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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Paraguay: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRPY014
Glide No. **FL-2013-000076PY**
11 July 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.

251,160 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 for up to 8,155 people. Un-earmarked funds to repay the DREF are encouraged.

Summary: Heavy rains in the Brazilian territory have caused a significant increase in the levels of the reservoirs of about 20 upstream dams of the Parana River and other rivers in Brazil. The significant increase in the Parana river flow presses on the reservoir of the Itaipu dam, which released an important volume of water flow onto the Paraguayan territory.

This situation affects people located in the low areas of Paraná or close to the river beds in the departments of Alto Paraná, Misiones, Itapúa and Ñeembucú. On the other hand, the situation is compounded due to the convergence of the Parana and Paraguay rivers; the high level of Paraná river acts as a dam for the drainage of the Paraguay river, causing flooding in the surrounding communities of Paso de Patria, Mayor Martinez, Cerrito, Villalbín and General Díaz.

This operation contribution will be focused on emergency health supporting 1,631 families, including the recovery of livelihoods of 500 families through the implementation of a cash transfer program.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 11 October, 2013; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 11 January, 2014).

[<click here for the DREF budget;](#)
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Several communities near the Paraná river have been flooded in the departments of Alto Paraná, Misiones, Itapúa, and Ñeembucú. Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

The situation

Heavy rains in the Brazilian territory have caused a significant increase in the levels of the reservoirs of about 20 upstream dams of the Parana River and of other rivers in Brazil. The significant increase in the Parana river flow presses on the reservoir of the Itaipu dam, which released an important volume of water flow onto the Paraguayan territory. This situation affects people located in the low areas of Paraná or close to the river beds in the departments of Alto Paraná, Misiones, Itapúa and Ñeembucú. On the other hand, the situation is compounded due to the convergence of the Parana and Paraguay rivers; the high level of Paraná river acts as a dam for the drainage of the Paraguay river, causing flooding in the surrounding communities of Paso de Patria, Mayor Martinez, Cerrito, Villalbín and General Díaz

The meteorological reports predict rains in the basin of the Iguazu and Parana rivers for the next few days, specifically in the departments of Canindeyú and Alto Paraná, while Brazil's Parana state could receive more moderate rainfall. The total rainfall volume could reach between 10 and 40mm. The probability of rain decreases considerably starting from Monday, when during the early morning the minimum temperature can reach between 6°C and 9°C in the southern, central and eastern departments. On Tuesday at dawn the lowest temperatures can reach between 5°C and 8°C.

In response to the emerging needs as a result of floods, the executive board of the Paraguayan government has issued the Decree No. 11.313 by which "**Emergency is declared in Misiones, High Paraná and Ñeembucú departments affected by flooding and the water overloads of water runways; emergency measures are taken**" for 90 days from 27 June 2013.

Around 2,360 families are affected to date in the three departments but this number could rapidly rise by about 350 families more due to a precarious defense wall which has been built lately in Cerrito (Ñeembucú) to protect a neighborhood where the water began to enter.

Table of affected locations, with the number of affected families:

| Nº | Neighbourhood and/or sectors | Number of families affected |
|--------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Alto Parana | 599 |
| 2 | Misiones | 911 |
| 3 | Itapúa | 130 |
| 4 | Ñeembucú | 720 |
| Total | | 2,360 |

Public services: The information compiled and issued by the district EOCs (emergency operation centers) shows that public services in all affected areas are in full operation; however, in the case of Ayolas in Misiones, the electrical supply service has been suspended in the affected zones as a security measure.

Water, hygiene and sanitation: In the departments of Itapúa, Ñeembucú and Alto Parana, deficiencies have not been reported as to the availability of drinking water. In these departments the affected population is calm and public order is guaranteed by the National Police. However, in some sectors in Ayolas the availability of drinking water is limited, especially in the case of the people who have not left their homes or are in shelters. This situation is more serious in San Jose Mi, where some residents refuse to evacuate their homes.

Education: To date, three schools have suspended the educational activities—one in Ciudad del Este, one in Ayolas and one in Cerrito. Moreover, the school buildings have been prepared to be used as temporary shelters.

Access routes: While there are some secondary roads flooded, the main access routes to the affected communities are functioning.

Livelihoods: In general, the source of income for most of the affected families is fishing and agriculture, and there is a minority that earns a living by preparing and selling food, as well as a few traders (owners of stores selling various items). The impact of the flooding on livelihoods in the area includes loss of assets by the fishermen who, due to the flash floods, lost fishing items such as rope, fishing hooks and other small tools that allow them to perform their economic activity. The area produces basic grains such as corn and beans, but now the entire crop has been lost because of the floods.

Shelter management: In the Ayolas area 11 shelters have been authorized and set, with capacity to lodge 183 families (979 individuals) according to data collected on 28 June. Families are being assisted with the provision of tents, as well as food for three days, and received support for soup kitchens. In Ciudad del Este three shelters have been installed, with three additional ones in Presidente Franco, which are also provided with food, water, medicine, tents and other items of primary need. In Ñeembucú no shelter has been set but the families have evacuated to higher places or to the homes of relatives or unaffected neighbors.

Coordination and partnerships

The National Society activated the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and initiated the compilation of data, together with the reporting and information management process, on 24 June in coordination with the Ayolas Municipality EOC. On 25 June the National Society supported the Emergency National Secretariat (*Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional, SEN*) for the data collection and the production of two situation reports and one general situation report, which were posted on DMIS. Since 29 June, the Paraguayan Red Cross coordinates the shelter management in Ayolas and supports the information management in the situation rooms.

From the outset, the Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) of the secretariat of the International Federation of the Red Cross has been in close communication with the National Society, and a disaster management delegate was mobilized to the field to support the National Society. In addition, a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member will be deployed to support the National Society for the duration of the operation, while another RIT will be deployed for two weeks to support the cash transfer programme; moreover, the financial officer of the country representation will carry out monitoring visits.

Other humanitarian partners such as Oxfam, USAID/OFDA, the Department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection of the European Commission and the Finnish Red Cross, the Swiss Red Cross and other humanitarian actors are in contact with the Paraguayan Red Cross and are awaiting data and information to analyse possible partnerships. The United Nations World Food Programme is also available to assist in the rapid assessment and work together with the Emergency National Secretariat and the Paraguayan Red Cross in an identified intervention.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The National Intervention Team (NIT) as well as specialists in livelihoods, risk reduction, emergency operation centers management, emergency management, psychosocial support and shelter management have been mobilized as part of the early response activities.

Furthermore, three national teams (a total of eight individuals) have been activated and deployed to the three areas affected, in order to carry out rapid assessments. From 28 to 30 June, field teams were deployed to the affected areas to conduct rapid assessments and contact national and subnational authorities involved in the emergency.

Actions at branch level:

Alto Paraná: Ten volunteers have been activated and deployed to support evacuation activities and assist the Presidente Franco Municipality for the establishment of the EOC and the coordination of data collection.

Misiones: The EOC is activated and the team is ready to be deployed in the field according to the assessment.

Itapúa: Three working groups are deployed, two of them for rapid assessment in affected areas in Itapúa and one psychological support team to perform activities in shelters and to organize a training workshop in Ayolas.

Ñeembucú has been activated, in contact and coordination with the Paraguayan Red Cross National headquarters, as part of the department EOC, and participated in the basic information management and data collection.

The Paraguayan Red Cross has developed an action plan to respond to the floods emergency by prioritizing the most affected areas and families in Misiones, Alto Paraná, Ñeembucú and Itapúa departments. The operation lines include psychological support in shelters and psychological first aid focused on children through ludic activities, as well as on community members, shelter coordinators, teachers and other individuals involved in the psychological containment. In addition, the Paraguayan Red Cross action plan includes the recovery of livelihoods and income sources of affected people through the provision of vouchers (200 U.S. dollars) for the purchase of non-food items, complementary food items and livelihoods-related tools.

The distribution of water, as well as the awareness and education campaigns for water management and treatment and hygiene will be carried out together with the distribution of family hygiene and cleaning kits (targeting families in shelters and families returning home). Food kits will be distributed in the department of Itapúa. The DREF operation will cover the Paraguayan Red Cross Action Plan mainly in terms of psychosocial support, livelihoods recovery for 500 families, and health in emergencies for 1,631 families in Ñeembucú and Misiones. Other activities of the Paraguayan Red Cross Action Plan are expected to be covered with the support of the Swiss Red Cross and other organizations, as well as the National Government.

The needs

- Psychological support to the population in shelters and to volunteers;
- Food supply;
- Personal hygiene and hygiene items;
- Reactivation of livelihoods;
- Non-food items (mattresses, blankets) and additional food (milk, vegetables, meat);
- Drinking water supply;
- Water storage containers for home use.

The Government through the Ministry of Emergency is meeting the needs in terms of food, mattresses, blankets and water distribution in the affected communities; therefore the Paraguayan Red Cross has prioritized complementary actions through the DREF.

In relation to the dengue outbreak, the Paraguayan government recently stated that the situation was under control but that preventive measures were continuing. Although the areas affected by the current floods have had some dengue cases, the areas covered by the DREF operation—Misiones and Ñeembucú—had a low overall incidence in 2013.

Selection criteria of beneficiaries

The total number of beneficiaries covered by this operation is 1,631 families in the departments of Ñeembucú and Misiones.

Beneficiaries have been selected according to the following criteria:

- The level of impact on their homes and livelihoods as well as on their essential items;
- The location of their houses within the geographic area most affected by floods; and
- High vulnerability level and low income.

A detailed definition of the criteria will be developed considering aspects related to inclusion, exclusion and level of impact especially on livelihoods for the implementation of a cash transfer program.

The proposed operation

The current operation has the objectives of providing emergency assistance to 1,631 families affected by floods in Ñeembucú and Misiones, of supporting early recovery processes based on the rehabilitation of the income sources, of offering psychosocial support, as well as carrying out health promotion activities.

| Damage and needs assessments | |
|---|--|
| Outcome: The Paraguayan Red Cross has reliable information on the current needs of the families affected in the departments of Ñeembucú, Misiones, Itapúa and Alto Paraná. | |
| Output: A rapid damage assessment is carried out in the departments of Ñeembucú, Misiones, Itapúa and Alto Paraná. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployment of a damage assessment team to the areas affected by floods. • Coordination meetings with the Emergency National Secretariat, the municipalities, local governments and other relevant organizations in the country. • Elaboration of a plan of action to assist the affected families to meet their immediate needs. |
| Livelihoods | |
| Outcome: Contribute to the immediate need of 500 families in the departments of Ñeembucú and Misiones. | |
| Output 1: Key assets (productive and non-productive) are provided to 500 families affected by floods through a conditional cash transfer. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of communities to be assisted, in coordination with the local authorities, the Emergency National Secretariat and the municipalities; • Cash feasibility and rapid market assessment completed to feed into the cash transfer programme design and detailed plan; • Mobilization of technical resources needed to design and implement the cash transfer programming, e.g. a RIT member; • Assessment of capacity and coverage for potential suppliers and third parties to provide the assets; • Establish agreements and a contracting process with the suppliers/third parties; • Beneficiary selection and registration; • Beneficiary communication activities designed and implemented; • Distribution of assets and/or vouchers; • Monitoring and reconciliation of cash transfers with the supplier/third parties; • Mobilization of a RIT member with experience in cash transfer programmes. |
| Output 2: Twenty Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers and staff are capable to conduct a cash transfer programme focused on livelihoods. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One cash transfer program training addressed to 20 Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers and staff; • Two livelihoods workshops for volunteers; • Monitoring visits developed by the Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers. |
| Health in emergencies | |
| Outcome: Contributing to the decrease of negative effects on the health of the families affected by floods in Ñeembucú and Misiones. | |
| Output 1: Continuous assessments of the health situation and of the immediate risks are carried out. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One CBHFA workshop addressed to the Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers; • Five community workshops on health promotion, water treatment and hygiene promotion held by trained Paraguayan Red Cross volunteers. |
| Output 2: 1,631 families are reached | |

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|---|--|
| through education and public awareness activities promoting good health habits. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production and dissemination of radio spots related to health and hygiene promotion; • Identification and registration of families in coordination with the health centres at community and municipal levels; • Distribution of hygiene kits to 1,631 families in Ñeembucú and Misiones. |
| Output 3: Three hundred individuals receive psychological support in shelters and first aid. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform ludic activities with children and teenagers; • Develop interviews with affected individuals to identify the level of stress and offer psychological first aid; • Mobilize volunteers from the Psychological Support Unit of the Itapúa branch, as well as a specialized NIT member. |

The hygiene kit to be distributed will include the following:

| Item | Description | Units |
|---------------------|--|-------|
| Laundry soap in bar | Animal or vegetable fat | 5 |
| Sanitary paper | Recycled two-ply toilet paper | 12 |
| Hand soap | Hands and body bar | 13 |
| Toothpaste | Plastic tube | 5 |
| Toothbrush | Medium size | 5 |
| Shampoo | For adults, normal hair | 5 |
| Razor | Disposable | 5 |
| Sanitary towels | Normal size | 8 |
| Hand towel | 100% cotton, 60 x 30cm | 5 |
| Comb | Plastic, 16cm x 6cm approximately | 2 |
| Plastic bag | Transparent and resistant bag--45cm x 65cm approximately | 1 |

Logistics

The Paraguayan Red Cross is conducting a local tendering process for the hygiene kits, as well as inquiring at the Global Logistics Service based in Panama. According to prices and delivery times of products, the National Society will decide on whether the purchase is made locally or internationally.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **Paraguayan Red Cross:** Luis Díaz de Bedoya, president of the Paraguayan Red Cross, phone: 59521-222-797; email: presidencia@cruzroja.org.py
- **IFRC regional representation:** Gustavo Ramirez, regional representative Chile and Paraguay; phone: +541 1495 17420; email: gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org
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**For Performance and Accountability
(planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)**

- **In the Americas zone office:** Roxana Lupu, reporting officer; phone: +507 317 3050; email: roxana.lupu@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

28-Aug-13

MDRPY014 Paraguay Floods

| Budget Group | DREF Grant Budget CHF |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Shelter - Relief | |
| Shelter - Transitional | |
| Construction - Housing | |
| Construction - Facilities | 0 |
| Construction - Materials | |
| Clothing & Textiles | |
| Food | 0 |
| Seeds & Plants | 0 |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene | 61,687 |
| Medical & First Aid | |
| Teaching Materials | 2,718 |
| Utensils & Tools | 0 |
| Other Supplies & Services | |
| Cash Disbursements | 94,554 |
| Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES | 158,959 |
| 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 | 4,728 |
| Transport & Vehicle Costs | 4,255 |
| Logistics Services | |
| Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE | 8,983 |
| International Staff | 16,547 |
| National Staff | |
| National Society Staff | 10,212 |
| Volunteers | 5,342 |
| Total PERSONNEL | 32,101 |
| Consultants | 0 |
| Professional Fees | |
| Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES | 0 |
| Workshops & Training | 17,020 |
| Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING | 17,020 |
| Travel | 9,928 |
| Information & Public Relations | 4,728 |
| Office Costs | 2,080 |
| Communications | 1,276 |
| Financial Charges | 756 |
| Other General Expenses | |
| Shared Office and Services Costs | |
| Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES | 18,769 |
| Partner National Societies | |
| Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other) | |
| Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS | 0 |
| Programme and Services Support Recovery | 15,329 |
| Total INDIRECT COSTS | 15,329 |
| TOTAL BUDGET | 251,160 |