

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Paraguay: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRPY012
GLIDE n° [FL-2012-000056-PRY](#)
18 April 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.

299,775 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) in delivering immediate assistance to 1,525 families. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary:

The Paraguayan government has declared a State of Emergency in three departments of the Chaco (the westernmost region of Paraguay), to properly respond to the damage caused by the floods and landslides caused by the streak of heavy rains that keep affecting the country since mid-March. These three departments that show the highest impact by the rains are Presidente Hayes, Boqueron and Alto Paraguay, where an estimated 9,348 families have been affected.

Based on information from the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN) the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) plans to deliver assistance to some 1,525 families in the Boqueron department with a focus on indigenous populations and small-scale farmers.



Community structures underwater in the Chaco region of Paraguay. Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

The PRC has worked closely with the Paraguayan government since the start of the emergency, actively participating in the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) along with key humanitarian actors. As the government continues coordinating the response, the PRC will assist the affected families with complementary food parcels, hygiene kits and mosquito nets to prevent mosquito-transmitted diseases, as well as raising dengue awareness and building community-based first aid skills.

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

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

The situation

Since mid-March 2012, Paraguay has experienced severe precipitations that have especially affected its western region, commonly known as the Paraguayan Chaco. The Chaco region, that is not usually hit by this level of rains, has suffered several devastating floods that affected communities located at the banks of the Pilcomayo River.

The situation of these communities, traditionally inhabited by the indigenous population of Paraguay, is severe. Some communities are completely flooded, while other isolated communities have been cut-off from the rest of the country because the destruction caused by the floods has partially or completely destroyed the few roads or bridges that existed. Some zones, such as Pedro P. Peña, Pozo Hondo (in Boqueron) and nearby communities are currently only accessible through aerial or river transportation.

According to the SEN, government authorities estimated that some 9,348 families have been affected in three different departments. Although assessments are still on-going, there are significant challenges in reaching some of the communities that are isolated by the flooding (especially in the departments of Boqueron and Presidente Hayes), thus some numbers are still based on estimates.

The details of community affectation currently available, according to each department can be found in the table below:

Department	District	Community	Number of Families	Total
Alto Paraguay		Puerto Sastre	150	1,143
		Puerto Casado	750	
		Toro Pampa	135	
		Obraje San Carlos	60	
		María Auxiliadora	48	
Boqueron	Mcal. Estigarribia	La Dorada	30	2,730
		Yishinachat	202	
		Pozo Hondo	70	
		Santa Marta	20	
		San José Esteros	130	
		Misión Escalante	316	
		Pablo Stahl	25	
		Pedro P. Peña	70	
		Margariño	40	
		San Agustín	66	
		El Solitario	31	
		Mistolar	48	
		Virgen de Fátima	27	
		Juzcal/Agropiel	37	
	Campo Ampu	25		
	Quenjacloi	20		
	Loma Plata		Villa Urundeý	17
			Villa San Miguel	64
			Abundancia	156
			Yalve Sanga - 26 villages	1,300
Jope			130	
Concepción		Vallemí	800	4,675
		Cruce los Pioneros	100	
		Paz del Chaco	210	

Presidente Hayes	Teniente Irala Fernandez	Anaconda	122	
		La Esperanza Sanapaná	147	
		Pozo Amarillo	530	
		KarandayPukú	47	
		KarandayKarapé	11	
		Campo Largo	172	
		Gral. Díaz	62	
		Novoctas Central	44	
		Novoctas Marcelo Cué	52	
		Cacique Sapo	55	
		Cacique Sapo Nueva Vida	12	
		Tte. Irala Fernández	100	
		El Estribo - 10 villages	498	
		Armonía	198	
		Nueva Promesa	220	
		Terrenal	75	
		Pinasco	San Carlos - 3 villages	188
			Puerto Pinasco	280
			Col. Padre Saldivar	40
	Col. Domingo Savio		35	
	TupasýRendá		82	
	Colonia Ceibo		155	
	Com. Ind. Gente Rorý		25	
	La Patria – 18 Aldéas		748	
	BenjaminAceval		La esperanza Km. 192 - 6 villages	197
	Tte. Esteban Martinez	Pozo Colorado	150	
	BenjaminAceval	Montelindo	120	
	Total			9,348
	*Assessments are still ongoing and reaching some isolated areas requires significant challenge, which means some numbers are based on estimates.			

Authorities at both national and local level continue to be concerned about the risks present in the increasing water level of the Pilcomayo River, which is continuously flooding the affected areas, a fact that is exacerbated by the recent forecast of more rain and storm opportunities. On 11 April, national and local authorities presented an Act to declare a State of Emergency in the three departments of the western region -or Chaco, - which are Presidente Hayes, Boqueron and Alto Paraguay. The Act was approved and the State of Emergency was declared on Monday, 16 April.

Based upon detailed assessments, the SEN has determined that communities are in need of food, blankets and clothing, hygiene and medical supplies and vector control supplies, and shelter items. On the other hand, the needs that are being considered regarding early recovery include seeds for subsistence agriculture and the rehabilitation of houses that have been affected by the floods.

Coordination and partnerships

The Paraguayan Red Cross has been closely coordinating its actions with the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN), within the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) that was activated in the offices of Radio

Pai Puku (department of Presidente Hayes). In the EOC, the PRC is also actively collaborating with the departmental government of Presidente Hayes and Boqueron, the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Public Works (MOPC), the National Police Force, the Indigenous Person's Institute (INDI), the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG), and the Ministry of Public Health and Social Well-being. The Paraguayan Red Cross is currently leading the information management role in the EOC.

The evacuation of families in isolated areas started on 14 April, led by the Armed Forces in coordination with the SEN. The families are currently being sheltered in a collective centre. On this same day, the SEN conducted a press conference and announced that, with the support of the participants of the EOC, 2,200 families have been assisted with food and medical assistance.

The assets that are currently deployed in the field from all organizations are composed by personnel, equipment, vehicles and supplies. At the moment there are 14 different institutions participating in the response.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Paraguayan Red Cross has mobilized a member of its National Intervention Team (NIT) through its National Emergency Operations Centre to assist in the damage and needs assessments and to support the actions of the PRC branch in Boqueron. The NIT member will also coordinate with the main EOC in Radio Pai Puku, where the National Emergency Secretariat of Paraguay is coordinating the general response efforts. On 16 April, the SEN requested an extension of the Paraguayan Red Cross participation, specifically the EOC management and the systematization of information processes.

The needs

The immediate needs that the SEN has determined through several assessments carried out in the affected areas include:

- Food for some 9,000 indigenous and peasant families
- Blankets, mattresses and clothing items
- Hygiene items
- Medical supplies for the medical consultations
- Tents for families
- Mosquito nets

The proposed operation

In coordination with the SEN, the Paraguayan Red Cross will provide humanitarian assistance to a total of 1,525 families from 20 communities affected by the floods, consisting mainly of indigenous people and peasants that live in the department of Boqueron.

The aid that the National Society will provide will have three main core actions: providing complementary food parcels that will guarantee appropriate nutrition according to Sphere standards to a family of five (country average) for a month; providing essential hygiene items and mosquito nets to each family to prevent both general disaster related diseases and vector related diseases; and raising dengue prevention awareness and community based first aid practices within the population through community talks and educational materials, to increase their resilience in regard to the consequences of the rest of the rainy season.

The families that will benefit from the operation will be localized as detailed in the following table:

District	Communities	Community Type	Number of Beneficiaries
Mariscal	Mision Escalante	Indigenous – Nivacle	168
	Santa Marta	Peasant	20
	Yishinachat	Indigenous – Nivacle	170
	San Jose Esteros	Indigenous – Nivacle	125
	Pablo Sthal	Indigenous – Nivacle	20
	Pedro P. Peña	Indigenous – Peasant	85
	La Laguna	Western Guarani	28

Estigarribia	La Represa	Western Guarani	21
	Maria Auxiliadora	Western Guarani	18
	Cristo Rey	Western Guarani	18
	Marganiño	Peasant	40
	San Agustin	Indigenous – Nivacle	134
	El solitario	Peasant	31
	Mistolar	Peasant	50
	Pozo Hondo	Peasant	88
	Cacique Sapo	Nivacle	56
	Media Luna	Nivacle	18
	Quenjaclai	Nivacle	40
	Virgen de Fatima	Peasant	70
	Casanillo	Indigenous – Peasant	325
		TOTAL	1,525

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Outcome: The immediate needs of 1,525 families affected by the floods are met through the distribution of relief items

Outputs: 1,525 families receive complementary food parcels and hygiene kits

Activities planned:

- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance in the collective centres and affected communities.
- Develop a distribution plan.
- Procure or replenish and distribute relief items (complementary food parcels and hygiene kits).
- Monitor the relief activities and provide reporting on distributions.

The complementary food parcels to be distributed adhere to Sphere standards and are fit to feed a 5 person family for a month, providing 895 calories per person, per day. The parcels are composed by seven different nutritional elements, as follows:

	Requirements (person, per day)	Energy (Calories / grams)	Energy- Kilocalories (person/day)	Family Requirements (5 persons / day)	Quantity in Kg (30 days)
Rice	55	3,6	198	300	10
Flour	30	3,5	105	150	5
Noodles	30	3,5	105	150	5
Sugar	25	4	100	125	5
Beans	55	3,4	187	275	10
Salt	12	0	0	60	2
Mate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5
Oil	25	8	200	125	5
TOTAL			895		47

The hygiene kits to be distributed contain:

- 5 bars of laundry soap
- 12 rolls of toilet paper
- 13 bars of hand soap
- 5 tubes of toothpaste
- 5 toothbrushes
- 5 shampoo
- 5 disposable shaving razors
- 8 packs of feminine pads
- 5 small towels
- 2 combs
- 1 plastic bag

Emergency health

Outcome: Affected families receive impregnated mosquito nets and have access to disease prevention and community-based first aid promotion activities

Output 1: 1,525 families receive mosquito nets as well as dengue prevention information

Activities planned:

- Monitor the activities conducted with community leaders at the community level.
- Distribute impregnated mosquito nets (2 per family)
- Conduct basic vector borne disease prevention and awareness activities through community talks hosted by volunteers.
- Print and distribute information, education and communications (IEC) materials.
- Monitor and provide reporting on the activities

Output 2: 1,525 families receive community-based first aid orientation

Activities planned:

- Monitor the activities conducted with community leaders at the community level.
- Conduct community-based first aid orientations.
- Print and distribute information, education and communications (IEC) materials.
- Monitor and provide reporting on the activities

Contact information

- **Paraguayan Red Cross:** Luis Díaz de Bedoya, president of the Paraguayan Red Cross, phone: 59521-222-797; email: crppcia@uninet.com.py
- **IFRC regional representation:** Gustavo Ramirez, regional representative for the Southern Cone and Brazil; phone: +541 1495 17420; and email: gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org.
- **IFRC Americas zone office:** Jorge Zequeira, PADRU coordinator; phone: 507 317 3050; and email: jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, quality assurance senior officer, phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

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

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



Click here

1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page
2. Click [here](#) to view map of the affected areas
3. [DREF Budget](#)

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.

www.ifrc.org

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.
-

DREF OPERATION

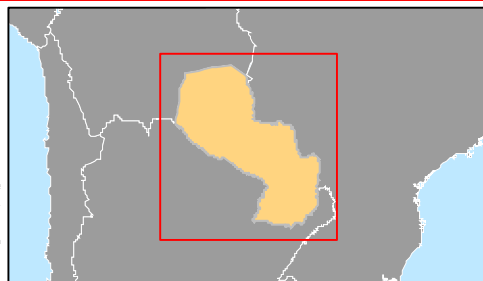
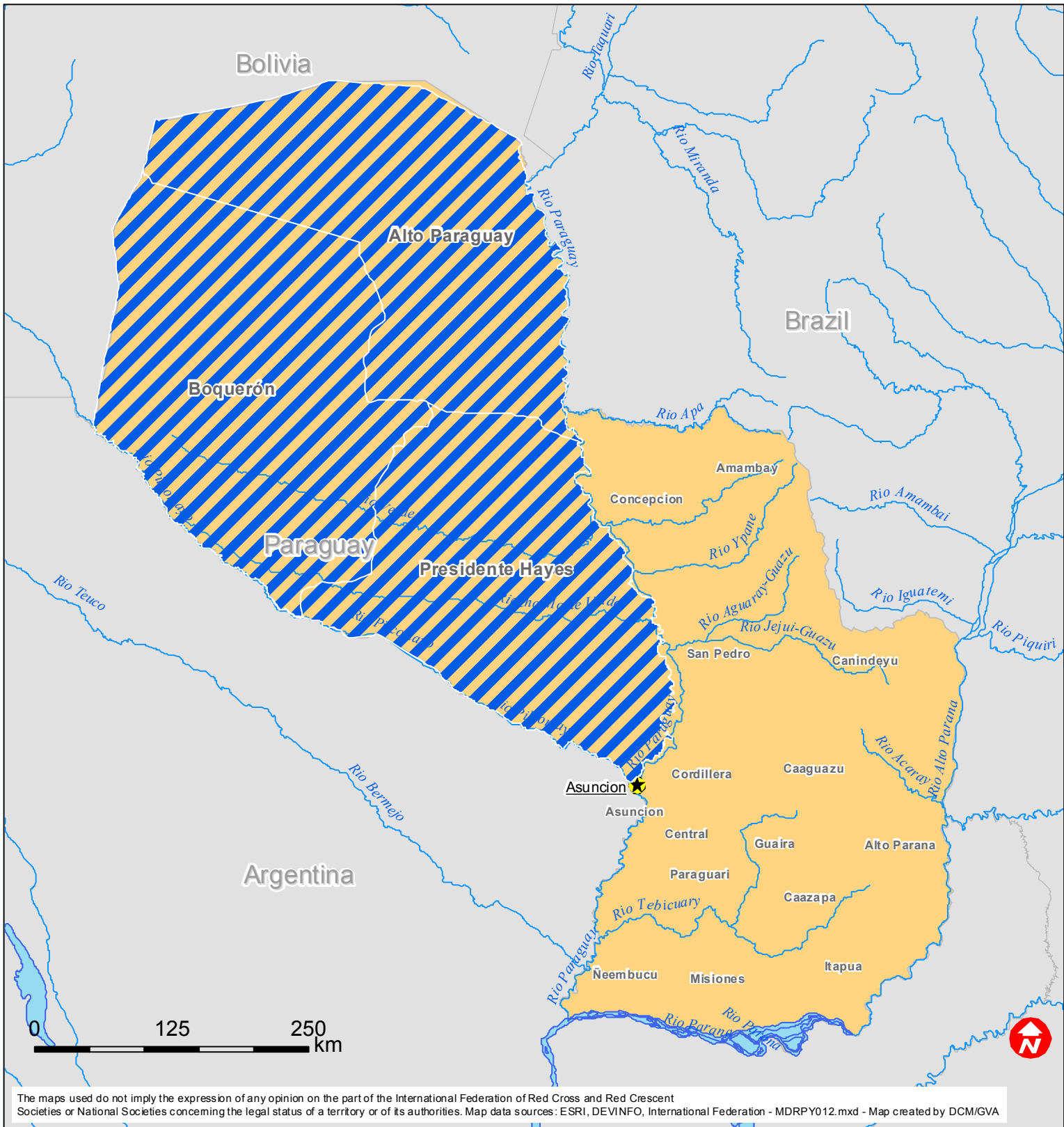
18-Apr-12


MDRPY012 Paraguay Floods

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	42,044
Food	130,336
Seeds & Plants	
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	42,044
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Ustensils & Tools	
Other Supplies & Services	
Emergency Response Units	
Cash Disbursements	
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	214,423
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	23,894
Transport & Vehicle Costs	14,336
Logistics Services	
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	38,230
International Staff	
National Staff	
National Society Staff	6,892
Volunteers	11,048
Total PERSONNEL	17,940
Consultants	2,206
Professional Fees	1,378
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	3,584
Workshops & Training	
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	1,654
Information & Public Relations	1,838
Office Costs	1,218
Communications	1,034
Financial Charges	1,558
Other General Expenses	
Shared Support Services	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	7,301
Programme and Supplementary Services Recovery	18,296
Total INDIRECT COSTS	18,296
TOTAL BUDGET	299,775



Paraguay: Floods



 Affected departments