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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Bolivia: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRBO007
GLIDE n° [FL-2012-000005-BOL](#)
01 March 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

116,138 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) in delivering immediate assistance to 1,000 families (some 5,000 persons). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.



Heavy rains and widespread flooding have affected 107 municipalities in 9 departments in Bolivia. Source: BRC.

Summary: Severe precipitations above average rates have affected Bolivia since the second week of January 2012 due to the presence of La Niña weather phenomenon for a second consecutive year. Thus far, more than 12,000 families have been affected in 107 municipalities and 9 deaths have been confirmed.

Governmental authorities have provided immediate response to the affected populations with distribution of food parcels and other essential relief items. However, authorities have informed that their resources

will be exhausted by mid March; as a result, the BRC will select 1,000 families from the departments of Pando, Cochabamba and La Paz for the distribution of food parcels and hygiene kits to allow for a second month of rations. Simultaneously, the National Society will participate in an inter-institutional effort to complete more detailed damage and needs assessments in affected areas with the support of a disaster management delegate from the IFRC's Americas zone office and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member currently working with the zone.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by the end of May 2012; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by the end of August 2012).

[<Click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details;](#)
[or here to view the map of the affected area>](#)

The situation

Due to the presence of La Niña weather phenomenon for a second consecutive year, severe precipitations have been recorded in Bolivia since the second week of the year. As a result, widespread flooding and other weather related situations such as hailstorms and landslides have affected 107 municipalities in 9 departments. Many of the emergency situations have occurred in areas not often affected in a severe manner, as is the case of the Cobija, the capital city of the Pando department. Figures from the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defence (Viceministerio de Defensa Civil, VIDECI) from 23 February indicate that more than 12,000 families have been affected and 9 deaths were confirmed since the start of the situation in January:

Department	No. affected municipalities	No. affected families	No. affected houses	No. deaths
Chuquisaca	19	1,950	-	1
Cochabamba	16	1,881	252	-
Potosí	20	1,842	6	-
La Paz	22	1,740	28	5
Oruro	9	1,578	-	-
Pando	4	1,448	581	-
Tarija	7	1,354	27	-
Santa Cruz	6	311	34	3
Beni	4	174	9	-
TOTAL	107	12,278	937	9

Note: Data as of 23 February 2012.

At present, the departments with the worst affection are Pando and Cochabamba. Some of the more recent developments per department are as follows:

Department of Pando: the overflowing of the Acre River, which marks the border between Bolivia and Brazil, has left large sections of the city of Cobija under water. Nine neighbourhoods have been affected, 745 families are taking shelter in 16 collective centres and many more are now residing with host families. As many educational institutions are either damaged or being used as collective centres, classes have been suspended indefinitely. The Mapajo Health Centre, one of the six in the city, has been affected by the flooding. In addition, the community of Bolpebra (some 50 families) has been relocated completely while the communities of Filadelfia and El Porvenir were also affected, however, their needs are still unclear. Overall, further damage and needs assessments are needed as the current situation in the rural areas is still unknown; however, access routes are disrupted due to flooding, landslides and damaged bridges.

Department of La Paz: preliminary assessments were completed by the Early Warning and Risk Management Unit (Unidad de Alerta Temprana y Gestión de Riesgo, UATGR) of La Paz Governor's Office. Assessments results indicate that the main negative impacts of the flooding in this department have been the loss of some 870 hectares of food crops and damage of infrastructures.



Men use a raft to navigate the flooded streets in Cobija, northern Bolivia, after severe precipitations caused by La Niña weather phenomenon. Source: AP

Department of Beni: the overflowing of the Beni River has affected the community of Rurrenabaque and the rural and urban areas of Riberalta. One of the main concerns is the risk of the intensification of the dengue outbreak which is currently affecting 8 municipalities, with 105 confirmed cases and 4 deaths.

Department of Cochabamba: the overflowing of the rivers Rocha-Tacata, Chocapilla, Tapacarí and Ichuloma has affected 65 communities, of which 50 are completely isolated. The most affected areas are Quillacollo, Cercado, Sipe Sipe and Sacaba.

Department of Chuquisaca: the major losses in this department are in the agricultural sector due to hailstorms in January followed by flooding in February.

Preliminary results of agricultural assessments conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development and Land (Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural y Tierras) indicate that the livelihoods of at least 10,420 families from 63 municipalities have been affected as shown in the table below:

Department	Affected families	Affected hectares	Affected municipalities	Affected crops	Husbandry
Pando	64	86	3	Corn, rice, cassava, plantain, vegetables, cocoa	Cattle: 192 Pigs: 100 Fowls
Chuquisaca	4,710	3,694	17	Potatoes, wheat, broad beans, vegetables, peanuts, corn, fruit trees	Assessments are ongoing.
Potosí	2,150	759	10	Corn, broad beans, potatoes, animal fodder, vegetables and fruits	
La Paz	1,727	1,110	16	Quinoa, potatoes, forage, broad beans, vegetables, corn	
Oruro	1,152	2,152	7	Animal fodder, quinoa and potatoes	
Cochabamba	366	800	5	Potatoes, corn, alfalfa and apricots	
Tarija	237	140	4	Grapes, tomatoes, potatoes, onions, corn, and other vegetables	
Santa Cruz	14	30	1	--	
Total	10,420	8,771	63		

Given the extent of the disaster, on 22 February the Bolivian government declared a State of National Emergency for the departments of Cochabamba, Pando, Oruro and La Paz. The National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (Servicio Nacional de Hidrometeorología e Hidrología, SENAMHI) forecasts that the La Niña phenomenon will continue until the first weeks of April. Based on the national contingency plan's estimations the number of affected families could reach 31,814 families by mid April.

Coordination and partnerships

The BRC is coordinating both at the national and regional levels by participating in the national Emergency Operation Centre (EOC). The Red Cross branches are also participating at the local EOCs in the affected departments. Furthermore, the National Society is in direct contact with the United Nations system through the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Emergency Team (UNETE). Sectoral coordination meetings amongst UN agencies, the Civil Defence, the Bolivian Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations are taking place at the national and departmental levels as well.

Given the extent of the disaster and the difficulties to reach some affected areas, on 22 February government officials and all humanitarian agencies agreed to complete inter-institutional assessments to cover the current gaps in information. A disaster management delegate from the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member travelled on 28 February to support the National Society in these assessment efforts and to evaluate the need to further expand their plan of action.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Bolivian Red Cross is focusing on 6 of the 9 departments in the country (Pando, La Paz, Beni, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Oruro and Potosi). The National Society has mobilized additionally the national relief director and the national health coordinator to the two most affected departments (Pando and Cochabamba, respectively) to collaborate in the damage and needs assessments.

At present, there are approximately 30 volunteers actively working in Pando and an additional 15 in Cochabamba. In addition, to coordination activities and damage and needs assessments, volunteers are also providing pre-hospital care and assisting with evacuations. Volunteers are also active in other departments, but mostly in monitoring and evaluation activities. Furthermore, the National Society has experienced National Intervention Team members with sectoral expertise in disaster response, water and sanitation and health who are participating in the evaluations in the majority of the affected departments.

The needs

Selection of people to be reached:

VIDECI and authorities at the regional level have secured humanitarian aid for the first 20 days. However, further assistance will be needed once the food provided by the government is exhausted. With the support of some 50 volunteers, the BRC will select 1,000 affected families from the departments of Pando, Cochabamba and La Paz to distribute food parcels and hygiene kits to cover a second month of rations. Once further assessments are completed and more specific needs are determined, the National Society will evaluate the possibility of modifying its plan of action to cover new identified gaps through its humanitarian intervention.

The proposed operation

Damage and need assessments
Outcome: The needs and gaps in humanitarian assistance in affected areas are identified through more detailed assessments.
Output: Bolivian Red Cross NIT members will perform damage and need assessments in the affected departments.
Activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate with VIDEI, UNETE and OCHA • Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.

- Deploy a Regional Intervention Team member
- Develop a plan of action, if required.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: Affected families will benefit from the provision of essential food and non-food items to recover from the effects of the emergency.

Output: 1,000 families (5,000 persons) will receive food parcels and hygiene kits

Activities:

- Identify and select families in affected areas.
- Procure locally food parcels and hygiene kits.
- Develop a beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

The content of the food parcel to be distributed is as follows:

Item	Quantity
Rice (5kg)	3 packages
Sugar (5kg)	2 packages
Noodles (5kg)	2 packages
Flour (5kg)	1 package
Salt (1kg)	2 packages
Coffee (1kg)	1 package
Oil (1 litre)	2 bottles

The content of the hygiene kit is:

Item	Quantity
Toothpaste	3 tubes
Toothbrush	5 brushes
Body soap	3 bars
Towels (medium size)	2
Laundry soap	3 packages
Feminine pads	3 packages
Toilet paper	10 rolls

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation, please contact:

- **In Bolivia:** Dr. Abel Peña y Lillo, president of the Bolivian Red Cross; email secretaria@cruzrojaboliviana.org; phone (5912) 220 2934/ 212 9225; fax (5912) 235 9102
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 3. Click [here](#) to view map of the affected areas
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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 (NGOs) 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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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.
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DREF OPERATION

1-Mar-12

MDRBO007 Bolivia floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	49,940
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	20,210
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	70,150
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	10,000
Distribution & Monitoring	7,000
Transport & Vehicle Costs	3,000
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	20,000
International Staff	3,000
National Staff	
National Society Staff	6,100
Volunteers	4,050
Total PERSONNEL	13,150
Consultants	
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	2,000
Information & Public Relations	500
Office Costs	800
Communications	750
Financial Charges	1,700
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	5,750
Programme and Services Support Recovery	7,088
Total INDIRECT COSTS	7,088
TOTAL BUDGET	116,138

