

DREF operation n° MDRPY010
GLIDE n° [ST-2011-000116-PRY](#)
29 March 2012

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

Summary: 185,603 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 25 August 2011 to support the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) in delivering assistance to some 887 families (4,435 persons).

On 8 August 2011, a hailstorm followed by strong rainfall and winds affected the municipalities of Mayor Otaño and Carlos Antonia López in the Itapúa department of Paraguay. The damage to roofs and agriculture production affected 1,714 families. In response to the emergency situation, the National Society coordinated with the local authorities to complete damage and needs assessments and developed a plan of action.

With the support of the DREF, the PRC was able to surpass its original target and reached 1,218 families with food parcels for immediate needs and seed kits for immediate use and planting that enabled families to meet their immediate needs to avoid further deterioration of food insecurity. In addition, 887 of the families reached also received hygiene kits. Technical support on agriculture has also been provided through training workshops, which have benefitted 1,099 participants.



The Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) delivered seeds and food to families in the district of Mayor Otaño who have lost their household gardens and cash-crops. Source: PRC

The European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO) and the Netherlands Red Cross and the Netherlands government have replenished the DREF for the allocation made to this 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, the European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (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. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

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

The situation

On 8 August 2011, a hailstorm struck the Itapúa department affecting the Mayor Otaño and Carlos Antonio Lopez municipalities, located 180 kilometres north of the department's capital, Encarnación. The hailstorm, which produced hail as large as 8 centimetres, lasted for approximately 30 minutes and caused serious damages to the fibre cement roofing used in the area. The situation was then exacerbated when the hailstorm was followed by strong rainfall. Ten days later, on 18 August, a second hailstorm struck Paraguay. The police did not report any deaths related to the emergency.

Damage and needs assessments conducted by the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) and the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) of Itapúa identified 1,714 affected families that suffered damage to their roofs, commercial crops (oranges, mandarins and yerba mate plantations) or vegetable gardens, which families relied upon for staple food source. Mayor Otaño was the most affected of the two municipalities with 1,132 families in the urban area affected, 450 families in the rural areas, and a further 132 families affected in Carlos Antonio López. The assessment also identified that 84,236 roof sheets were damaged during the storm.

The main needs identified were repairing roofs, distribution of food and non-food items and restoration of crops to ensure food security. The government authorities have responded to the shelter needs.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The operation originally planned to assist 887 families in seven communities with food parcels, hygiene kits, seed kits and technical assistance for crop planting. However, the PRC was able to expand the support to 1,218 families in 13 communities, in terms of food parcels and seeds for vegetable gardens. The number of families reached through the distribution of hygiene was as initially planned, 887 families.

All activities were coordinated with both municipalities (Mayor Otaño and Carlos Antonio López) and formal working agreements were signed. In this way, the PRC was able to expand the assessments completed by the municipal authorities, access their logistical support and complete monitoring visits with municipal focal points. In addition, the National Society also signed cooperation agreements with the 13 communities assisted to ensure their active and equitable participation.

Achievements against outcomes

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: 887 of the most vulnerable families are assisted with humanitarian aid in order to compensate for the loss of their livelihoods.

Output 1: 887 affected families have access to relief assistance.

Output 2: 887 affected families reactivate their subsistence crops damaged by the hailstorm.

Activities planned:

- Distribution of 887 food parcels and hygiene kits to sustain a family's needs for one month.
- Procurement and distribution of 887 seed kits to support the recovery of family subsistence crops.
- Hiring of an agronomist to provide technical advice to targeted families.
- Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of relief activities.

Impact: The outcome of this operation was met and surpassed, with 1,218 families (5,873 persons) from 13 communities assisted with humanitarian aid, 137 per cent of the original target.

#	Community	District	Food parcels and seeds		Hygiene kits	
			Families	Persons	Families	Persons
1	San Isidro		72	356	72	356
2	Virgen del Carmen		23	132	23	122
3	San Pedro		37	185	37	185

	San Pedro - San Lorenzo		20	108	20	108
4	María Auxiliadora	Carlos Antonio López	20	102	20	104
5	San Juan		30	159	0	0
6	El Progreso		30	138	0	0
7	San Valentín		40	183	0	0
8	Defensores del Chaco		179	798	125	586
	Defensores del Chaco - Repatriación del Este		100	531	89	439
	Defensores del Chaco - Santo Domingo		82	361	78	351
9	8 de Diciembre	Mayor Otaño	160	778	94	462
10	Universitario		185	840	121	541
	Republicano		88	447	78	406
11	Tercera Línea Puerto		23	105	17	71
12	Santa Librada		42	204	32	166
13	Primera Línea Niño Jesús		87	446	81	411
TOTAL			1,218	5,873	887	4,308

Following Sphere standards, food parcels were designed in line with local preferences as complement to the support offered by governmental authorities and the resources available to the affected families. Most food parcels, designed for a family of five for one month¹, and seed kits were distributed from 14 to 17 October 2011. However, a second batch of 90 food parcels was distributed on November as resources were available and it became evident that some families had not yet received support and were still in need of assistance while their subsistence crops recovered.

There was a 20-days delay in the distribution of hygiene kits due to difficulties with the Paraguayan customs as the soap included in the kits coming from Chile was not part of the list of items stated as “permanent donation”. A group of 15 volunteers, with the support of municipal authorities, distributed these kits to 887 families once all the required paperwork was completed. This experience with customs leaves behind a lesson to further analyse the convenience of carrying out local purchases when the markets are functioning. On the other hand, it also underlined the need for the National Society to further work with the authorities on the laws and requirements for the introduction of relief items during emergencies.

Finally, it must be noted that the close partnership established with community leaders after the signing of agreements permitted an open communication and understanding of the reasons behind less families receiving hygiene kits than food parcels and seeds kits.

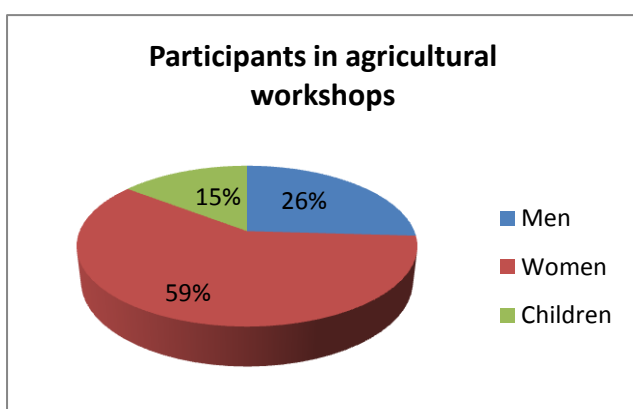
In addition to the distribution of seeds to affected families, the plan of action of the PRC included the provision of technical assistance with the support of an agronomist. The agronomist not only assisted with the distribution of seeds, but also developed educational materials and organized workshops for community members. Both the educational materials and the workshops revolved around the topics of the appropriate ways to plant and care for each of the seeds provided in the kit, techniques for a more productive yield and successful harvest.

Agricultural workshops		
District	Community	N° participants
Carlos Antonio	San Isidro	151
	Virgen del Carmen	24
	María Auxiliadora	43
	San Pedro	50

¹ Contents of food parcels, hygiene kits and seeds kits are described on the [DREF bulletin](#)

López	San Pedro - San Lorenzo	23	
	San Valentín	17	
	San Juan	4	
	Progreso	14	
Mayor Otaño	Santa Librada	18	
	Primera Línea Niño Jesús	38	
	Primera Línea y Segunda	55	
	Defensores del Chaco	113	
	Defensores del Chaco - Repatriación del Este	70	
	Defensores del Chaco - Santo Domingo	56	
	Universitario	209	
	Universitario - Republicano	132	
	8 de Diciembre	70	
	Tercera Línea	12	
	TOTAL		1,099

The workshops were divided in two sessions, the first one covering information on the characteristics of vegetable gardens and techniques for the planting and care of each type of seed. The second workshop focused on post-harvest techniques. However, the communities of San Juan, San Valentín and Progreso, which integrated into the plan of action on a later date, received both workshops on a single day. Thus, 99 per cent of the seeds were planted between September and October 2011 (with the exception of the aforementioned three communities) and, based on recent monitoring visits, the seeds have germinated well. Some families have already harvested cucumbers and squashes. However, one batch of lettuce seeds and one of corn seeds either had a low germination rate (40 per cent) or did not germinate at all. Beneficiaries have commented that the training has been very professional and creative and the agronomist has shown commitment to the education of the affected families.



Overall, the persons reached through this DREF-supported operation were from low-income families, and many were illiterate. On average, women are housewives or labour as domestic workers, and a very small number are teachers or work with the government. In the case of men, the majority are cash-crops farmers with few working in the service industry. Both, women and men, work on subsistence gardens, but it is more often carried out by women. During the survey of beneficiaries, it became evident that cash-crops account for only 30 per cent of their production. Therefore, it is a positive sign that the majority of participants, as shown in the

graph, of the agricultural workshops were women. Moreover, a survey of target families also showed the appropriate timing of the National Society's intervention, as the months of October and November are one of the three periods of the year were families incur in great expenses to prepare the next planting cycle.

Finally, after witnessing the interest from participants and the positive feedback of the technical support provided by the agronomist, the municipal authorities of Mayor Otaño are interested in collaborating to continue the programme as the PRC closed its operation. Currently a plan of action is being designed to control a common pest in the region (*Atta capiguara*, a species of leaf-cutter ant) which will include an educational campaign with the affected families.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In the Paraguayan Red Cross:** Luis Díaz de Bedoya, president of the Paraguayan Red Cross, phone: 59521-222-797; email: crppcia@uninet.com.py

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**For Performance and Accountability
(planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)**

- **In the IFRC Americas zone:** Jane Grimshaw, PMER manager; phone: +507.317.3050; email: jane.grimshaw@ifrc.org

DREF history:

- This DREF was initially allocated on 25 August 2011 for 185,603 Swiss francs for 3 months to assist 4,335 beneficiaries.



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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](#) 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.

MDRPY010 - Paraguay - Storm

Appeal Launch Date: 25 aug 11

Appeal Timeframe: 25 aug 11 to 25 nov 11

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2011/8-2012/2
Budget Timeframe	2011/8-2012/2
Appeal	MDRPY010
Budget	APPROVED

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Funding

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	185,603					185,603
B. Opening Balance	0					0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>	<i>185,603</i>					<i>185,603</i>
C4. Other Income	185,603					185,603
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C4)	185,603					185,603
D. Total Funding = B + C	185,603					185,603
Appeal Coverage	100%					100%

II. Movement of Funds

	Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	185,603					185,603
E. Expenditure	-185,548					-185,548
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	55					55

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III. Consolidated Expenditure vs. Budget

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Disaster Management	Health and Social Services	National Society Development	Principles and Values	Coordination		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)	185,603						185,603	
Relief items, Construction, Supplies								
Food	67,838	91,021				91,021	-23,183	
Seeds & Plants	53,705	30,386				30,386	23,319	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	21,199	19,605				19,605	1,594	
Total Relief items, Construction, Su	142,742	141,012				141,012	1,730	
Logistics, Transport & Storage								
Storage		1,909				1,909	-1,909	
Distribution & Monitoring	4,780	9,735				9,735	-4,955	
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,992	3,303				3,303	-1,312	
Logistics Services		1,906				1,906	-1,906	
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	6,772	16,853				16,853	-10,082	
Personnel								
National Society Staff	3,585	4,304				4,304	-719	
Volunteers	7,170	2,227				2,227	4,943	
Total Personnel	10,755	6,531				6,531	4,224	
Consultants & Professional Fees								
Consultants	3,346	4,684				4,684	-1,338	
Professional Fees	2,096	1,867				1,867	229	
Total Consultants & Professional Fe	5,442	6,552				6,552	-1,109	
General Expenditure								
Travel	3,824						3,824	
Information & Public Relations	1,593	553				553	1,041	
Office Costs	797	1,944				1,944	-1,147	
Communications	876	1,221				1,221	-345	
Financial Charges	155	-442				-442	598	
Other General Expenses	1,319						1,319	
Total General Expenditure	8,565	3,275				3,275	5,289	
Indirect Costs								
Programme & Services Support Recov	11,328	11,325				11,325	3	
Total Indirect Costs	11,328	11,325				11,325	3	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	185,603	185,548				185,548	56	
VARIANCE (C - D)		56				56		