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Disaster relief emergency fund (DREF) Peru: Extreme temperature (Snowfall)

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation n° MDRPE007
GLIDE n° CW-2013-000110-PER
12 September 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.

294,967 Swiss francs have been allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Peruvian Red Cross in delivering assistance to 5,000 beneficiaries. Un-earmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

Starting from 24 August, low temperatures, snowfall, hailstorms and heavy rains have been affecting the health and livelihoods of the population in ten departments (52 provinces) of the country. Cases of diseases such as conjunctivitis and severe respiratory infections are present, but serious infections like pneumonia were evidenced in vulnerable groups (children under five years of age, elderly people and people with co-morbidities). In addition, there has been a total of 26,640 dead animals and 683,344 affected animals (until 2 September 2013).



Affected family shows the Peruvian Red Cross evaluation team how it uses animals dead due to the cold - Source Peruvian Red Cross

On 29 and 30 August, the Peruvian Government declared a state of emergency in 106 districts of 23 provinces in the regions of Puno, Cusco, Ayacucho and Apurimac, this being the most intense event of this kind in 10 years. The National Service of Meteorology and Hydrology (*Servicio Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología* - SENAHMI) predicts that the low temperatures will last until the third week of September.

The Peruvian Red Cross has requested the support of IFRC to bring assistance to 1,000 families in the region of Puno and to protect their livelihoods, thus complementing the actions focused on improving health conditions initiated with the support of the German Red Cross and ECHO. The actions proposed for this DREF include: delivery of veterinary kits; technical advice for the best care of livestock; animal feed; food distribution for a month for families; and technical training for the Peruvian Red Cross volunteers and Agro Rural technicians in selected districts.

This operation is expected to be implemented over 3 months, and will therefore be completed by 12 December 2013; a final report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 12 March 2014).

[<click here for the DREF budget;](#)
[here for contact details>](#)

The situation

An increase in the number of cases of severe respiratory infections in children under five years of age, elderly people and other risk groups was evidenced as a result of the cold wave that hit the country in August. Up to the epidemiological week 31, the Ministry of Health (*Ministerio de Salud - MINSA*) reports 624 cases of acute respiratory infections (ARIs) per every 10,000 inhabitants, and 21,578 cases of pneumonia in children under five years, mainly in the regions of Lima, Loreto, Piura, Arequipa and Puno. Furthermore, the Ministry of Health reported 274 deaths, with the highest death rates in Junín, Puno, Pasco, Ayacucho and Tumbes. These figures are probably related to the limited perception of the disease and its risks, limitations on access and timeliness of care. Compared to years 2011 and 2012, there was a 20% increase of deaths due to pneumonia.

The Peruvian Government has mobilized about 812 metric tons of relief goods for shelter, food and household goods which have been distributed so far. It has also enabled access on disrupted roads, especially in the province of Carabaya in Puno.

According to preliminary damage assessment reported by the Emergency Operations Center of the National Civil Defense Institute (COEN-INDECI), up until 2 September 2013 the situation was as follows:

5,247 People who lost the home because of the storm snowfall	83,444 People affected by the storm snowfall	1 Dead person	872 Destroyed and uninhabitable houses	6,259 Affected houses	26,640 Dead animals	683,344 Affected animals
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Source: Situation Report OCHA Redhum Peru

The regions decreed in a state of emergency, as well as the preliminary impact are shown in the following table:

Updated on 2 September 2013 at 5 pm												
LOCATION	Number of people			Houses and public offices				Transport	Agriculture			Basic services
	Victims	Affected people	Dead people ***	Destroyed houses *	Non-habitable houses *	Affected houses *	Affected schools/ institutions	Affected roads (Km.)	Affected crop area (Hs.)	Affected animals **	Dead animals **	Affected electric energy (meters)
DPT. APURÍMAC	27	17,112		5		3,630		151.71	150	46,393	611	
DPT. AYACUCHO		4,397				7			60,000	9,973	70	
DPT. CUSCO		30,973			1	468	4	153	50	40,214	4,669	
DPT. HUANCVELICA						63		0.015	52	300		
DPT. PUNO	5,220	12,380	1	132	738	2,085	62			477,647	20,080	
DPT. JUNÍN		124				6		11		950		
DPT. MOQUEGUA		14,998							396	119,581	1,061	
DPT. TACNA		650								7,500	150	
TOTAL	5,247	80,634	1	137	739	6,259	66	315.72	60,648	702,558	26,641	0

Source: * COER – Apurímac, Ayacucho, Cusco, Huancavelica, Junín and Puno.

*** Major of the Provincial Municipality in Carabaya

Prior to the emergency, the Agro Rural programme distributed 592 veterinary kits with supplements and equipment for 100 cattle, sheep or lamas, for an approximately unitary price of PEN116 (41 U.S. dollars). During the emergency, 5,000 packs of oatmeal (food for animals) intended for approximately 1,600 families in the province of Carabaya (Macusani, Ituata, Ayapata, Oyachea) were distributed. This distribution was done as a preventive strategy for intervention. Although assessments are being done and data is currently being compiled, the Peruvian Red Cross considers these preventive measures as an effective strategy, as without them the percentage of lost animals could have doubled or tripled.

Needs assessment

As part of the operation to respond to this situation, the Peruvian Red Cross deployed a damage assessment team to Puno. The following information summarizes the findings:

Affected livelihood groups:

- Large livestock enterprises: represented by companies that are involved in the alpaca production chain;
- Medium-scale farmers: with as many animals, medium-scale farmers are hiring shepherds for livestock care;
- Small-scale herders and breeders: they own few animals (30 to 100 heads) and take care of their own animals' grazing.

The livestock-related activities are carried out at between 3,000-5,000 metres above sea level because these areas concentrate most natural pasture for grazing for alpacas. These lands belong mainly to the communities dedicated to livestock raising and are located in areas far from centres of population and commerce. There are financial organizations present in Macusani district, which are engaged in the provision of loans to small businesses.

Impact on livelihood assets:

Financial assets

Small-scale livestock breeders evaluated earn their income from trading wool, meat and skins, from the sale of animals and wool shearing. The financial capital of these communities is represented by the cattle and these do not reflect their assets in cash. According to the Technical Secretary of Civil Defence of Macusani District and the families interviewed by the Peruvian Red Cross assessment team, it is estimated that during the last snowfall in the region, an average from 5% to 8% of total financial capital has been lost. From 1999 to date, the estimated annual mortality in the winter periods is 3% to 4%, due mainly abortions of alpaca offspring generated by low temperatures. The amount of loss this year (5%-8%) affects the income and financial capital of small herders, which could be aimed at future investments in health and education primarily. It is important to mention that the small-scale breeders' income is not earned on a daily or monthly basis, but over longer periods. Moreover, the breeders don't have access to credit because they cannot achieve the required level of formalization.

During winter, the families have access to food in Macusani City; their diet is based on rice, potatoes, sugar, oil and corn. As mentioned previously, families have their homes situated between 3,000-5,000 metres above sea level, and due this fact, it is not possible to grow crops except for black potatoes. Only a small group of people benefit from this kind of crops, therefore the products used by the families are purchased at the local market.

In order to obtain the necessary cash, families engage in two types of activities:

1. Sale of alpaca wool: the families shear the alpaca wool twice a year (between February and March) but currently they cannot have access to it as the animal is being protected during winter time.
2. Sale of the animals: families sell the alpaca in case of emergency to other herders for financial benefit. The cash raised is of around 75 U.S. dollars or 100 U.S. dollars per head.

With the loss of the alpacas, families are using their surviving animals as food, as is the case of families affected by the emergency. They are currently eating the dead alpacas, but next month this source of food will not be available for the affected communities, and neither it will be possible to sell the dead animals in order to have access to cash for food, health care and medicines.

Physical assets

Small-scale breeders do not have sufficient sheds in the affected areas; some sheds were built with support provided by Agro Rural and beneficiaries, but the building stopped in 2011 due to distribution problems and because they could not meet the demand of the entire community. The sheds are temporary shelters to protect the most vulnerable alpacas, baby alpacas and pregnant alpacas during periods of low temperatures.

Small-scale breeders lack personal protective equipment to face extreme weather conditions while performing usual livestock activities.

Social assets

The productive activities of small-scale farmers are conducted at the household level, which is also the initial support level to address the emergency situations. They have no formal associations to represent them, and this is hindering the identification of affected population after the emergency, as corroborated also by the Agro Rural programme.

Human assets

The livestock-raising communities know traditional techniques for livestock grazing, which are carried out at between 3,000-5,000 metres above sea level. Communities manage health care of livestock in a basic way. The recent snowfall has generated a strong impact on the health of minor breeders, mainly due to acute respiratory infections, as well as visual and dermatological problems due to the lack of personal protective equipment to perform grazing activities in adverse weather conditions.

Natural assets

Weather conditions during the emergency caused the loss of the pasture, which is the natural food source for minor livestock breeders, endangering their productive activity. Small-scale breeders use, as much as possible, dead livestock as part of the daily diet and as meat for sale. This is possible through drying techniques and meat preservation. These breeders are moving livestock to safer areas, where they find pasture. Family support networks to develop joint grazing activities have been strengthened. The producers have not abandoned the productive activity related to raising alpacas, however, the shortage of pasture for livestock is occurring.

Coordination and partnerships

The regional health directorates have treated cases of disease in the affected areas. They have mobilized health brigades to the affected areas. Moreover, the Ministry of Health, through the Emergency Operations Center has monitored the situation at national level and provided logistical support with help from the General Office of National Defence.

During the cold weather season, the Ministry of Health distributed 500 kilograms of medicines and 10,000 blankets, and mobilized brigades which were responsible for carrying out vaccinations in the areas most affected by frost, such as Puno, Apurimac and Cuzco. More brigade deployment and more products to fight extreme cold in the affected areas are planned and expected.

The National Humanitarian Network (NHN) developed monitoring and coordination activities during the meetings convened by INDECI. The Government implemented the Multi-sectoral Plan for Low Temperature Season. The Peruvian Red Cross, CARE, the World Health Organization and PREDES (Disaster Prevention - *Prevención de Desastres*) reported on activities that are developed through projects that are under way in the affected areas of Puno and Cusco. Also, the Peruvian Red Cross reported and coordinated with OCHA, INDECI and the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct an assessment mission focused on livelihoods in Puno on 30 August.

Due to the recent events produced, the National Humanitarian Network (NHN), following the Action Protocol for Rainy Season and the Low Temperature Season, established a virtual monitoring mechanism and carried out a coordination meeting on 2 September. During this meeting, an inter-sectoral and inter-agency mission was agreed-upon, to discuss the humanitarian situation and determine a course of joint action in support of regional and local governments.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Between 16 and 19 August 2013, the Peruvian Red Cross mobilized a health assessment team in coordination with the Regional Health Directorate of Puno (*Dirección Regional de Salud - Diresa-Puno*) and the Office of National Defence of the Ministry of Health. As a result of the evaluation, the Peruvian Red Cross, through support received from the German Red Cross, is implementing a project financed by DG-ECHO (Regional Office in Ecuador) to meet the health needs of 26 affected communities in Puno region. The financial amount approved by DG-ECHO is of 196,000 euros and includes the following objectives:

- Development of 26 medical health campaigns;
- Training of health promoters of eight networks of the Ministry of Health;
- Distribution of blankets and hygiene kits to 1,500 families.

To date, as part of the project, the Peruvian Red Cross hired a project coordinator based in Puno and a logistics manager. Moreover, it has also coordinated the shipment of 2,000 blankets and 1,500 hygiene kits to be distributed to the affected area.

The American Red Cross mobilized a cash transfer expert to conduct a feasibility study and market analysis. The Spanish Red Cross has made available a livelihood technician to assist in the assessment activities carried out on 31 August.

From 31 August to 3 September, another team of the Peruvian Red Cross specialized in livelihoods assessment was mobilized to Puno region to assess the impact on livelihoods. The assessment mission evaluation included meetings held with key informants and representatives of the Regional Directorate of Civil Defence, the head of the Civil Defence Office in Macusani district, and technical representatives from the Agro Rural programmes in the affected areas.

The Regional Disaster Management Delegate of the International Federation Secretariat, based in Peru, supported the Peruvian Red Cross for the development of the evaluation plan and maintains close contact with the National Society for the coordination of the emergency.

The needs

The dialogue with representatives of the Rural Agro programme outlined the following actions that are necessary in the affected communities of Carabaya province:

- Distribution of emergency veterinary kits: these kits enable protection of livestock in situations of intense cold and shortage of pasture as an effect of the cold wave;
- Construction of sheds at high altitudes to protect vulnerable livestock (calves and pregnant livestock) from snowfalls;
- Food for families;
- Fodder for livestock;
- Delivery of personal protective equipment for livestock breeders, including rubber boots and waterproof coats;
- Capacity building of livestock promoters for livestock protection actions.

This proposal does not consider shelter for alpacas because the cost per unit is around 2,500 U.S. dollars and because of other land-related issues. Furthermore, tarpaulins cannot be used under these conditions.

Selection criteria

The project will focus on the Puno region, Carabaya province, where the Peruvian Red Cross is also implementing health interventions with the support of ECHO; however, it is possible that, in case the situation worsens in other areas, additional funding is requested, either through an extension of DREF operation or through an emergency appeal.

Together with ECHO, the Red Cross Movement seeks to perform a comprehensive intervention supporting the Peruvian Red Cross response operation. The specific criteria for selecting families will be developed in coordination with the municipal authorities and community leaders, in order to identify the most vulnerable families.

One thousand of the most vulnerable families in five districts will be the target population for this intervention, out of a total population in the area of 43,827 people. The table below shows the amount of people living in each district, and the selection activities will decide on the number of affected families to be assisted in each district.

Nº	District	Population
1	Macusani	11,707
2	Ituata	6,108
3	Ayapata	8,996
4	Ollachea	4,919
5	Coasa	12,097
	Total	43,827

The proposed operation

The goal of the operation is to contribute to the protection of livelihoods of 1,000 families (5,000 people) in the districts of Macusani Ituata, Ayapata and Ollachea, in Carabaya province, Puno region.

Food security and livelihoods	
Outcome: 1,000 families of five districts of the Carabaya Province in Puno are able to survive the cold wave and protect their livelihoods.	
Outputs 1: 1,000 families in five districts of Carabaya have access to food for one month or cash (vouchers or unconditional cash transfer) to minimize the application of irreversible or negative coping strategies in communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a feasibility study and market analysis to implement a cash transfer/voucher system; • Identification of local and national suppliers; • Develop a plan for distribution of food or cash voucher/transfers; • Food distribution or cash voucher/transfer method is in line with the analysis identified; • Develop and implement a monitoring plan and measure beneficiary satisfaction; • Carry out a final evaluation and create a graphical memory about the project implementation; • Organize a cash transfer workshop for the Peruvian Red Cross volunteers. • Organize two Mega V application workshops.
Outputs 2: 1,000 families in five districts of Carabaya have supplies and knowledge to protect their livestock through access to veterinarian kits, technical assistance, personal protection equipment and food for animals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop beneficiary selection criteria; • Identification and registration of beneficiaries using ODK and Mega V systems; • Hiring two technicians to advise the affected livestock farmers; • Signing a mutual collaboration agreement with the Municipality of Carabaya; • Carry out 10 community workshops (two per community) on technical livestock protection and the use of the veterinary kit; • Listing purchase and transportation of relief supplies (food, protection equipment and veterinary kits for livestock); • Distribution of personal protection

	<p>equipment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits for follow-up and technical advice; • Deployment of one RIT experienced in livelihoods; • Two visits per community made by the project technical team together with volunteers from the Peruvian Red Cross, as part of training in the protection of livestock.
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Implementation methodology

The project includes four components, oriented towards: a) the care and protection of animals; b) accessing cash or food for families; c) accessing physical capital; and d) training people for the effective accomplishment of project results. To this end, the Peruvian Red Cross plans hiring technical experts in livestock, who will be responsible for household visits, training farmers and encouraging participation in the use of best techniques to protect livestock during the current winter season and future emergencies.

The delivery of veterinary kits will be done with the technical assistance of Agro Rural. The veterinary kit contains supplements and equipment for a total of 100 heads of cattle, as described below:

- Two bottles of vitamin (A,B and E) as a supplement in the absence of grazing;
- Two bottles of antibiotics (oxytetracycline and ketoprofen for pneumonia and respiratory diseases);
- Iodized alcohol (1,500 milliliters);
- A pack of cotton (1,500 grams);
- Ten-milliliter syringes (100);
- Needles (18x1 ½);
- One veterinary thermometer.

In addition to a veterinary kit, each family will receive five packages of hay for the livestock and personal protection equipment (a pair of boots and a waterproof jacket).

In order to facilitate sustainability, the project will focus on the coordination with Agro Rural, the municipality and the local government. An agreement will be signed with the municipality and the local government to provide better tracking of results and continuity once the DREF operation ends. The use of the technical capabilities of local farmers will be prioritized because they are the ones who know the area of intervention, the customs, ancient techniques and local languages such as Quechua and Aymara.

The Peruvian Red Cross is interested in applying the cash transfer modality, not only because it's an innovative tool, but also in order to facilitate access to cash by families. In order to provide technical support, the American Red Cross sent an expert in cash transfer programmes to conduct a feasibility study and market analysis. The results of the analysis will guide the decision the Peruvian Red Cross will make about the way cash transfer will be implemented as part of the project (cash for work, bank transfer, or voucher). Because the Peruvian Red Cross currently has no experience in this matter, the DREF includes a training workshop addressed to the technical teams of the National Society and other local actors in Puno. It should be noted that the model of cash transfer will only be applied if the feasibility study and market analysis reveal appropriate conditions to implement the programme.

The project also includes training for volunteers in order to carry out activities in the affected communities, as well as to increase awareness and capacity for the local population to plan the protection of stock. The volunteers will have the ability to accurately monitor the effect of the intervention and may propose adjustments if necessary. The volunteers' technical training and their involvement in the implementation are an important added value of this operation, which will contribute to better assessments in future emergencies.

The use of Mega V and ODK, which are tools that enable better control and registration for distributions, includes a training component and the acquisition of equipment for implementation. To this end, the Peruvian Red Cross plans to buy one kit that includes:

- one laptop;
- two scanners;
- two tablets;
- one printer;

- one water-resistant box;
- one portable adapter.

Communication

Outcome: The National Society activities in response to the emergency are covered.

Outputs 1: During the three months of the operation the National Society produces material for communication for internal and external partners.

- Contract a journalist for writing case studies and web stories, and carry out interviews with beneficiaries.
- Contract personnel to shoot videos and take high-quality photographs.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

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For Performance and Accountability

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1. Click [here](#) to return to the title page

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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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

12-Sep-13

MDRPE007 Peru - Snowfall

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	
Shelter - Transitional	
Construction - Housing	
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	18,793
Food	93,966
Seeds & Plants	75,173
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	4,698
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	192,630
Land & Buildings	
Vehicles	
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	17,572
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	17,572
International Staff	14,095
National Staff	
National Society Staff	19,733
Volunteers	3,054
Other Staff Benefits	2,819
Total PERSONNEL	39,701
Consultants	6,578
Professional Fees	
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	6,578
Workshops & Training	6,578
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	6,578
Travel	4,228
Information & Public Relations	4,041
Office Costs	3,759
Communications	1,128
Financial Charges	752
Other General Expenses	
Shared Office and Services Costs	
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	13,907
Partner National Societies	
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	18,003
Total INDIRECT COSTS	18,003
TOTAL BUDGET	294,967