changes in logistics' promotional activities in the communities.

- The weather conditions presented a challenge to the implementation of the activities in the communities either through oversaturation of the ground or by minor flooding.
- The Brazilian Red Cross did not receive the first DREF transfer until 4 September, since there were some challenges in the transfer of the funds, which delayed the planned activities.

Adopted measures:

- The activities done in the evacuation centres were redirected toward the communities in order to cover as many families as possible. To date, the activities have been conducted under controlled conditions and through good coordination with other actors and community leaders.
- The health promotion activities started with distributions, and they will in all the targeted communities.
- There has been good coordination among the Civil Defence, the police and the military, which has allowed for the activities to be carried out in a safe environment for the beneficiaries and volunteers.



Health teams conducting evaluations in evacuation centres and preparing the hygiene and health promotion station.
Source: Brazilian Red Cross.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Needs Analysis:

To meet the needs of the population, the government has provided safe water through the provision of bottled water and drinking water in tanks. The use of secure water storage containers is necessary to ensure the safety of the affected population's water supply.

Sanitation was affected by the flooding as excreta and solid waste are going straight into the river, increasing the risk of diarrheal disease and leptospirosis, among others.

The need for safe water for the affected families is a priority, as well as information on hygiene promotion, since there have not been any activities conducted by other actors in the communities since the Brazilian Red Cross's intervention began.

Population to be assisted:

A total of 2,500 people affected by the floods will be assisted by the Brazilian Red Cross by increasing the hygiene promoters' capacity to boost the total number of assisted persons.

The assistance will be through health promotion activities, safe water management for the affected communities and the distribution of hygiene kits and containers with lids to encourage safe water management by the affected families.

Outcome 1: Reducing waterborne diseases and inadequate sanitation and hygiene in targeted families.	Outputs		% achieved
	Output 1.1: Improved access to safe water for 500 families through collapsible water tanks and delivery of buckets and chlorine tablets to targeted families.		75%
	Output 1.2: Hygiene habit promotion for 500 families through the delivery of information and family hygiene kits.		75%
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Procurement and distribution of buckets with lids and dispensers and chlorine tablets		X	50%
Production and purchase of informational material		X	100%
Procurement and distribution of 500 hygiene kits	X		75%

- a) Procurement and distribution of buckets with lids and dispensers and chlorine tablets**
Water reservoirs will be distributed for the remainder of the operation. So far, there have been no distributions of chlorine because the affected communities have had their drinking water networks restored or received bottled water from other actors.
- b) Production and purchase of information material**
Banners on hygiene promotion were developed, and the IFRC provided safe water handling materials.
- c) Procurement and distribution of 500 hygiene kits**
A total of 500 hygiene kits will be distributed to 500 families. So far, a total of 373 families in both municipalities have received hygiene kits.

Table 2. Distributions of Hygiene kits

Hygiene Kit			
Municipality	Community	No. of Families	No. of kits
Gravataí	Villa Rica	150	150
	Villa María	50	50
Cachoeirinha	Villa Olaria	80	80
	Meu Rincao	82	82
	Puente	11	11
TOTAL		373	373

Hygiene Kit contents

Products	Quantities
Detergent 1kg	1
Toilet paper	8
Disinfectant 2 litres	1
Softener 2 litres	1

Steel sponge 8un	2
Kitchen sponge	1
Water 2 litres	1
Body soap 90 gr	4
Liquid detergent 1 litre	2
Toothpaste 180 grams	4
Tooth brush	5
Bleach 2 litres	1

Challenges: It has been difficult to find local suppliers that meet the recommended criteria.

Adopted measures: The specifications were adapted based on technical requirements and the availability of materials in the local market.



Distribution of humanitarian aid to 11 families in the community of El Puente in Cachoeirinha do Sul. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

Shelter and settlements (and household items)

Needs Analysis:

The state of Rio Grande do Sul Civil Defence requested the support of the Brazilian Red Cross on the management of the evacuation centres and the provision of materials through an emergency decree issued by the municipalities of Cachoeirinha and Gravataí.

Due to the nature of the emergency, there is a need to address shelter management if the evacuation centres are reopened open and the demand for blankets, which has been a prioritized activity.

Population to be assisted:

The Brazilian Red Cross will assist 500 families affected by floods in the municipalities of Coacherinha and Gravataí

The identification of the affected was done in coordination with both municipalities' Welfare Departments.

Outcome 1: 500 affected families improve their emergency evacuation centre conditions	Outputs		% achieved
	Output 1.1 Adequate management of 3 evacuation centres is promoted in Anaplo Gomez, Delfin Moreira e Invul		90%
	Output 1.2 Non-food items are provided to 500 families affected by the floods		60%
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Shelter management workshop	X		100%
Procurement and distribution of temporary shelter kits		X	90%
Evacuation centre management	X		100%
Procurement and distribution of 500 kitchen kits		X	50%
Procurement and distribution of 2,500 blankets		X	68%
Procurement and distribution of 1,000 mats		X	60%

a) Shelter management workshop

The shelter management workshop was conducted by the relief department from the Porto Alegre branch at the beginning of the emergency. This was aimed for community leaders from the 3 evacuation centres.

b) Procurement and distribution of temporary shelter kits

The 3 temporary shelter kits have been procured and will arrive in the next days for distribution.

c) Evacuation centre management

The evacuation centres were managed for a period of three weeks by an average of 36 volunteers from Porto Alegre branch. They are not currently developing this task anymore since after consultation with the local prefecture, the service was not needed anymore.

d) Procurement and distribution of 500 kitchen kits

The procurement process took more time due to availability of items from suppliers. The kits are in the ground and will be distributed in the upcoming week.

e) Procurement and distribution of 2,500 blankets

The blankets were procured and the distribution of 2,500 blankets to 500 families began. To date, the number of beneficiary families has reached 339, and a total of 1,695 blankets have been delivered.

Table 3. Blanket distribution

Blankets			
Municipality	Community	No. of families	No. of blankets
Gravataí	Villa Rica	150	750
	Villa Maria	50	250
Cachoerinha	Villa Olaria	80	400
	Meu Rincao	48	240
	Puente	11	55
TOTAL		339	1,695

f) Procurement and distribution of 1,000 mats

Through further detailed assessments, several families were identified as having received mattresses donated by the municipality; a total of 270 mattresses were procured in order to be delivered to the families who did not receive one, and the distribution will take place in the coming days.

Challenges:

Rapid changes in the emergency situation, which affected the return of families to their homes, delayed the activities in the evacuation centres.

Adopted measures:

New sector assessments in all of the communities were conducted to optimize the distribution of humanitarian aid.



The evacuation centre in Cachoeirinha do Sul. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

Temporary Shelter Kit

<i>Items</i>	<i>Quantities</i>
<i>Latex disposable gloves</i>	3
<i>TY rolls</i>	20
<i>Adhesive tape 15 m</i>	6
<i>Security cones</i>	10
<i>Adhesive tape</i>	6
<i>Plastic rolls</i>	2
<i>Marker for board</i>	6
<i>Pens</i>	20
<i>Radio 2 ways</i>	2
<i>Hand rechargeable flashlight</i>	2
<i>Vest</i>	6
<i>ID for personnel</i>	5
<i>Backpack</i>	1
<i>Acrylic Sheet</i>	10
<i>Paper supply</i>	200
<i>Binding tape</i>	10
<i>Chair</i>	2

Kitchen Kit

<i>Items</i>	<i>Quantities</i>
<i>Small aluminum jar</i>	2
<i>Knives</i>	5
<i>Forks</i>	5
<i>Spoons</i>	5
<i>Big plastic pot spoon</i>	1
<i>Plastic spoon</i>	1

Food Security, nutrition and livelihoods

Needs analysis:

Increased rainfall in the already flooded areas in the communities has affected the populations' livelihoods. This has increased the vulnerability of the population in terms of availability and access to food, as they have lost the income that allows them to buy food for their families, which jeopardizes their nutritional and health status. In order to meet this need, speedy assistance will be provided through the distribution of food kits.

Population to be assisted:

A total of 500 flood-affected families that meet the beneficiary selection criteria; priority will be given to single mothers, the elderly and families with children in the municipalities of Cachoerinha do Sul and Gravataí.

Outcome 1: Affected families have immediate access to food and improved nutritional conditions.	Outputs		% achievement
		Output 1. 500 families have received food aid items	
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Procurement and distribution of 500 food kits.		X	75%

a) Procurement and distribution of 500 food kits.

The food items originally listed in the plan of action changed as the National Society obtained a better price on the kit by including additional items. Cultural aspects of the community, including customs and local habits, were taken into account during the selection of these items.

The procurement process has been completed, and a supplier has been identified. The food kit contains the following items:

ITEMS Food kit	Quantities
Rice 5kg	2
Black beans 1kg	3
Refined sugar 1Kg	5
Flour 1kg	5
Corn flour 1Kg	1
Soy oil 900 ML	4
Crackers 350 g	1
Sweet cookies 350 g	1
Stuffed cookies 120 g	1
Noodles 500 g	4
Instant macaroni 60 g	2
Coffee 500 g	1
Refined salt 1 Kg	1
Cocoa 400 g	1

Ketchup 350 g	2
Fruit cake 400 g	1
Mix for cakes 400 g	1
Baking powder 11 g	1
yeast 10 g	1
Corn 300 g	1
Farofa 250 g	1
Peas 300 g	1

To date, 373 food kits have been distributed to the communities of Cachoerinha do Sul and Gravataí, and distribution will continue in the coming days.

Table 1. Distribution of food kits

Municipality	Community	No. of families
Gravataí	Villa Rica	150
	Villa María	50
Cachoerinha	Villa Olaria	80
	Meu Rincao	82
	Puente	11
TOTAL		373

Challenges:

- Challenges were encountered due to delays in the procurement process as well as other logistical issues.

Adopted measures:

- Despite harsh conditions, the National Society began the distributions immediately after the procurement process had been completed in order to gain back the time that was lost due to the delays encountered during the procurement process.

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