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DREF Final Report

Paraguay: Concepcion Storm

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation no. MDRPY017	Glide no. ST-2015-000041-PRY
Date of issue: 18 March 2016	Date of disaster: 4 April 2015
Operation manager: Pabel Angeles, Regional Coordinator for Disaster Management- South America	Point of contact: Fernando Casanova, Executive Director – Paraguayan Red Cross
Operation start date: 27 April 2015	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Overall operation budget: 263,228 Swiss francs	
Number of people affected: 10,000 people (2,000 families)	Number of people to be assisted: 6,000 people (1,315 families)
Host National Society: Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) has a national headquarters and 11 local branches and 7 sub-branches with 700 volunteers at the national level.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Emergency Secretariat (SEN), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Departmental Government, Local Municipalities, Swiss Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).	

Summary of the Operation

On 4 April 2015, a tornado hit the department of Concepción in northern Paraguay. This phenomenon produced hail, strong winds (150-180 kilometres/ hour), electric activity and heavy rains that affected several rural communities in the districts of Loreto and Horqueta (Concepción department). On 9 April, the Paraguayan government declared a state of emergency (Law 5229/2015) for the Concepción department for a nine-month period.

On 28 April 2015, through the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund, 263,228 Swiss francs were allocated to support the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) to deliver assistance and support to some 6,000 people (1,200 families), with a focus on hygiene promotion, psychosocial support and livelihoods. This operation was extended one month to end on 28 August 2015.

The Canadian government through the Canadian Red Cross Society contributed CHF 22,000 to the replenishment of the allocation made for this DREF operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include: the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. IFRC, on behalf of the Paraguayan Red Cross, would like to extend its appreciation to all partners for their continued support.

Description of the disaster

On 4 April 2015, a tornado that produced hail, strong winds (150-180 kilometres/ hour), electric activity and heavy rains in hit several rural communities in the districts of Loreto and Horqueta located in Paraguay's Concepcion department. In the two districts, approximately 2,000 families were affected, of which 80 per cent lost their household goods, furniture, clothing, documents, food and farm equipment. The strong winds

blew off corrugated roofs, whisked away belongings and caused hail damage to the area's agricultural products and loss of livestock. More than 150 houses were completely destroyed; two people died due to the collapse of their houses; and 25 people suffered injuries. With the collapse of 100 concrete electric towers, the population was left without electricity following the tornado. Due to the water processing plant requiring electricity, water services were also extremely limited in the early days of the emergency. On 9 April, the government of Paraguay issued a state of emergency for the Concepcion department for a nine-month period.

A. Situation analysis

A.1 Description of the disaster

As mentioned in the [emergency plan of action](#) and [operations update](#) for this operation, 33 communities (21 in Loreto district and 12 in Horqueta district) with a population of approximately 10,000 people were affected by the storm.

In Loreto district, the storm mainly affected rural areas where small-scale agriculture and livestock are the main livelihoods. Land use includes owners, occupants, sharecroppers and renters, all of whom engage in this activity for subsistence and/or commercial purposes. This storm occurred during harvest (mainly of cassava and sesame crops), causing the loss of 90 per cent of subsistence crops and related income, as well as prevented farmers from reaping the needed seeds for the following planting season. According to the Ministry of Agriculture's Extension Department, between 3,000 and 3,500 hectares of land planted with corn, spurge, sesame and peppers were lost or damaged in the districts of Loreto and Horqueta. The Loreto district had 1,127.5 hectares planted with corn, cassava, beans, sweet potatoes, and peppers that were partially damaged, affecting 2,000 local farming families.

The storm also damaged livestock shelters, which resulted in the death of a significant number of pigs and poultry, thus leading to food shortages and affecting people's income sources. Families engaged in small livestock farming generally raise up to 20 head in their small parcels or rented pasture space. The lack of animal feed (tupi maize, cassava and sugar cane) caused a high level of vulnerability and a general deterioration of animal health. According to initial surveys, families experienced considerable losses associated with small livestock and milk production also suffered due to lost pasture land and fodder, which has led to the premature sale of calves whose low weights result in smaller profit.

In the affected region, most households engage in diversified economic activities, combining agriculture, livestock farming and temporary jobs, depending on the time of year.

A.2 Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Paraguayan Red Cross has a national headquarters and 11 local branches and 7 sub-branches with 700 volunteers at the national level. During this operation, the PRC established an operations team that was responsible for implementation of the emergency plan of action. This team included a project coordinator, a psychologist, and an agronomist. The PRC focal points in livelihoods, psychosocial support (PSS), health and risk reduction, and disaster management—all of whom are part of the Department of Risk Reduction and Community Health—were also part of this team.

The Risk Reduction and Disaster Management coordinator directly supported relief activities and voucher delivery; provided technical assistance in using Mega V to distribute the vouchers; and assisted in coordinating the delivery of inputs, materials and small livestock.

The PRC used the Open Data Kit (ODK) tool to collect data. Volunteers participated in the ODK and Mega V training workshop provided by the regional intervention team (RIT) member deployed for the operation. This training session was funded by the Swiss Red Cross to support activities by the PRC branch in Concepción and as a new process to exchange experiences. Volunteers from the PRC branches in Ñeembucú, Misiones and Itapúa also participated.

The Health Delegate supervised the handling of information included in posters, the planning of operational efforts, and assisted the local health team in developing replications within the context of this operation.

The head of the PRC communications department supervised distributions and voucher deliveries in communities, providing support through press releases for internal and regional communications and for publication in local media.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC has supported the Paraguayan Red Cross in this operation since the start of the emergency. The Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) Regional Coordinator for Disaster Management- South America maintained contact with the PRC and assisted in the creation of the emergency plan of action. A member of the regional intervention team (RIT) specialized in livelihoods, from the Guatemalan Red Cross, was deployed to support livelihood interventions and the implementation of the voucher system, the manner used to engage in cash transfer in this operation. This RIT member in coordination with the secretariat facilitated a cash transfer and ODK workshop for volunteers from the PRC branches in Concepción, San Pedro, Boquerón, and the national headquarters management team.

The International Committee of the Red Cross worked with the National Society so its volunteers could provide psychosocial support to affected adults and children in 12 communities in Horqueta district. The Swiss Red Cross supported livelihoods reactivation for 350 families.

Due to reduced costs in other areas during the implementation period of this operation, funds were reallocated to assist an additional 115 beneficiary families in vulnerable communities (113 in Horqueta district and 2 in Loreto district). These communities were within the Swiss Red Cross's target area. To lessen social tension in the area and take advantage of these reallocated funds, the PRC extended its assistance to 53 households in the community of Cerrito and 60 households in the community of Ykua Hovy (113 in total) and 2 households in Villa Don Bosco in Loreto. All were chosen using the same selection methodology applied to 1,200 families in the District of Loreto.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in the country

As fully detailed in the operations update, other institutions also engaged in emergency response actions in the districts of Loreto and Horqueta. The National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) provided food kits, water tanks, zinc sheets and other household items. The National Police replaced identity documents to enable people to receive funds from governmental social programmes and pension payments. The Ministry of Public Works and Communications worked together with the Paraguayan armed forces to rehabilitate roads that were affected by the disaster.

UNICEF provided mobile classrooms. The US Agency for International Development and the Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) donated funds in Horqueta district. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) distributed kitchen kits, beds and other materials, as well as school kits to eight schools (four in Horqueta and four in Loreto).

A.3 Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Health

Health facilities in the affected area were active, on alert, and constantly monitored. The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPBS) registered 25 people who were injured and two deaths due to homes collapsing. Diarrhoea, stomach cramps, vomiting as well as cases of influenza and respiratory problems related to exposure to rains were reported. The MSPBS conducted vaccination campaigns against H1N1 influenza. Psychosocial activities were implemented to alleviate the symptoms of stress following the disaster.

Water and sanitation

The initial damage and needs assessment conducted by the Paraguayan Red Cross indicated that the affected families in the Horqueta and Loreto districts had limited access to safe water because of damage to community water tanks and infrastructure. This situation affected approximately 1,400 families (7,000 people), out of which only 70 per cent had access to clean and safe water and the remaining had a limited supply. In most cases, water was of an unusual colour and cases were reported of contamination due to inadequate handling and storage.

The PRC conducted 24 water and sanitation training campaigns, as well as hygiene promotion actions and others to prevent water-borne diseases. As a part of this operation, the PRC also distributed 20-litre buckets to transport, store and consume safe water.

Livelihoods

The Paraguayan Red Cross chose to work in an affected area that is characterised by low-income households, extensive deforestation and environmental degradation. The population is primarily composed of small-scale agricultural and livestock producers, wage labourers and migrant agricultural workers.

The strong winds, hail and torrential rains seriously affected agricultural production. Many of these products are destined for domestic consumption with excess sold as cash crops. The loss of agricultural and livestock surplus due to the storm left these groups unable to fulfil their financial commitments. During the visits to the affected area, producers stated that they were indebted to pawnshops and/or credit banks. Fifty per cent of the people interviewed during the field visits claimed to have access outstanding loans in different financial institutions.

The evaluation and field visit in the district of Loreto concluded that the livelihoods damages were important due to the impact on consumption and income generation. According to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), the storm affected 1,127.75 hectares and 1,325.75 additional hectares were lost or damaged. The total loss of agricultural land in Loreto and Horqueta districts reached up to 3,000 to 3,500 hectares. The livelihoods of people in 33 communities were affected; the tornado caused a negative impact on approximately 800 small producer households in the Horqueta district and 1,200 households in the Loreto district. The MAG also reported the death of cattle, pigs and poultry. Since sources of animal feed were affected, animals were exposed to further risk in the subsequent cold season.

In the assessment at the start of the operation, affected producers mentioned the need for cash to purchase supplies to return to their livelihood activities.

Shelter

The zinc sheets used as roofing material in area homes were blown away during the storm. Seventy per cent of the houses are made of wood, which were the most affected, and the remaining are made of brick. Approximately 150 houses were destroyed and others were partially damaged. According to the SEN, 80 per cent of the affected people lost their household goods, furniture, clothes, documents, food, and farm equipment (tools, carts and wagons). The SEN and other agencies provided essential items for the affected families' homes.

The affected people did not leave their homes after the event. Tents acted as temporary shelters during the rebuilding process; two to three houses were re-built per day with support from the State authorities. In this situation, shelters or temporary shelters were not used in any of the two districts.

The PRC did not provide shelter support since the SEN and other humanitarian actors provided zinc sheeting, tarpaulins, mattresses, blankets, buckets, kitchen kits, and hygiene kits in the Horqueta district, where houses were most affected.

Risk Assessment

The April to July rains oversaturated the earth in the affected communities. The fall in temperatures in July led to the death of small farm animals, affecting project schedules and delaying planned livelihoods actions.

As the operation occurred during the municipal elections in the country, the PRC took a pause from its humanitarian actions in the immediate period in which these were held. The PRC presented a clear and consistent message that its actions in communities were not connected to party politics.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

To reduce the effects caused by the storm in Paraguay by assisting 1,200 families in the department of Concepción in the district of Loreto through psychosocial support, hygiene promotion and early recovery of livelihoods.

Proposed strategy

Based on its situation analysis in terms of health, water and sanitation and livelihoods, the Paraguayan Red Cross established a comprehensive intervention in these three areas. In the district of Loreto, the PRC provided psychosocial support, engaged in hygiene promotion and sponsored actions recover livelihoods through a cash transfer programme. There was a large concentration of humanitarian support in the district of Horqueta so the PRC aimed to reach other populations.

Branch-level capacity-building was required to strengthen management, organisation, and knowledge acquisition at the local level. PRC volunteers working in psychosocial, health and livelihoods were appointed and served as liaisons between national headquarters and the branch with regards to communications and activities.

As will be explained in detail below, in the area of health, PRC volunteers provided psychosocial support to affected adults and children. In water and sanitation, the PRC gave hygiene promotion talks and distributed 20-litre buckets. In livelihoods, the National Society distributed agricultural inputs, small livestock and hardware items through cash transfer.

Target population

This DREF operation aimed to assist 1,200 families (6,000 people) in 21 communities in the Loreto district. The beneficiaries were selected according to the following vulnerability criteria: most affected populations in the rural areas; people in situations of poverty; households with elderly, children and people with disabilities; households with damage to their homes and livelihoods; and households that had not received similar aid from other organisations.

Additionally, as mentioned above, funds were reallocated to expand the assistance to other highly vulnerable communities in the Loreto and Horqueta districts. During the implementation period of this operation, it became clear that vulnerable communities in Horqueta had not yet received any humanitarian assistance. These additional communities (Cerrito and Ykua Hovy in Horqueta and Villa Don Bosco in Loreto) are located in the geographical area that was affected by the storm. These communities were within the target area of the Swiss Red Cross, but this National Society was unable to assist all households. Despite the commitment from a local State institution, as time passed without fulfilment of this commitment combined with the effort to reduce social tensions between communities, the PRC reallocated funds to assist an additional 113 households (53 in Cerrito and 60 in Ykua Hovy, communities are adjacent to Loreto), as well as 2 households in Villa Don Bosco in Loreto.

These households were identified via a census using the ODK, part of the Swiss Red Cross Assistance Project. The PRC applied the same selection methodology that was used to identify the first group of 1,200 households. Meetings were held in the communities of Cerrito and Ykua Hovy to present and validate selection criteria, vulnerability criteria, and the list of beneficiaries.

Operational support services

Human resources

The Paraguayan Red Cross Department of Disaster Risk Management and Community Health led the management of the operation. A field coordinator was hired for this operation in order to strengthen local coordination in the area of intervention, and this person was responsible for the coordination and implementation of the plan of action. An administrative assistant, a psychosocial point person and a livelihoods field technician were also hired. The latter supported the PRC livelihoods point person who was initially involved in performing the feasibility and market studies for the cash transfer programme as well as the entire process of approaching and selecting beneficiaries based on selection and vulnerability criteria.

The 200 PRC volunteers involved in this operation were insured. The IFRC Regional Coordinator for Disaster Management- South America coordinated the mobilisation of human, logistic and financial resources for the operation with the National Society. A Regional Intervention Team member specialized in livelihoods with a focus on cash transfer programmes was deployed to support this operation.

Logistics and supply chain

The operation did not procure items internationally or transport equipment from other countries. All procurement and procedures were conducted at the national level in accordance with the procedures of the Paraguayan Red Cross and in compliance with IFRC standard policies and procedures.

Information technology (IT)

The Paraguayan Red Cross had computers and telecommunications equipment available for the operation, as well as tablets and the ODK and Mega V point persons to conduct the livelihoods, psychosocial support and health surveys.

Communications

The PRC communication department kept the population informed regarding the situation and field assessment actions. This department also had a special role in documenting humanitarian aid actions in support of the affected communities and recorded beneficiary testimonies, which increased accountability and transparency.

With the support of the IFRC communication unit in the Americas Regional Office, a web article with quotes from PRC volunteers involved in this DREF operation were published at on the institutional websites of the National Society and the IFRC. This article, including three photos, was also disseminated over PRC and IFRC social networks.

Additionally, the PRC communications team prepared articles on the cash transfer programme and beneficiary communication for the National Society website. Two testimonials on communication with beneficiaries and the satisfaction survey and other tools used were produced and uploaded.

Security

The Paraguayan Red Cross complies with its institutional document on National Society Policies and Procedures and field intervention. PRC security standards aim to reduce risks when performing institutional tasks in the field through the application of measures and practices that provide timely, quick, effective and safe response for the needs of the most vulnerable people.

The targeted area was adjacent to another area involved in social tensions that has had armed conflict. A person was appointed to be in charge of determining the human resources which would be part of any group engaging in the response action. All of these volunteers had to understand the action plans relating to the operation as well as have familiarity with the evacuation plans in case of emergency. They also need to be familiar with the geography, resources and capabilities in the area and maintain a list of contacts. The field teams should preferably be formed by just a few people, and should be expanded according to the situation and needs.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

This operation employed monitoring, evaluation and reporting mechanisms that consisted of an operations update 30 days after the start of operation; a beneficiary satisfaction survey; a market impact evaluation and this final narrative report.

The Regional Coordinator for Disaster Management- South America conducted missions to the affected areas and maintained regular communication in support of the PRC and the operation.

Administration and Finance

The PRC was responsible for managing the funds in the country in accordance with IFRC standard procedures for reporting on operational progress. Bank transfers were made based on the provisions in the letter of agreement signed between the National Society and the IFRC for this operation.

The IFRC, through the finance department, provided the necessary operational support for review and validation of budgets and bank transfers. The secretariat also provided technical assistance to the National Society on procedures for the justification of expenditures and review and validation of invoices to report on the progress of the operation.

DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Outcome1:	Outputs		% achieved
	Output 1.1	The initial assessment is updated after field visits and consultations with beneficiaries	100%
	Output 1.2	The Operation's management is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system	100%
	Output 1.3	Operation activities are disseminated at the local, national and regional level	100%
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Conduct a rapid assessment of the emergency together with the branch	X		100%
Perform a detailed census together with the branch	X		100%
Develop a multi-sectoral and implementation plan of action	X		100%
Develop a detailed assessment of affected communities	X		100%
Develop and disseminate a press release	X		100%
Develop and disseminate two beneficiary testimonies	X		100%
IFRC Monitoring	X		100%
Recruitment of National Society staff for the operation	X		100%

Description of activities

Conduct a rapid assessment of the emergency together with the branch: This was done at the beginning of the emergency as part of the creation of the plan of action to be presented to IFRC to apply for DREF funds. This document contained plans for psychosocial support, water and sanitation, and livelihoods actions, focusing especially on a cash transfer programme.

Perform a detailed census together with the branch: Local authorities provided data during the initial process, which was developed using ODK. This includes both personal data and information regarding affected acreage, family members, livelihood activities and damage from the storm.

Develop a multi-sectoral and implementation plan of action: Given the extent of the event and the information gathered from the first rapid assessment, it was necessary to develop an intervention strategy for Loreto and Horqueta districts, as a total of 30 communities were identified. This strategy prioritised the same lines of intervention for both districts, and presented proposals for support - detailed according to geographical location - to the Swiss Red Cross, the ICRC and the IFRC. These three action plans were approved, implemented, and monitored through an overall operational plan that reflected the combined field work in all areas, especially taking into account the PRC branches' operational capacity and focusing on guidance, management, tracking, and monitoring of the three interrelated emergency response plans.

Develop a detailed assessment of affected communities: The detailed assessment also included a census of potential beneficiaries, focusing on impact to livelihoods, hygiene promotion and psychosocial support. This data, coupled with the detailed assessment in each of the 21 communities, laid the groundwork for this operation.

Develop and disseminate a press release: The PRC communications department issued and published a digital press release midway through the operation. This was picked up by ABC Digital and the final press release was picked up by Ultima Hora.

Develop and disseminate two beneficiary testimonies: Various beneficiary testimonials explaining the cash transfer process and their experiences were developed and disseminated for the production of the video. The contract with the selected company included two beneficiary testimonials which can be viewed independently from the rest of the other processes. Two stories with photographs and testimonials, which were uploaded onto the Paraguayan Red Cross Facebook page and shared with the IFRC, were also published.

IFRC Monitoring: The Regional Coordinator for Disaster Management- South America conducted a mission from 16 to 21 July, monitoring operational and technical management in the field throughout the operation. Likewise, he provided constant support and advice from the very start of the operation.

Recruitment of National Society staff for the operation: A team was locally recruited. This consisted of an agricultural engineer, responsible for livelihoods and focusing on cash transfer and who provided technical advice to reactivate agricultural activities. A psychologist was hired to coordinate psychosocial support at the community level and supporting other operation areas. An agronomist specialising in livelihoods and with extensive experience in cash transfer programmes was hired as a consultant to undertake a market and feasibility study for the cash transfer programme. The latter was done at the outset of the operation and then this person later monitored livelihoods and the work of the local agronomist.

As mentioned above, the PRC health, risk reduction and disaster management, psychosocial support and administration departments assisted at the technical and operational management level. This crucial support and teamwork contributed to the achievement of the operation's objectives.

Health and Care

Needs analysis:

The Paraguayan Red Cross focused on the implementation of psychosocial support activities as the main component of its emergency response. While the Ministry of Health provides mental health attention, its family health unit (UFS) does not develop this component. Taking this challenge into account, as well as manifestations of psychological distress following the storm, the National Society identified that an

intervention along this line was a priority as the rainy season and the strong winds cause a significant impact on the everyday lives and activities of the affected population. An assessment was thus proposed that enabled the intervention to be based on the risk factors identified, and to provide psychosocial first aid to strengthen protection factors within the framework of a psychosocial support campaign aimed at the community and schools in the Loreto district.

Activating psychosocial support was necessary in view of the changes in behaviour observed during field assessments. The high level of psychological affectation was due the destruction of homes, belongings and farm animals. This situation led to anxiety and tension in the affected population. This line of intervention was intended to reverse the negative psychological effects this event caused to community, family and individuals and concurrently creating conditions useful for livelihood recovery.

The goal of this strategy was to expand psychosocial support to community spaces and daily activities of children, adolescents and others affected by the storm, and to monitor and provide continual support following the end of the operation. PRC volunteers, together with the national point person and field psychologist, coordinated actions in this line of intervention, and planned to follow up on the referred cases.

Population assisted: At least 1,200 affected families in the district of Loreto receive psychosocial first aid in order to reduce mental health risks in the affected population.

Outcome1: The families regained their emotional equilibrium, allowing them to perform regular activities	Outputs		% achieved
	Output 1.1 At least 1,200 families receive psychosocial care.		
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	Yes	
Psychosocial Support Campaign Planning	X		100%
Psychosocial campaign implementation (diagnosis and first aid)	X		100%

Description of activities

The Paraguayan Red Cross psychosocial team implements a two-pronged psychosocial support strategy: first, complementing the professional diagnosis while commencing the crisis intervention and second, consolidating crisis intervention by offering psychological first aid such as how to deal and cope with feelings during emergencies. Weekly psychosocial visits to communities were organized based on the experience gained from the psycho-pedagogical tent set up during a previous emergency.

Field work was set up in 12 meeting points for 21 communities to enable work with children and activities related to the psychosocial support tent (painting and crafts, corporal expression and play) and a parents' club. The women participating in the latter learned and discussed issues of gender violence, Law 1600, parenting guideline. Crafts were provided. The psychosocial tent had a direct impact on approximately 1,604 children, adolescents and adults during the second stage of the operation (diagnosis stage). Most attendees were women from communities in Huguá Po'i Trinidad, Huguá Po'i, Ykua pora, Huguá Po'i; and Cañada de la Paz (Perpetuo Socorro, Cañada La Paz, Ca'acupemi and Cañada Lourdes). Since 59 per cent were adults, approaches aimed at installing capacity to reduce emotional indicators detected in children and teens participating in the diagnosis previously mentioned were employed.

The PRC focused its psychosocial support in Loreto since the ICRC covered affected families Horqueta. The ICRC-supported activities in Horqueta reached 211 boys, 250 girls, 148 men, and 134 women.

Conversations with participating parents and consultations for children and adolescents on their behaviour and the surrounding environment supplemented the information gathered from the psychodynamic tests. Issues of social adaptation, emotional instability and mourning from the loss or destruction of physical infrastructure, livelihoods, and in some cases the loss of a family member were the most identified.

Recreational activities were organised to contain these emotions. The levels of anxiety led to a physical toll, causing headaches, tachycardia, muscle aches, shivers, sweating, and sleeplessness.

The people were convened to four meeting points: 1) Nueva Esperanza (communities of Nueva Esperanza, Naranjaty'I, and Brasil-Kue); 2) Espajin San Blas (communities of Espajin San Blas, San Roque, and Espajin Nuestra Señora de la Asunción); 3) Naranjaty Centro (communities of Naranjaty Lourdes, Cerrito, and Valle'i); and 4) Naranjaty San Blas (communities of Naranjaty San Blas and Purity).

Field work was conducted over a 10-week period and organised as follows:

- Weeks 1-5: activities in the psychosocial support plan, working in 12 groups with people from 21 communities
- Weeks 6-8: support to health area with local educational talks
- Week 7: support for livelihoods during voucher distributions by addressing complaints from beneficiaries and providing support and guidance to beneficiaries regarding psychological containment.
- Weeks 9-10: support to the communities of Cerrito and Ykua Hovy in Horqueta district, which benefitted from the reallocated carryover of funds.

Activities were attended by a total of 2,645 people: 1,761 women (66.58 per cent) and 884 men (33.42 per cent). As mentioned in the Operations Update, in the Loreto municipality, the PRC conducted 54 campaigns that reached approximately 2,645 participants from 12 meeting points (Hugua Poí, Virgen del Camino, Cañada la Paz, Virgen del Rosario, San Josemí, Virgen de Fatima, Santa Librada, Virgen del Carmen, San Marcos Torales, Santo Domingo, Loma Florida and Villa Don Bosco).

Psychosocial support activities were attended by 1,085 children and adolescents (608 females and 447 males). The psychosocial support team identified potential cases to be referred: two cases of sleep disorders, a case of depression and five cases of post-traumatic stress.

The parents' club was attended by 1,560 people (1,123 women and 437 men). One of the achievements in this area was the strengthening of interpersonal relationships between community members. The PRC recognizes the need to continue with the psychosocial support process initiated to further the support network and community strengthening.

Psychosocial support satisfaction survey

The PRC conducted the psychosocial support satisfaction survey with 301 people (25 per cent of the population targeted). Of those surveyed, 197 persons responded the need for "more lectures and training"; 125 responded the need for "more follow-up" while 114 expressed that "no improvement was needed". Eighty-eight people responded that "more information to children" was required.

Water, Sanitation and hygiene promotion

Needs analysis: At the time of the field assessment, water supply was affected due to damage to water pipes. The PRC assessment also identified the improper handling of water, especially storage. At the beginning of the emergency water had to be twice distributed via tanker trucks.

Population assisted: 1200 affected families in the Loreto district, for safe handling, transport, and consumption of water to reduce health risks among affected populations.

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion		
Outcome1 : Risks related to safe water and hygiene are reduced for the	Outputs	% achieved
		Output 1.1 At least 1,200 affected families have improved their practices and knowledge to reduce waterborne diseases

population affected by the floods.	Output 1.2 1,200 families improve their water storage conditions by using 20-litre water buckets.		100%
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	Yes	
Conduct a PHAST workshop for volunteers	X		100%
Community PHAST sessions conducted by volunteers	X		100%
Purchase and distribution of 20-litre water buckets	X		100%

Description of activities

Conduct a PHAST workshop for volunteers: A PHAST workshop was organized for 31 people (12 PRC branch in Concepción volunteers and 19 aspiring volunteers). The aspiring volunteers are students in health science and nursing fields in the Andrés Barbero Institute, National University of Concepción, Inter Regional School or Regional Education Centre in Concepción.

Community PHAST sessions conducted by volunteers: Community sessions were planned in two stages. The first focused on water, hygiene and sanitation that was conducted from 6 to 9 June and prioritized actions to eliminate diarrhoea and dehydration; promote hand washing and safe water use; and prepare household water chlorination. The second stage focused on health promotion, conducted from 13 to 16 July that addressed community first aid for fractures, burns, wounds and haemorrhages, family planning and transport for wounded people.

As reported in the Operations Update, the community PHAST sessions conducted by volunteers reached 1,004 people and the training sessions in community-based health and first aid (CBHFA) reached 568 people in 23 campaigns. These were held with members of 14 communities from the Loreto district.

Purchase and distribution of 20-litre water buckets: As fully detailed in the Operations Update, a total of 1,196 buckets (one per household) were delivered over a period of two weeks in July.

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Needs analysis: The Livelihoods intervention in Loreto district focused on reducing the negative impacts of the storm on small agricultural and livestock producers through the provision of cash transfer to enable affected farmers to optimise their current resources and focus their priorities on housing and food security.

Assessments in both districts identified three affected groups: farmers, ranchers, and day labourers. These three livelihood activities may exist within the same household and may be more marked depending on the time of year and the financial needs and demands for each group of livelihoods. By supporting producers, the PRC had a positive influence on all three livelihoods. Agriculture was affected by crop loss; livestock production by the death or the below-value sale of animals; and day labourers because they had to return to their places of origin to rebuild their homes or attempt production in other areas. The PRC livelihoods coordinator estimated that based on the seasonal and current weather conditions, a cash transfer of \$150 US dollars per household would contribute to the purchase of agricultural or livestock supplies or equipment. According to rapid assessments, local markets remained active. A consultant with expertise in the area conducted a cash transfer feasibility and beneficiary selection study. Beneficiaries were selected based on the aforementioned vulnerability and impact criteria.

Population assisted: Initially 1,200 households were assisted in reactivating their livelihoods in the district of Loreto through a cash transfer programme. Prior to the implementation of activities, community leaders and affected families and municipalities were included in the needs assessments and feasibility study for

the cash transfer in order to increase community empowerment. Mobilising a livelihoods regional intervention team specialising in cash transfer was necessary to support the implementation.

As mentioned above, this programme was extended to 115 beneficiary households in highly vulnerable communities in Horqueta (113) and Loreto (2). In total, the Paraguayan Red Cross reached 1,315 households with livelihoods support.

Livelihoods			
Outcome 1: Families have restored their livelihoods and their regular agricultural production, promoting food security.	Outputs		% achieved
		Output 1.1 1,200 families received funding via the cash transfer for the restoration of their livelihood	
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Conduct market research/identification and selection of suppliers for the programme	X		100%
Community meetings for the identification and selection of beneficiaries with ODK	X		100%
Training on the use of CTP to families	X		100%
Implementation of cash transfer programme for 1,200 families	X		109.58%
Evaluation of the use of Cash transfer programme by beneficiaries	X		100%
Production of a 5 to 6 minute video on the operation and the cash transfer programme	X		100%

Description of activities

Conduct market research/identification and selection of suppliers for the programme: The livelihoods coordinator conducted a market research study and identified potential suppliers for the programme, which included in the feasibility study for the cash transfer programme. This document contained criteria to select communities and families, vulnerability criteria socialised and validated with community leaders, a market analysis, and potential suppliers identified during the first meeting to present the project and start a tender process.

Loreto, which is 20 kilometres from the departmental capital, does not have any bank branches; however, market volumes are large due to its agriculture and large-scale livestock-based economy. The city has small, medium and large distributors of agricultural inputs and equipment, stores that sell essential non-food items and hardware stores. The market study identified some 12 medium to large shops that sell agricultural, veterinary and hardware products that are supplied by national distributors in the departmental capital and the capital, Asunción. Some seeds are produced in the area and collected by businesses engaging in that sector. The identified beneficiaries for the cash transfer conduct their purchases in Loreto and sometimes in Concepción and Horqueta.

Supplier selection: A meeting was held in Loreto to present the cash transfer programme methodology and to encourage participation from suppliers. A list of agricultural input, seed and equipment for suppliers was created, along with technical specifications. The procurement committee launched a call for bids to select suppliers and received proposals from five businesses in Concepción and Loreto. After assessing bids and documentation, the “5 Hermanos” (Five Brothers) Hardware store in Loreto was chosen as the supplier of agricultural inputs, small livestock, and items.

Community meetings for the identification and selection of beneficiaries with ODK: The ODK tool was used to gather livelihoods, health and psychosocial support data for the census in communities. A total of 24 community meetings were held; the census was carried out with active involvement from PRC volunteers from the Concepción branch.

Data collected for the census was the basis of beneficiary selection. Lists were prepared and submitted to and approved by community leaders and members. A total of 24 meetings (2 per community) were held, including the 12 meetings points established for meetings and workshops.

All the meetings were participatory in nature in which community leaders and members of beneficiary communities - according to beneficiary selection criteria - together created a list of beneficiaries affected by the storm; filtered the information by selection criteria; and presented and validated the final list of beneficiaries by community.

The final list consisted of 1,407 registered families, exceeding the project's limit of beneficiaries. Selection criteria were applied once more to be able to prioritise 1,200 families. A contingency list of prioritised families was also maintained. The vouchers were printed with the names of the 1,200 beneficiaries.

Training on the use of cash transfer programme to families: A community-based approach was used for cash transfer programme trainings through awareness-raising and information on the programme's mechanisms and scope. Communities were involved in determining and validating the criteria to be used to select the project's beneficiaries. Beneficiary lists were validated in community meetings and during the stage prior to the delivery of vouchers. A total of 48 community training meetings were held in Loreto and 4 in Horqueta as the following tables detail:

Communities	Families reached	Training sessions
Hugua Poi (Trinidad, Hugua Poi, Ykua Pora, Hugua Poi)	284	4
Virgen Del Camino (Virgen Del Camino, Laguna Mbohapy, Santo Tomas, Torales San Roque)	139	4
Cañada La Paz (Perpetuo Socorro, Cañada La Paz, Cañada Lurdes, Caacupemi)	271	4
Virgen De Fatima school	89	4
Virgen Del Rosario school	82	4
Sata Librada school (Santa Librada, Agaigo)	91	4
Virgen Del Carmen church	42	4
San Marcos Torales church	49	4
San Josemi school (San Josemi, San Minguel)	142	4
Tinglado Municipal (8 De Diciembre, Santo Domingo)	137	4
Don Bosco school	53	4
Loma Florida church	12	4
Total	1,391	48

As explained above, the reallocation of funds permitted the Paraguayan Red Cross to extend the cash transfer programme training to 115 more families. The two households in Villa Don Bosco had previously participated in livelihoods training sessions in their communities during the first phase to assist the targeted 1,200 families in the Loreto district. The following table details the number of families reached as part of this extension:

Municipality	Community	Families reached	Training sessions
Horqueta	Cerrito	53	3
Horqueta	Ikua Hovy	60	3
Loreto	Villa Don Bosco	2	0
Total		115	6

Implementation of cash transfer programme for 1,200 families: This was done through a community approach and the census resulting from 24 community meetings. The criteria to select both beneficiaries

and communities were prepared in meetings with community leaders in Loreto, where these were validated and approved.

The affected communities and their representatives with the National Society established beneficiary criteria, which focused on vulnerable communities in the Loreto district that had not received livelihood support. The criteria also included communities primarily engaged in production activities and who had been prioritised by the municipal government and SEN due to their high level of damage from the storm.

The family selection criteria for livelihoods support focused on small-scale producers (less than 20 heads of cattle and/or less than 20 hectares of land) who lived full-time in targeted communities and had lost crops and/or livestock for household consumption. The criteria included families who had loans for production and who had outstanding debts. Families who were participating in other livelihoods reactivation programmes or had wage earners and/or paid workers were not eligible for the PRC cash transfer programme.

The Paraguayan Red Cross established vulnerability criteria for households: female-headed or uniparental; having at least 4 members; having a pregnant woman, family member with a disability or chronic illness or someone over 60 years and/or under 5 years of age. Additionally, households using a common bathroom were also considered. Household to benefit from livelihood reactivation and strengthening were registered following the completion of the census to determine this criterion was met.

The PRC livelihoods coordinator conducted the feasibility study for the cash transfer programme, which included the market study, in Loreto.

As mentioned above, the PRC hired an agricultural engineer to create the work plan and production plan model. This engineer supported the agricultural reactivation plan and conducted trainings on agricultural and small animal production to offer techniques to improve production to the people who had received vouchers. Following the training, at least 10 per cent of the people reached with a voucher were visited to monitor the implementation of the production plan.

On 25 June, the livelihoods regional intervention team member and the PRC livelihoods point person taught a course on cash transfer programmes, ODK and the Mega V tool to 24 PRC volunteers (from the Concepción branch and others involved in this operation) with funds from the Swiss Red Cross.

The list of agricultural inputs, small livestock, and hardware items was prepared and validated with the 21 beneficiary communities. It included 115 items requested by the communities. A meeting was held with potential suppliers in Loreto, inviting ten businesses to submit bids and five did. Only two were able to fill the entire requested order. The PRC procurement committee chose a local company, which is based in Loreto, since it had the infrastructure and logistics required (trucks, vans and tractor) to provide and ensure transport to the area even in extreme weather.

Agricultural inputs, small livestock, and hardware items were delivered to 21 beneficiary communities in the Loreto municipality and 2 beneficiary communities in Horqueta municipality. The following two tables detail the 1,315 total households that this operation reached with vouchers in the Loreto and Horqueta municipalities:

Households in Loreto municipality reached with vouchers

Community	Households reached with vouchers
Trinidad	37
Hugua poi	86
Ykua pora	86
Virgen del Camino	51
Laguna Mbohapy	33
Santo Tomas	10
Torales San Roque	66

Cañada la Paz / Perpetuo Socorro	146
Cañada Lurdes	93
Caacupemi	32
Virgen de Fatima	60
Virgen del Rosario	86
Santa Librada	102
Agaigo	11
Virgen del Carmen	45
San Marcos Torales	42
San Josemi	96
San Miguel	28
Santo Domingo	41
Don Bosco	37
Loma Florida	12
Total	1,200

**Extension of voucher programme
Households in Horqueto and Loreto municipalities reached with vouchers**

Municipality	Community	Households reached with vouchers
Horqueta	Cerrito	53
Horqueta	Ykua Hovy	60
Loreto	Villa Don Bosco	2
Total		115

Evaluation of the use of Cash transfer programme by beneficiaries: This was conducted in communities which received agricultural inputs, small livestock, and hardware items. The PRC surpassed its plan to conduct evaluations with 10 per cent of the households reached, by conducting surveys with 182 households (nearly 14 per cent).

Regarding the training process conducted during the implementation of the livelihoods actions, two trainings were prioritised with support from the national livelihoods point person coordination and the local engineer: one was focused on agricultural production and the other on small livestock production.

Agricultural production training: A market study was conducted to identify agricultural products according to production schedules. Technical training was provided to 1,500 people (74% women and 26% men) on soil preparation, planting, crop care and using agricultural defences, and harvest and postharvest. The following table details the families reached and training sessions by community:

Community	Families reached	Training sessions
San Josemi, San Miguel	135	2
San Marcos, Torales	33	1
Virgen Del Carmen	37	2
San Josemi, San Miguel	96	2
Trinidad, Hagua Poi, Ykua Pora	161	1
Cañada La Paz, Cañada Lurdes, Caacupemi	169	2
Loma Florida church	13	2
Virgen Del Rosario	36	1
Virgen De Fatima	49	1
Santa Librada school (Santa Librada, Agaigo)	73	2
Virgen Del Camino, Laguna Mbohapy, Santo Tomas, Torales, San Roque	95	1

San Marcos	33	1
Virgen Del Carmen	40	1
Total	970	19

With the extension of beneficiary households, further training sessions were organized in the Horqueta district. The beneficiaries in Villa Don Bosco (Loreto district) had previously participated in trainings conducted in their communities during the normal process to assist the 1,200 families initially targeted. The following table describes the second set of training sessions:

Municipality	Community	Families Reached	Training Sessions
Horqueta	Cerrito	52	1
Horqueta	Ykua Hovy	65	1
Loreto	Villa Don Bosco	2	0
Total		119	2

Training in small livestock production: The PRC organized technical training session on small livestock production. The agricultural engineer covered topics of breed selection, management, construction of pig pens and henhouses, location selection and materials as well as providing guidance and support on marketing this livestock production.

A total of 1,748 people of which 1,258 were women (71.97 per cent) and 490 men (28.03 per cent) participated in these training sessions. The following table details the number of people reached in these training sessions on small livestock production:

Community	Households reached	Training sessions
San Josemi, San Miguel	135	2
San Marcos, Torales	33	2
Virgen Del Carmen	37	1
San Josemi, San Miguel	96	2
Trinidad, Huguá Poi, Ykua Pora	161	1
Cañada La Paz, Cañada Lurdes, Caacupemi	169	1
Loma Florida church	13	2
Virgen Del Rosario	36	1
Virgen De Fatima	49	2
Santa Librada school (Santa Librada, Agaigo)	73	2
Virgen Del Camino, Laguna Mbohapy, Santo Tomas, Torales San Roque		2
San Marcos	33	1
Virgen Del Carmen	40	1
Total	875	20

As previously explained, the reallocation of funds increased the number of beneficiaries and two families in Villa Don Bosco who had benefited by this expansion had already participated in trainings conducted in their communities during the initial process to assist 1,200 families. The following table details these additional households reached:

Municipality	Community	Households reached	Training sessions
Horqueta	Cerrito	51	1
Horqueta	Ykua Hovy	60	1
Loreto	Villa Don Bosco	2	0
Total		113	2

Verification visits for cash transfer programme implementation: Verification visits were made to a 131 people, composed of 109 women (83.21 per cent) and 21 men (16.03 per cent), who represented the households benefitting from the cash transfer programme. This number was chosen in aim to reach 10 per cent (originally 120 people) of the total number of beneficiary households.

Livelihoods satisfaction survey: Livelihoods satisfaction surveys were conducted with a sample of 259 families, corresponding to 10 per cent of the population, by community, benefitted by the project. The number one choice for investment was agricultural inputs; the second was balanced; and third was small livestock.

The satisfaction survey received 100 per cent agreement with regards to the selection criteria of beneficiary families; usefulness of voucher; understanding of its use; well-served by the volunteers from the PRC Concepción branch; and good level of assistance from the PRC.

The livelihoods satisfaction survey indicated that of the 259 respondents, 56 per cent prioritized the purchase of agricultural supplies, 25 per cent of animal feed and 11 per cent purchased pigs and 8 per cent of fowl.

Produce a 5-6-minute video on the operation and the Cash Transfer Programme: The short video on the operation and the cash transfer programme was completed. This video was disseminated over the Paraguayan Red Cross institutional accounts on social networks (YouTube and Facebook). It was also made available on the IFRC web page as a feature story.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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How we work

All IFRC 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 IFRC'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.

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Saving lives, changing minds.



The IFRC'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.

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRPY017 - Paraguay - Concepcion Storm

Timeframe: 27 Apr 15 to 28 Aug 15

Appeal Launch Date: 27 Apr 15

Final Report

Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/4-2016/2	Programme	MDRPY017
Budget Timeframe	2015/4-2015/8	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Funding

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
A. Budget		263,228				263,228	
B. Opening Balance							
Income							
<u>Other Income</u>							
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		263,228				263,228	
C4. Other Income		263,228				263,228	
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)		263,228				263,228	
D. Total Funding = B + C		263,228				263,228	

* Funding source data based on information provided by the donor

II. Movement of Funds

	Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability	TOTAL	Deferred Income
B. Opening Balance							
C. Income		263,228				263,228	
E. Expenditure		-263,228				-263,228	
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		0				0	

Disaster Response Financial Report

MDRPY017 - Paraguay - Concepcion Storm

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Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/4-2016/2	Programme	MDRPY017
Budget Timeframe	2015/4-2015/8	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

III. Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Raise humanitarian standards	Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people	Strengthen RC/RC contribution to development	Heighten influence and support for RC/RC work	Joint working and accountability		
	A					B	A - B	
BUDGET (C)			263,228			263,228		
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Teaching Materials	8,584		7,090			7,090	1,494	
Utensils & Tools	6,867		6,445			6,445	423	
Cash Disbursement	171,684		181,067			181,067	-9,383	
Total Relief items, Construction, Sup	187,136		194,602			194,602	-7,466	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Transport & Vehicles Costs	16,024		10,471			10,471	5,553	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	16,024		10,471			10,471	5,553	
Personnel								
International Staff	4,769		3,146			3,146	1,623	
National Society Staff	12,733		15,701			15,701	-2,968	
Volunteers	9,189		2,607			2,607	6,582	
Other Staff Benefits	1,288		1,278			1,278	9	
Total Personnel	27,979		22,732			22,732	5,247	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants			3,581			3,581	-3,581	
Professional Fees	1,431		1,483			1,483	-53	
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	1,431		5,064			5,064	-3,633	
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	954		249			249	705	
Total Workshops & Training	954		249			249	705	
General Expenditure								
Travel	6,677		4,583			4,583	2,093	
Information & Public Relations	3,481		4,384			4,384	-903	
Office Costs	1,001		1,147			1,147	-146	
Communications	2,003		957			957	1,046	
Financial Charges	477		2,957			2,957	-2,480	
Other General Expenses			17			17	-17	
Total General Expenditure	13,639		14,045			14,045	-406	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recover	16,066		16,066			16,066	0	
Total Indirect Costs	16,066		16,066			16,066	0	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	263,228		263,228			263,228	0	
VARIANCE (C - D)			0			0		

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Selected Parameters

Reporting Timeframe	2015/4-2016/2	Programme	MDRPY017
Budget Timeframe	2015/4-2015/8	Budget	APPROVED
Split by funding source	Y	Project	*
Subsector:	*		

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

IV. Breakdown by subsector

Business Line / Sub-sector	Budget	Opening Balance	Income	Funding	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Deferred Income
BL2 - Grow RC/RC services for vulnerable people							
Disaster response	263,228		263,228	263,228	263,228	0	
Subtotal BL2	263,228		263,228	263,228	263,228	0	
GRAND TOTAL	263,228		263,228	263,228	263,228	0	