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# Annual report

## Bolivia

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MAABO001  
29 May 2012

**This report covers the  
period 01 01 2011 to  
31 12 2011.**

Campamento Callapa – 50 shelter  
modules built by BRC with IFRC  
support  
October 2011/IFRC



### In brief

The IFRC's regional representation for Andean countries provides support to the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) to work towards the three strategic aims of *Strategy 2020*:

1. *Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disasters and crises;*
2. *Enable healthy and safe living; and*
3. *Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace*

The regional representation supports the National Society in the key areas of disaster management, health and care, organizational development and principles and values.

### Programme(s) summary

The regional representation did not benefit from a disaster risk management delegate from the first quarter of the year until November 2011, and limited funding was confirmed for the year. As a result, little implementation of the disaster risk reduction plan was achieved over the reporting period.

Nevertheless, disaster risk management support was provided through the Emergency Appeal issued on 8 March 2011 to assist 2,500 families. The purpose of the Emergency Appeal was to respond to the landslides and floods and respond to the call for emergency response assistance from the Bolivian government. The Emergency Appeal also sought to build capacities within the National Society to better respond to present and future events.

The health and care programme focused on supporting programming in both community health and health in emergencies. Furthermore, the BRC requested support from the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to respond to the dengue outbreaks that occurred in the Riberalta municipality in the department of Beni. The operation focused on vector control in order to limit the spread of the disease, including the distribution of nets and cleaning campaigns.

The IFRC supported the Bolivian Red Cross in organizational development mainly through two projects: the *student brigades*<sup>1</sup> project supported by the Finnish Red Cross and the *community projects* initiative supported by the Swedish Red Cross. During 2011 DFID funds were assigned to the National Society and planning for implementation of this funding began during this period; support was also provided to strengthen the National Society's financial management.

A workshop focusing on the dissemination of Strategy 2020 and a mid term evaluation of the Strategic Plan took place in September 2011 with funding provided from the secretariat headquarters.

### Financial situation

The total 2011 budget was CHF 361,561 and coverage was of CHF 197,696 (55%). The overall expenditure for this period was CHF 176,668 (48.86%) of the budget and 89% of the funding received.

**Click here to go directly to the financial report.**

<https://fednet.ifrc.org/docs/Appeals/annual11/MAABO00111arf.pdf>

See also the final reports on the emergency operations implemented in 2011 in Bolivia:

[Final Report: Floods and Landslide operation \(MDRBO006\)](#)

[Final Report: Peru and Bolivia: Dengue Outbreak \(MDR46001\)](#)

### No. of people we have reached

The main beneficiary of secretariat support is the Bolivian Red Cross itself through organizational development and its volunteers through training. During this reporting period most of the National Society beneficiaries were reached as a result of the response to emergencies and dengue outbreak:

- More than 2,500 families were supported through the floods and landslide operation (MDRBO006).
- Through the operation in response to the dengue outbreak (MDR46001), 245 students, 61 Red Cross volunteers and government health staff were trained; the National Society reached approximately 77,000 beneficiaries with cleaning and fumigation campaigns and also distributed 500 mosquito nets.
- Beneficiaries also include those involved in the volunteer and youth projects implemented in the Bolivian Red Cross and those who attended training events.

### Our partners

The BRC received financial support from the following partners during this period: the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the Finnish Red Cross and Finnish government, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Swedish Red Cross and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). Furthermore, the BRC receives technical and financial support on a bilateral basis from the Red Cross Society of China and the Spanish Red Cross.

Within the floods and landslide emergency operation, the BRC attended the meetings organized by government institutions, including the departmental emergency operation centres (EOCs), as well as those convened by the United Nations under the clusters relating to water and sanitation, shelter, health, nutrition, early recovery, protection and education. In an effort to provide a coordinated response to the shelter needs in La Paz, the municipal office held several meetings to discuss agreements and to identify appropriate land. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) ensures the leadership of all shelter actors, including those under the Fundación para el Desarrollo

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<sup>1</sup> In Spanish: Brigadas Estudiantiles.

Participativo Comunitario (FUNDEPCO) -Foundation for Community Participatory Development Consortium.

## Context

Country-wide, the first months of 2011 were marked by several weather-related events and health emergencies. Due to La Niña weather phenomenon, the weather pattern in Bolivia was disrupted. The country experienced droughts in early 2011 and many days of intense and constant rainfall throughout February. The heavy rain resulted in widespread floods affecting 78 municipalities in 9 departments, particularly the departments of Reyes, Beni and La Paz together with a major landslide in the city of La Paz. As the number of affected families rose, the Bolivian government declared a state of emergency on 23 February 2011. The final figures provided by the Vice-ministry of Civil Defence (Vice-ministerio de Defensa Civil-VIDECI) in April indicate that 17,765 families were affected across the country. During the last six months of the year, seismic activity increased, with a total record of 107 seismic movements of an average of 4 on the Richter scale. In June 2011, a cold wave affected the department of Potosí.

The GDP of Bolivia is estimated to have grown by 5.1% in 2011, almost 1 percentage point more than in 2010. Annual inflation, at close to 7% to December 2011, is projected to remain almost the same in 2012. Bolivia assumed the Presidency of the Andean parliament for the period 2011–2012 and among the priorities the creation of protection mechanisms to support Andean migrants was highlighted.

## Progress towards outcomes

### Disaster Management

<b>Programme purpose</b>
<b>Reduce the number of deaths, injuries and impacts of disasters.</b>

#### Achievements

In order to respond to the floods and landslide situation and the call for emergency assistance on the part of the government, an Emergency Appeal was launched on 8 March 2011 for six months to assist 2,300 families. The emergency appeal included National Society capacity building components to allow the National Society to better respond to present and future events. In August 2011, the Pan American Disaster Response Unit handed over the operation to the Lima regional representation. Although the operation faced significant difficulties during implementation, at the time of closing of the operation the BRC had successfully reached a total of 2,551 families from the departments of Beni, La Paz and Cochabamba with at least one hygiene kit or food parcel.

The National Society assisted 50 families residing in Colegio Militar camp with structures for communal use, and then assisted 50 families with the installation of transitional shelter modules within Callapa Camp (see the picture on the first page) as well as with a complete set of kitchen items. In order to achieve a comprehensive approach, the BRC decided to implement the rest of the plan of action with members of the community formed in the Callapa Camp. The 196 families residing in this camp were assisted with the rehabilitation of a number of sanitary facilities, such as toilets and sinks, and with a series of educational workshops that provided information on community health, personal hygiene and community-based first aid. In addition, 100 of these families also received first aid kits. Finally, the families in Callapa Camp were also supported with six livelihoods kits, each designed to support the recovery of a particular trade and therefore assist these families to recover their means of earning an income.

**Programme component 2: Institutional capacity building for disaster preparedness**

**Component Outcome 1: The secretariat encourages and supports the strengthening of the Bolivian Red Cross capacities to effectively support communities to plan, prepare, respond to and recover from emergencies.**

**Achievements**

Through the floods and landslide emergency appeal the National Society's capacities in emergency health and water and sanitation were strengthened and it was ensured that all future actions will be in consonance with the transitional shelter programme. Volunteers of the BRC participated in a workshop to increase their knowledge on shelter solutions; this workshop was held in the La Paz branch during the third week of April with some 25 participants, including technical staff of the BRC headquarters and volunteers from La Paz city branch. In addition, a staff member of the National Society was trained on the standard IFRC requirements for local procurement. The communication unit of the BRC has increased the visibility of the activities carried out by National Society in response to this emergency. In addition, the BRC's webpage was updated and press releases distributed to several national media outlets, including the newspapers Los Tiempos, La Prensa and El Deber.

In addition, the RIT member supporting the coordination of the operation assisted the National Society to disseminate and analyze the National Plan for Disaster Response with 21 participants from all nine branches of the BRC. This operation also provided new experiences for the National Society which engaged in early recovery and transitional shelter activities for the first time. Finally, during the course of the operation the Reyes branch of the BRC was repaired after being slightly affected by the floods, while the emergency appeal also supported diverse office costs, the purchase of radios, visibility materials for volunteers, as well as banners and informational material about the Red Cross.

A lessons learned workshop was held on 10 and 11 December 2011 with the participation of 17 members of the Bolivian Red Cross. It was possible to gather different points of view during this experience, from volunteers of the branches involved to staff of the National Society's headquarters.

**Programme component 3: Disaster risk reduction coordination and advocacy**

**Component Outcome 1: The participation and coordination processes between Bolivian Red Cross and the local and national authorities; other national and local organizations and regional platforms to develop disaster risk reduction, response and recovery initiatives have resulted in key partnership and strategic alliances.**

**Achievements**

As part of the emergency appeal process the National Society has increased the number of alliances with governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations.

## Health and care

**Programme purpose**

**Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.**

During 2011 the International Federation promoted the necessity for a national plan in health. In the last months of the year, the BRC had a new health director; however the national health plan remains pending, including the inclusion of components of the IFRC's Global Health Strategy towards the achievement of S2020.

**Programme component 1: Public Health in the Community**

**Component Outcome 1: The Bolivian Red Cross has strengthened its management capacities and scaled up actions related to Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA), Voluntary Non-Remunerated Blood Donation (VNRBD) and HIV within an integrated community health strategy.**

**Achievements**

The BRC participated in regional initiatives such as volunteer training in the Community-Based Health and First Aid Methodology; two workshops were carried out in Bolivia (La Paz and Cochabamba) in which 38 volunteers were trained. The BRC is implementing the CBHFA methodology in two communities in Potosí and Cochabamba benefitting approximately 996 people. The BRC also participated in a CBHFA master training in Panamá and a CBHFA monitoring and evaluation workshop carried out in Lima in December.

The CRB also provided support to the team which worked on the drawing up of the health components of the Inter American Framework for Action.

**Programme component 2: Public Health in Emergencies**

**Component outcome 1: The Bolivian Red Cross has strengthened its capacities to prepare, respond and recover from health emergencies related to epidemics/pandemics and disasters.**

**Achievements**

Epidemics in a number of regions of Bolivia are recurrent and highly endemic. In 2011, the Bolivian Red Cross implemented DREF funds as well as funding from PAHO/ECHO to respond to a dengue outbreak. The Bolivian Red Cross strengthened its capacities through training National Intervention Team members specialized in health in emergencies using the epidemic control tool kit for volunteers in the implementation of the response to the outbreak. Some 245 volunteers, high school students, teachers and health staff also received training in CBHFA, epidemic control and community health education; furthermore a communications campaign using recreational materials such as “Denguelandia” was carried out. The roll-out of the new CBHFA *in Action* methodology in the Bolivian Red Cross served as a framework for health in emergencies community-based preparedness and response with the support of the ECHO-funded project in coordination with OPS/PAHO. Activities included assisting 12,463 affected people with disease prevention, vector control and health promotion through community mobilization and with distributions of water containers with a lid, a scrubbing brush and hypochlorite solution. The implementation of this project enabled the National Society to improve health practices and vector control measures to prevent possible dengue outbreaks at community level.

Through the Floods Emergency Appeal (MDRBO006) the National Society strengthened its coordination with PADRU to respond to emergencies. The Bolivian Red Cross worked with 30 volunteers on the development of community health education workshops. Educational materials were created based on the community context and the need to reduce the risk of diseases. Seven community workshops covering different topics, each with 25 participants, were completed in the Callapa Camp.

The Bolivian Red Cross participated in the regional emergency health workshop “**Emerging and Re-emerging Diseases in the Americas: Lessons Learned and innovative approaches**” in April 2011 and the **regional psychosocial support meeting of Red Cross Focal Points in the Americas** held in September 2011 in Bogota, Colombia. The objective of both meetings was to share the different experiences of emergencies related to recent disasters and crises in the Americas and to present reference manuals, training materials and tools organized by the Health in

Emergencies staff with the support of the Colombian Red Cross Society with a view to reinforcing the community-based approach and integrating prevention and preparedness activities.

## Organizational Development / Capacity Building

### **Programme component 1: National Society capacity development in organizational development.**

**Component outcome 1: A renewed, representative and diverse leadership in the Bolivian Red Cross.**

#### **Achievements**

As recognized by the National Society, there is a need for the renewal of governance structures and leadership training. Limited progress has been made on this topic as discussions with the National Society to improve leadership within the governing board are in the initial phase.

Nevertheless, the leadership training process of BRC volunteers is progressing through the *virtual classrooms*<sup>2</sup> project. With the IFRC and Finnish Red Cross support a leadership training module was developed and published which is proving successful and the IFRC is supporting its continuity. To date, 9,352 visits were registered in the system.

In coordination with the Henry Dunant Foundation, BRC leaders, along with the other leaders of Red Cross Societies from Latin America and the Caribbean, participated in training on human rights, sustainable development and public policy in Quito - Ecuador from 10-15 October 2011.

### **Component outcome 2**

**Increased, renewed and diverse volunteering in Bolivian Red Cross.**

The Bolivian Red Cross is still insufficiently attractive to new volunteers due to the lack of flexible and up to date volunteer management systems. Retaining volunteers also remains a challenge; however, in 2011 the Bolivian Red Cross focused its efforts on supporting the adoption of clear volunteering policies. The National Society has aligned its national volunteering policy within the framework of the Global Volunteering Policy (May 2011). In addition, the Volunteer Rules manual has been published and copies have been distributed to the branches.

For the second half of the year, the IFRC provided support to the Bolivian Red Cross for the implementation of innovative youth development projects. As a result, the regional representation, with Finnish Red Cross funds, supported the BRC youth department with the school brigades project. The first phase of the project took place in 2011 in all nine departmental branches of the National Society. In 2011, this project will continue in seven branches, given financial limitations. A manual has been prepared for use as part of the training for all volunteers of the BRC.

A “*community projects*” initiative was also supported by the Swedish Red Cross whereby volunteers are encouraged to work at community level. The volunteer cycle therefore needs to be expanded in communities where the BRC is present.

<sup>2</sup> In Spanish: proyecto Aulas Virtuales.

**Component outcome 3****The Bolivian Red Cross has reduced its integrity risks****Achievements**

The National Society began the process to carry out a mid-term review of its Strategic Plan during the second part of the year. However, the National Society later decided later to request support for drawing up a new Strategic Plan (2013-2016) during 2012. In September 2011 the IFRC facilitated a workshop on S2020 and on conducting a mid term review, bearing in mind the level of harmonization between the Strategic Plan and S2020.

The separation between governance and management is still a significant challenge within the National Society; there have been limited achievements thus far as currently the decision taken by the BRC governance is to work on the basis of a joint management team formed by the programme coordinators and the President.

**Component outcome 4****A standard planning, monitoring and evaluation system is in place in the Bolivian Red Cross.****Achievements**

The National Society faces different challenges related to the growth of the institution where the focus is still placed on increasing the number of projects. The long term strategic vision is still in the process of being defined.

Some progress has been made in the effectiveness of planning and monitoring mechanisms and also towards improving the accounting process of the National Society with IFRC support. In 2011, the National Society organized a workshop with two branches to review accounting systems and to link this with effective narrative reporting. In addition, the regional representation held a first workshop concerning the “accounting manual and administrative processes” in La Paz in November 2011. This workshop was financed with DFID funds; the IFRC will work with DFID funds and the technical support of the PMER unit in Panamá in 2012 to continue to strengthen planning, monitoring and reporting. As a result, there is the intention that staff members from branches and the headquarters attend a PPP workshop to take place towards the end of 2012.

At present, the National Society has a planning unit with a person in charge; however, there is a need to increase and strengthen capacities within the unit in order to improve the internal planning processes of the BRC.

**Constraints or Challenges**

- As mentioned above, the lack of a DRM delegate within the regional representation affected activities in this area during 2011. A delegate has now been hired and work in the area of DRM will be reinforced.
- The BRC not only needs to have a permanent person in charge of health programming, but also a work team and a plan of action for health according to the country’s needs and in line with the directions of S2020.
- The BRC needs to be able to guarantee that its activities in health will continue since there is a risk of losing the initial investment made in this area.
- The organizational structure and lack of integrated approaches within the National Society remain as a challenge.
- The capacities of the National Society’s staff need to be improved; training in different sectors and programme areas are essential.

## Working in partnership

- The Finnish Red Cross works in coordination with the IFRC, supporting capacity building approaches in OD. Furthermore, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Swedish Red Cross and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) provided support during the reporting period. The BRC also receives technical and financial support on a bilateral basis from the Red Cross Society of China and the Spanish Red Cross.
- Information-sharing meetings have been organized with all components of the Movement present in the country.

## Contributing to longer-term impact

Increased participation in coordination and planning meetings will continue to be ensured, sharing information and establishing coordination mechanisms on a regular basis. In 2011, the BRC took initial steps to improve its administrative, planning and reporting processes. In 2012, support for the development of the National Strategic Plan will be essential to move away from a project approach to raise more funds to the promotion of a long term vision through the Strategic Plan. In this respect, the development of the planning unit will contribute to development and monitoring of the Strategic Plan and operational activities.

## Looking ahead

The elaboration of the new Strategic Plan paves the way to further align the work of the Bolivian to S2020; the BRC, supported by the IFRC, will continue to assess the situation of the most vulnerable people living in Bolivia.

### 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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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 nonviolence and peace.

Find out more on [www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

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