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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Bolivia: floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRBO008
GLIDE n° [FL-2013-000020-BOL](#)
12 March 2013

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.

CHF 299,846 has been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Bolivian Red Cross in delivering immediate assistance to some 10,000 beneficiaries. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Since January 2013, the rainy season in Bolivia intensified, causing several floods, hail storms, frosts, and overflowing rivers. Over 21,200 families have been affected in 67 municipalities from eight of the nine departments of the country.

In its auxiliary role to the government, the Bolivian Red Cross will support affected families from the departments of Potosí and Chuquisaca. The DREF operation will provide immediate assistance to families that had seen their livelihoods severely affected as result of the emergency and reduce the risk of irreversible coping strategies, such as emigration and selling of working tools and farming animals. The proposed plan of action will assist 2,000 families with food parcels, and 600 families with seeds, fertilizers and technical assistance.

This operation is expected to be implemented over four months, and will therefore be completed by 12 July, 2013; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 12 October, 2013).

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



An assessments team of the Bolivian Red Cross was deployed to the affected areas alongside a Disaster Management delegate of the IFRC to determine current needs. Source: BRC

The situation

Although the rainy season in Bolivia usually lasts from November to March, on the second week of January the rains intensified and continued throughout February, with a slow built up of affectation across the country. Furthermore, the National Service of Hydrometeorology and Hydrology (*Servicio Nacional de Hidrometeorología e Hidrología*, SENAMHI) stated that the rains will continue until April, beyond the usual period, as a result of the intensification of “El Niño” effect. As consequence of the rains, several floods, hail storms, and overflowing of rivers have affected 67 municipalities in 8 departments. The Vice-Ministry of Civil Defense (*Viceministro de Defensa Civil*, VIDECI) indicated on 27 February that 24 people have lost their lives, while 21,569 families were affected and 582 homes had some level of damage.

| Source of information | Location | Affectation | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | Department | Deaths | No. of families | No. of homes |
| VIDECI | La Paz | 10 | 4.124 | 124 |
| VIDECI | Oruro | 0 | 3.052 | 114 |
| VIDECI | Potosí | 3 | 2.898 | 34 |
| VIDECI | Cochabamba | 0 | 1.142 | 104 |
| VIDECI | Tarija | 0 | 1.358 | 119 |
| VIDECI | Chuquisaca | 11 | 8.667 | 48 |
| VIDECI | Santa Cruz | 0 | 203 | 37 |
| VIDECI | Pando | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| VIDECI | Beni | 0 | 125 | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 24 | 21.569 | 582 |

The regional governments of Cochabamba, Beni, Santa Cruz, and Oruro departments had declared yellow alerts for floods, hail storms, landslides and frosts, while the departments of La Paz, Potosí, Tarija and Chuquisaca declared orange alerts. Although, the central government stated that a State of National Emergency will not be declared, it is accepting the support of the Bolivian Red Cross to assist families in Potosí and Chuquisaca, some of the most affected departments.

Many of the affected communities are usually located in isolated areas of difficult access, with the families' livelihoods depending on survival agriculture and a bartering economic system. Conducting assessments is a challenging task due to the impact of the weather on the few roads available. However, in coordination with municipal authorities, a Red Cross team was able to gather affectation data and complete more detailed assessment in a sample of communities in Potosí and Chuquisaca. The clearest conclusion of first assessments is the need to assist communities whose subsistence crops were damaged or destroyed. It is possible that the loss of crops, under the current emergency, could increase the migration of families and cause children to abandon schools. The area has history of resorting to this strategy in previous occasions: approximately 30 to 40 per cent of the population of two assessed communities had migrated to cities in Argentina and Bolivia.

The municipal authority of Tupisa, Potosí Department, stated that the level of affectation registered in 2013 had not been seen since 1997. At the moment, their efforts are focusing in providing food parcels, but their highlighted the need to provide more food and assist with lost crops.

Coordination and partnerships

The Bolivian Red Cross has been monitoring the development of the situation from their headquarters, receiving information from their nine provincial branches. The National Society coordinates directly with the General Directorate of Emergency and Relief and the General Directorate of Prevention and Recovery, both from VIDECI. At the departmental level, the Bolivian Red Cross branches coordinate with the governmental Risk Management Units (*Unidades de Gestión de Riesgo*, UGR) and belong to the departmental Emergency

Operations Centres (EOC) Additionally, the National Society is part of the Humanitarian Network (Red Humanitarian) form by the United Nations System alongside all humanitarian organizations in the country.

An inter-agency meeting was called by VIDECI on 1 March, where the National Society, the World Food Programme and other organizations were informed on the need to provide further support with food and agricultural recovery. During the meeting all organizations were able to share their plans for assistance.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

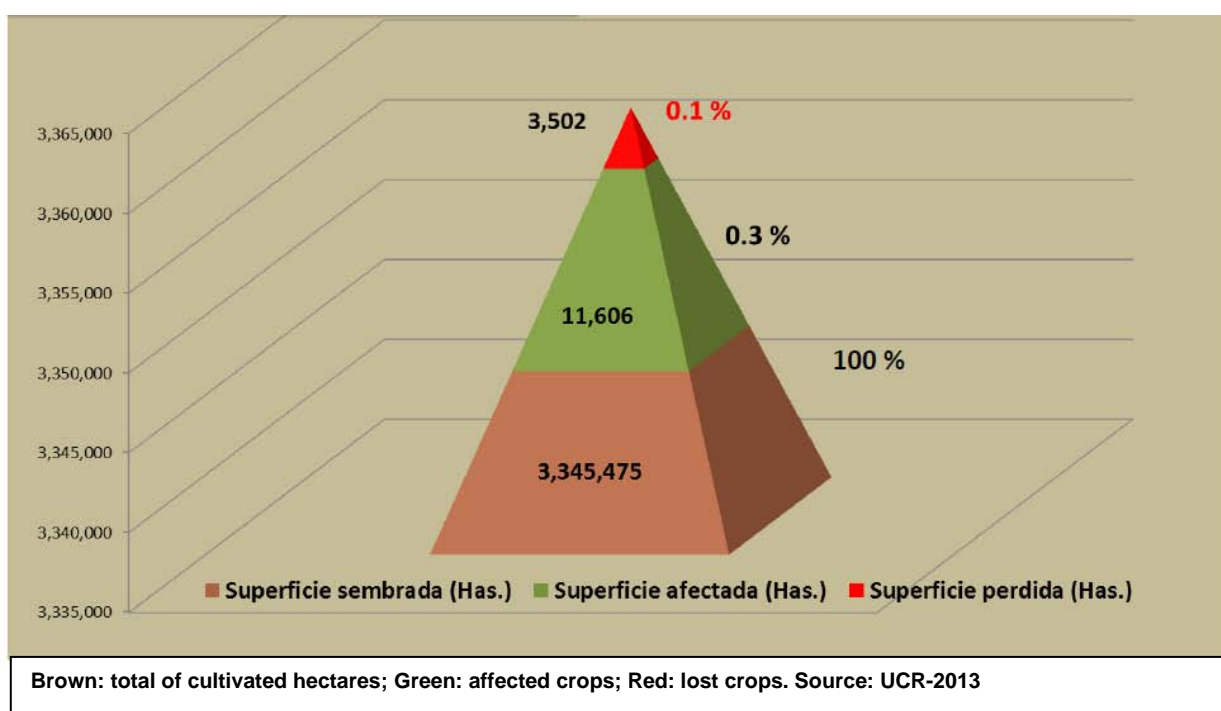
The headquarters of the Bolivian Red Cross is coordinating all assessments and sharing of information with the national government on the activities to be completed. Likewise, the branches of Chuquisaca and Potosí are maintaining communication with the authorities at the departmental level and have established the mechanism to coordinate all assistance, from the selection of beneficiaries, provision of technical support, and monitoring of the implementation.

Additionally, the IFRC deployed a Regional Disaster Management Coordinator to join the assessment team formed by National Society staff in order to evaluate the damage and needs in Potosí and Chuquisaca Departments.

The needs

This emergency had a distinct pattern in affectation due to the topography and culture of the area. The floods occurred in a mountainous terrain with river valleys, with communities were located on high ground and crops on the more fertile lower lands. Therefore, the majority of significant damages caused by the floods are in the agricultural sector, with just small affectation in shelter, health and water and sanitation. The assessment team identified some damages in the water distribution systems in some communities in Potosí department, but local authorities stated that they are already being repaired and communities will not be suffering from lack of water for a long period. No damages in the water systems were identified in Chuquisaca.

To respond to the immediate needs of affected families, particularly those that lost crops and livelihoods, the authorities, through Civil Defense and the departmental governments, are distributing food parcels that will assist for 15 days. However, support from the Red Cross was requested to cover some unassisted communities, particularly with food parcels and seeds and fertilizers.



Selection of people to be reached: The National Society is currently coordinating with government authorities to determine the families to be assisted with DREF support. At the moment, some of the families that fit the determined are:

- Families residing in municipalities affected by floods
- Families whose possessions were affected and have proven difficulties to recover by their own means
- Families that lost crops and livelihoods due to the weather.
- Families that are not receiving any support from other agency or institution.

The proposed operation

With the support of the DREF, the Bolivian Red Cross will assist 2,000 families with food parcels and 600 families with seeds, fertilizers and technical training in the affected departments of Chuquisaca and Potosí. For this operation, 200 volunteers will be provided with insurance and protective gear.

| Needs Assessments and Relief distribution |
|---|
| Outcome: 2,000 families in Chuquisaca and Potosí departments are assisted with their immediate needs |
| Output 1: Damage and needs assessments are completed in Chuquisaca and Potosi Output 2: 2,000 families receive one month food parcels |
| Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of a damage and need assessment team to Chuquisaca and Potosí • Coordination meetings with Civil Defence, and departmental and municipal governments. • Develop a Plan of Action to assist affected families. • Monitor distributions and provide reports. • Conduct a lessons learnt workshop at the end of the operation. |

The National Society will be distributing food parcels to 2,000 families that will be composed of:

| Item | Quantity |
|---------|----------|
| Rice | 15 kgs. |
| Sugar | 10 kgs. |
| Noodles | 10 kgs. |
| Flour | 5 kgs. |
| Salt | 2 kgs. |
| Coffee | 1 kgs. |
| Oil | 2 ltrs. |

This food parcels were designed to assist a family for one month.

| Livelihoods |
|--|
| Outcome: The livelihoods of 600 families who lost their subsistence crops are restored in Potosí and Chuquisaca Departments |
| Outputs 1: 600 families have restored their crops with better seeds and cultivation techniques. Output 2: The branches of Potosí and Chuquisaca can provide technical assistance and monitor the implementation of the livelihoods project. |
| Activities planned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of families to be reached in coordination with municipal authorities and Civil Defence. • Coordination with the Municipal Economic Development Units. • Establish a cooperation agreement between the municipal authorities and Bolivian Red Cross. • Procurement of seeds and fertilizers. • Distribution of seeds and fertilizers in coordination with the municipal authorities. • Provide technical assistance to beneficiaries through the agronomist from the municipality. • Deployment of a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in livelihoods projects. |

- Complete two workshops with Red Cross volunteers and governmental authorities to provide basic understanding on livelihoods projects and their monitoring.
- Conduct at least 4 monitoring visits to selected communities and prepare reports on the findings.

The assessments indicated that many families in the affected areas, which depend on subsistence agriculture, are contemplating migrating towards cities after losing their crops. This could have severe consequences in the area, further disrupting the local economy, family links and the schooling of children. Additionally, many families are trying to cope with losses by selling their domestic animals (and source of proteins, as milk and eggs) or farming tools in order to acquire food, which will further affect their coping mechanisms in the near future.

In order to support the families affected by the emergency and reduce the risk of unhealthy coping mechanisms, the Bolivian Red Cross will provide food parcels for the immediate needs and seeds and fertilizers to guarantee access to food.

As the local branches in the affected areas do not have experience with this type of actions and will need to be trained, the National Society decided to target a reduced number of families and not the complete 2,000 that will be receiving the food parcels. In addition, the affected communities are quite distant from the local branches (as much as 15 hours) complicating the monitoring process and adequate implementation.

For better results, the details of the livelihoods project will be designed alongside selected communities, with beneficiaries deciding the seeds to be procured and distributed based on the cultural uses and agricultural calendar. To provide adequate technical assistance, the Bolivian Red Cross will be working alongside the National Institute of Agricultural and forestry Innovation (INIAP), and the Ministry of Rural Development and National Lands. A specialized livelihoods RIT member will also be travelling to Bolivia to assist with this sector of the plan of action. Finally, and in order to provide the adequate technical monitoring throughout the project, the DREF operation will be completed in four months.

Logistics

All the items to be distributed with DREF support will be procured locally as they are available at national level.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Bolivian Red Cross:** 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.
- **IFRC regional representation:** Carlos Iñigo Barrena, regional representative for the Andean countries; email: ci.barrena@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Americas zone office**, phone: +507 317 3050
 - Benoit Porte, disaster & crisis Response and early recovery coordinator; email: benoit.porte@ifrc.org
 - Inga Purmalis, resource mobilization officer; email: inga.purmalis@ifrc.org
 - Douglas Baquero, regional logistic coordinator; email: douglas.baquero@ifrc.org; phone: +507 6747 3146; fax: +507 316 1347
- **In Geneva:** Christine South, quality assurance senior officer, phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: christine.south@ifrc.org

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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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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

12-Mar-13

MDRBO008 Bolivia Floods

DREF Grant
Budget CHF

| Budget Group | |
|--|----------------|
| Shelter - Relief | |
| Shelter - Transitional | |
| Construction - Housing | |
| Construction - Facilities | |
| Construction - Materials | |
| Clothing & Textiles | |
| Food | 104,245 |
| Seeds & Plants | 87,678 |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | |
| Medical & First Aid | |
| Teaching Materials | |
| Utensils & Tools | |
| Other Supplies & Services | |
| Cash Disbursements | |
| Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES | 191,923 |
| Land & Buildings | |
| Vehicles | |
| Computer & Telecom Equipment | |
| Office/Household Furniture & Equipment | |
| Medical Equipment | |
| Other Machinery & Equipment | |
| Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT | 0 |
| Storage, Warehousing | |
| Distribution & Monitoring | 22,338 |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 5,585 |
| Logistics Services | |
| Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE | 27,923 |
| International Staff | 18,615 |
| National Staff | |
| National Society Staff | 2,234 |
| Volunteers | 11,393 |
| Total PERSONNEL | 32,242 |
| Consultants | 5,212 |
| Professional Fees | |
| Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES | 5,212 |
| Workshops & Training | 11,169 |
| Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING | 11,169 |
| Travel | 5,585 |
| Information & Public Relations | 2,327 |
| Office Costs | 1,675 |
| Communications | 2,560 |
| Financial Charges | 931 |
| Other General Expenses | |
| Shared Office and Services Costs | |
| Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES | 13,077 |
| Partner National Societies | |
| Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other) | |
| Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS | 0 |
| Programme and Services Support Recovery | 18,300 |
| Total INDIRECT COSTS | 18,300 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | 299,846 |



Bolivia: Floods

