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## Emergency appeal Paraguay: Drought

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

**Emergency appeal n° MDRPY015**  
**GLIDE n° [DR-2013-000128-PRY](#)**  
**11 October 2013**

This Emergency Appeal seeks 930,108 Swiss francs in cash, kind, or services to support the Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) to assist 10,000 beneficiaries for nine months, and will be completed by the end of June 2014. A final report will be made available by 30 September 2014 (three months after the end of the operation).

Approximately 15,000 families in 246 communities are being strongly affected by droughts in the Paraguayan Chaco region since early May, and this has impacted directly their livelihoods. The lack of rain during the first months of the year prevented families from getting the water needed to fill their

reserve tanks; meanwhile communities are still facing the consequences of a frost that affected the area in July and August 2013, causing further loss in agriculture, livestock and dairy production, mainly in the Chaco's department of Boquerón. In view of this situation, the Paraguayan government declared a state of emergency on 11 September 2013 to address the consequences from both events.

In their auxiliary role to the government, the Paraguayan Red Cross has requested support from IFRC to launch an emergency appeal to assist 2,000 families with food distribution, of which 1,000 families will also be supported to restore their livelihood and 500 families will receive support with the reparation or construction of water catchment systems and hygiene promotion.

[<click here to view the attached Emergency Appeal budget or here to view contact details>](#)



The drought in the Chaco region has resulted in the loss of a large number of livestock, which has severely impacted the livelihoods of small farmers. Source: Municipality of Filadelfia

## The situation

Rainfall shortages are creating a new drought in the Chaco region. Because of this situation the families could not get enough water to fill their reservoirs and water supply systems (such as ponds, tanks and cisterns) which has directly affected their livelihoods and access to safe water. Natural and cultivated pastures of small and large-scale farmers in the area have been affected, and an increase in cattle animal mortality was reported.

According to the information provided by the National Emergency Secretariat (*Secretaría de Emergencia Nacional* -SEN), the current drought is not as severe as the event that affected the area in 2008-2010. However, actors express concern over the consequences of the combination of this event and the recent frosts, which happened in communities that were still recovering from last year's flood.



Animals try to reach little water that remains in a pond, which is now almost empty due to the drought. Source: Municipality of Filadelfia

As a result, the Chamber of Deputies declared a state of emergency in the three departments of Chaco: Presidente Hayes, Boquerón and Alto Paraguay on 11 September, which was sanctioned by the Senate the 12 of September<sup>1</sup>. In addition, the National Animal Quality and Health Service (SENACSA, in Spanish) declared a drought-related animal health emergency in the region on 26 September<sup>2</sup>.

Based on initial assessments, some 15,000 families are being affected, although the inaccessibility of the areas has created difficulties to establish precise and combined figures of total affectation; the exact quantity of affected livestock and land is not yet available. At the moment, the Municipality of Filadelfia is conducting a baseline evaluation to identify the impact per household, which is expected to be available the first week of October, while other municipalities are also completing their assessments.

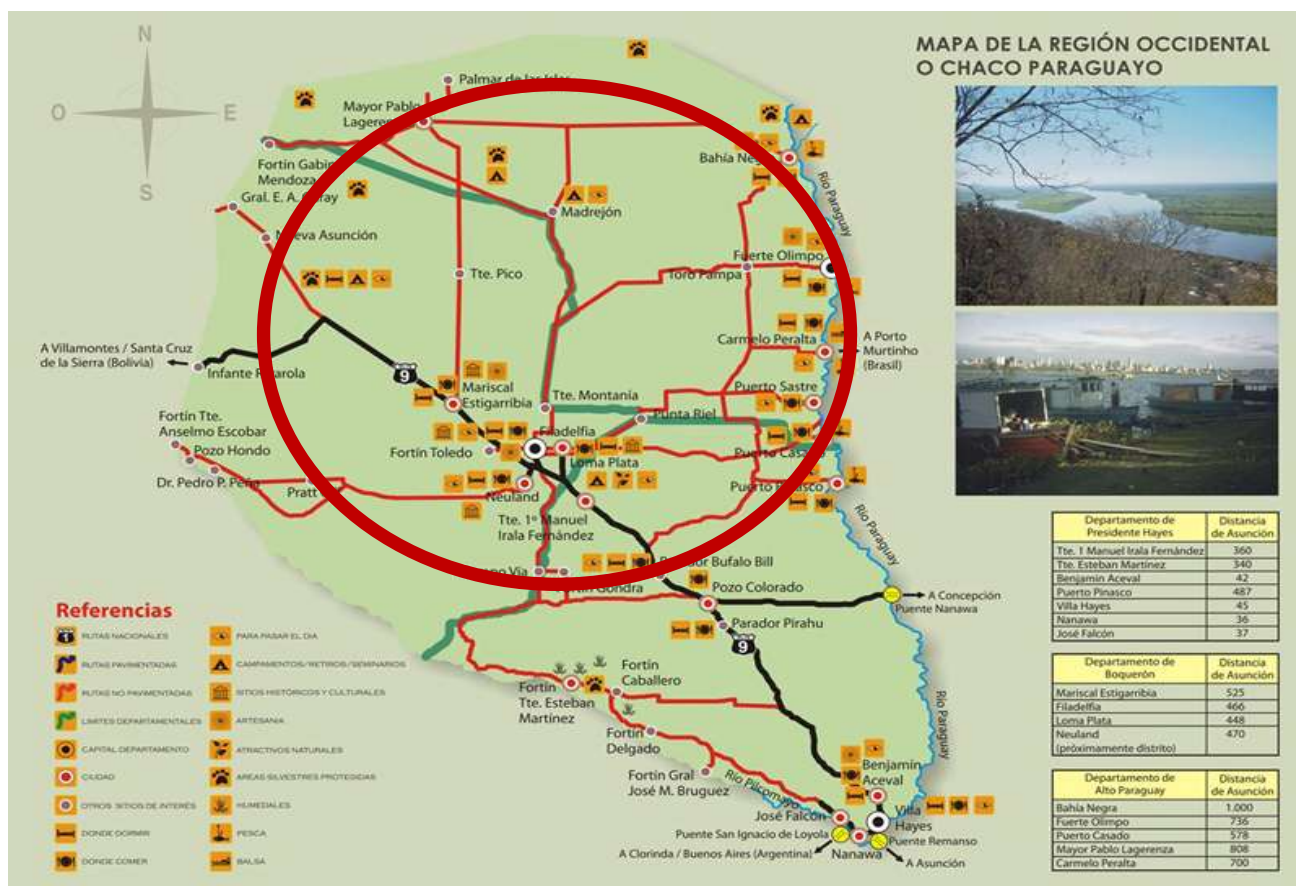
Based on their field visits and coordination with governmental authorities, the Paraguayan Red Cross has gathered the following information on some of the affected municipalities:

**Municipality of Puerto Pinasco:** Local and departmental authorities have identified this municipality as a priority area for the delivery of food and safe water. This area, located in the Presidente Hayes department, is especially concerned about the isolated indigenous communities of San Fernando and La Patria, which are located some 160 kilometres from the Paraguay River--the main water source. In total, 36 communities located in high-risk areas have been affected by a series of adverse events. The mayor of Puerto Pinasco reported that cattle raising is the main productive activity. The losses produced by the drought have not only severely impacted small cattle owners, but has also caused the reduction of temporary work in larger farms, which is the main source of income for rural and indigenous communities. Based on projections and the level of vulnerability assessed by SEN, the municipality and the government of Presidente Hayes, approximately 1,307 families are affected.

**Municipality of Tte. Manuel Irala Fernández:** According to reports from municipal authorities, indigenous community leaders and officials from the SEN, there is a need to deliver food and water to 55 communities (3,394 families) located in high-risk areas, affected by the drought. Forage-related agricultural losses have reached 50 per cent, while the decline in milk production reached 25 per cent. Data from two district cooperatives indicate that at least 100 heads of cattle have been lost. This situation has caused a sharp drop in the demand for temporary employment—an important source of income for vulnerable families. In addition, hunting, fishing and gathering activities that constitute the livelihood of indigenous communities in the area have been reduced to a minimum due to lack of water. As a result, many families are confronting a situation where both subsistence activities and temporary work are unavailable.

<sup>1</sup> ABC – [National Emergency declared by Chamber of Deputies for Chaco Departments](#) (Spanish), 13/09/13.

<sup>2</sup> The National Animal Quality and Health Service – [Drought animal health emergency declaration](#) (Spanish), 25/09/13.



Map of the Chaco region affected, including the three affected departments

Source: Department of Statistics and Census of Paraguay

**Villa Hayes Municipality:** The government of Presidente Hayes Department in coordination with the SEN has also assessed severe damage in 19 communities (some 901 families) in Bajo Chaco. Of especial concern are the indigenous populations of Pozo Colorado. Similarly to the situation described above, the livelihoods of these communities depend on hunting, fishing and gathering. These activities are now very limited due to the drought and the deterioration of the conditions to access water.

**Puerto Falcón:** Water delivery and food assistance are a priority for the communities of Espartillo and Ninfa, which house some 120 families.

**Puerto Elsa:** The district recorded no major damage in relation to drought. However, special attention is requested to the National Emergency Secretariat in relation to the recovery process of families in areas of risk that have been displaced from their homes by the floods in June and July 2013. A total of 180 families need food.

**General Bruguéz – Tte. Esteban Martínez:** These districts are composed mostly of families of farmers engaged in tilling the soil and grazing, poor families of the area who as a result of drought have lost livestock and suffered significant declines in agricultural production. The forage has suffered losses of between 30 per cent and 40 per cent. The lack of water forces inhabitants to travel several kilometres to supply livestock needs. In the area there are water collection and distribution systems that could be compromised in the absence of significant rainfall in the next 30 days.

**Benjamín Aceval:** The indigenous community of La Esperanza 192 is the only community in this municipality with serious damage as a result of drought and lack of water. It is located 200 kilometres from Asunción, the country's capital city. The municipality is currently responsible for ensuring access to water to the urban population and nearby communities.

During assessments with the indigenous communities in the area of Chaco Rapére, located in central Chaco,

it became clear that this area is also suffering from the combined effects of frost and the current drought. The grass is yellow and there is no agricultural production. However, many communities in this particular zone still have water in their wells and are benefiting from the assistance of the municipalities, the SEN and the Ministry of Public Works and Communications.

### Needs assessment by sector

**Livelihoods:** The fields of sweet potatoes, cassava, sugar cane, and citrus fruits, as well as the natural and cultivated pastures in the communities of San Antonio, Santa Cecilia, Santa Aurelia, Lagunita, San Jose, Campo Via, Falcon, Campo Aceval and Gondra have suffered severe frostbite. In addition, the death of 100 heads of cattle was reported. The families identified in most communities are engaged in temporary jobs (as labourers, artisan, lumberjacks, coal miners, farmers) or are dedicated to subsistence agriculture.

According to the Paraguayan Red Cross' initial assessment, 20 per cent of people interviewed expressed that they have been affected by the lack of water, lost their products and/or have been unable to farm. In addition, small livestock animals are dying from lack of water, while wild animals (for subsistence hunting) have migrated in search of water. The latter factors cover the whole spectrum of the affected population.

As a survival strategy, the families of the communities are greatly reducing food consumption both in variety and number of daily meals, either because of direct lack or in order to help others -family and friends - to access food.

Table of coping strategies currently used by families as a result of droughts

Coping strategies	Preference, by family		
	1 <sup>st</sup> Option	2 <sup>nd</sup> Option	3 <sup>rd</sup> Option
Reduced food consumption (quantity and/or variety)	18	4	1
Reducing the number of daily meals	15	15	1
Ask for help from family/friends	7	1	1
Temporary migration	7	3	9
Using social food programs (canteens for example)	3	2	1
Permanent migration to find work abroad	0	0	0
Reduced spending on health, clothing or other items	0	0	0
Sale of household goods (sewing machine, light engine)	0	0	1
Sale of tools, boat or other productive assets	0	0	0
Sale of animals (smaller and major cattle)	0	0	1
Borrowing money	0	0	0

Source: Paraguayan Red Cross Assessment Team

The National Aeronautics Civil Aviation (DINAC) forecasts rains in October, November and December that could allow the collection of water in the Chaco region if proper systems are installed. However, even if rain falls in November to allow planting, the harvest of the first products will not be possible until several months later.

### Water, sanitation and hygiene:

Due to recurrent droughts in the area, several organizations and government entities have been implementing development projects for several years, including the construction of wells and rainwater catchment systems, as well as supporting cultural practices to build reservoirs and embankments.

After their first assessments, the Paraguayan Red Cross team determined that most of them are empty or have minimum reserves both because of the drought and the lack of maintenance of their storage resources.

At the moment, the SEN and municipalities have distributed an average of 13,000 gallons of safe water in 246 communities representing 100% of the affected area. Additional water trucking is not a necessity yet, as the SEN will continue distributions during the coming months, although they expressed a key concern: if no rains fall in the next few weeks in the region, a greater investment of funds and logistics will be required to cover the increased demand for water. It is worth noting that the vast majority of indigenous communities do not have enough water reservoirs and in some areas the ponds became saline or depleted by inadequate rainfall.

The teams also identified that several ponds (see image below) do not have protection, which increases the risk of contamination with animal faeces and therefore the risk of water-borne diseases, such as acute diarrhoea and gastroenteritis. An increase in the number of cases of these diseases is expected in the coming weeks, since some communities do not treat the water at home.



**Aljibe - Rainwater catchment system commonly used in the area. Source: Municipality of Filadelfia**



**Tajamar – A different type of rainwater catchment system implemented in the area. Source: Municipality of Filadelfia**

### **Food and nutrition:**

As mentioned in the livelihoods section, the combination of the frost and drought has reduced access to food, and families, in turn, are reducing their consumption. Thus far general food insecurity problems are not yet reported because in many areas it is still possible to engage in other activities such as hunting, gathering and wage labour in nearby farms and colonies. However, these coping strategies are starting to be affected in several municipalities, and the long distances between communities and cities make it difficult for families to resort to daily work to complement their income and access these nutrition sources. A key aspect to consider is that previous emergencies in the region, similar to the ones it is currently experiencing, have been the cause of urban migration movements in the past.

### **Health:**

Health services in the affected region are active, alert and continuously monitoring the situation. At the moment, the Ministry of Public Health has reported specific medical cases related to drought (respiratory symptoms and isolated cases of dehydration). Primary health care services are in operation and health workers are currently preparing training sessions for local people about water treatment.

### **Education:**

The Ministry of Education is in the process of collecting data about:

1. Continuity in the supply and distribution of school nutritional supplements (received daily by students);
2. Drop-out or school mobility as a result of the emergency;
3. Educational community staff whose health was affected as a result of the emergency.

## **Coordination and partnerships**

The Paraguayan Red Cross has participated in coordination meetings at national level with the National Emergency Secretariat, the Ministry of Public Works and Communications, the Ministry of Health and with the United Nations agencies, in order to identify the areas of interaction and intervention for each

organization. Within these coordination meetings the World Food Programme (WFP) committed to the distribution of 260 tons of food for 6,000 families for the next three months (October, November and December). The logistical support for these deliveries will be provided by the National Army and the police.

With the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, the Paraguayan Red Cross has participated in:

1. Briefings with Movement partners present in Paraguay (Finnish Red Cross, ICRC and IFRC).
2. Local meetings with the Governorate of Boquerón were held. The Paraguayan Red Cross through its branch in the city of Filadelfia has maintained a permanent coordination with the government of Boquerón.
3. Permanent presence in the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) of the National Emergency Secretariat (SEN).
4. Presence is permanent in the EOC installed by the Government of Boquerón on 21 September. The first session was attended by PRC's national headquarters representatives, branch members and the IFRC Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member currently in Paraguay.
5. Bilateral meetings are held by the National Society with the IFRC Secretariat and United Nations representatives, WFP and national government representatives, in order to identify current actions and possible joint actions to be performed in the near future.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

The Paraguayan Red Cross has mobilized a needs and damage assessment team to Boquerón Department in order to assess the situation of families affected by the current drought. Although the National Society's technical team is still in field mission continuing assessments, the first reports have been used to develop an overall plan of action for intervention in coordination with various humanitarian actors—the local government department in Boquerón, Filadelfia's municipal authorities and the Ministry of National Emergency. Also, the PRC has meetings with UN agencies and the Swiss Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross and the ICRC. To date there have been two reports published on DMIS on the situation of families and the actions taken by the National Society.

The Boquerón branch of the PRC, located in the district of Filadelfia, has a signed agreement with the governmental authorities for technical cooperation in times of emergency. This agreement includes the close collaboration during departmental response and local development initiatives in the most vulnerable areas. As part of the agreement, the members of the branch are actively involved and working in the departmental EOC.

In support of this operation, the IFRC Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) mobilized a cash transfer expert to assist with the initial evaluations. The PADRU also mobilized a disaster management delegate who has been supporting the PRC in coordination meetings and in the preparation of this emergency appeal. In addition, a member of the Regional Intervention Team (RIT) is currently deployed in Paraguay, supporting the DREF operation for the flood in Misiones and Ñeembucú; he initially supported the coordination of activities prior to the arrival of the IFRC delegates.

It should be noted that, at the moment, the National Society is in the last stages of implementation of a DREF-supported operation. However, this operation should not be affected as it occurs in a different part of the country and counts with its particular technical team and one RIT member in the country who will make sure that the activities are being carried out on schedule.

## The needs

### Immediate needs:

- Food distribution;
- Repair of water catchment systems.

The implementation of a food-for-work system is planned in order to integrate the response operation to these two immediate needs.

**Middle to longer-term needs:**

- Livelihoods rehabilitation;
- Studies to search for groundwater;
- Water drilling;
- Construction of irrigation systems for crops.

The fact that this type of emergency is a recurring situation in the Chacó area of Paraguay only worsens the position faced by the local population and the need for the National Society to intensify their efforts. Yet, the organizational change which frames the actual context of the National Society requires an increased level of support from the staff of the IFRC PADRU unit and other Americas Zone Office focal points. Personnel from all the offices will be involved in the execution of the operation for both specific technical advice and operational monitoring. Therefore, with the agreement of the National Society, the operation will support Disaster Management, Water and Sanitation, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), Logistics, Disaster Law and Innovation personnel from the Secretariat.

**Beneficiary selection:**

The Paraguayan Red Cross operation will benefit 2,000 families (10,000 direct beneficiaries) from the most vulnerable areas affected. The selection will be done based on the following criteria:

- Priority will be given to rural areas and indigenous communities most affected and in need of water.
- Highly vulnerable people; among them: female-headed families, elderly, children and people with disabilities.
- People living in isolated areas, especially affected by poor access to water and food.
- Communities whose food supply has been exhausted or which are at risk of losing their livelihood supply.

Due to the difficult access to the affected area and the distances among communities, the National Society has decided to concentrate the operation on 10 communities, which will be identified according to the selection criteria mentioned above. In coordination with the World Food Program (WFP) and the governmental authorities, a food-for-work approach will be used to simultaneously repair 100 water systems and distribute food parcels to the affected families.

During the recovery phase, support will be focused on the recovery of livelihoods for 1,000 families. To achieve this, a livelihoods expert will be hired to assist in the selection of families in the 10 communities. Also, five of these communities will benefit from the construction of new water systems, especially those not having access to water or with rudimentary mechanisms.

In addition to the emergency and recovery activities, at least 2,500 people are expected to be reached through hygiene promotion campaigns, which will complement the repair-and-construction process of the water systems.

The beneficiary number varies between stages because the original 2,000 targeted families were not affected in the same way by these phenomena. As such, their needs vary: for some communities the most pressing issue relates to the ineffective water systems, while other communities face the need to recover their livelihoods or have problems accessing water during the dry season and require the construction of collecting systems.

It must be mentioned that the evaluation carried out by the cash transfer specialist determined that this type of programme was not feasible in the affected area due the distances and difficult access to communities.

## The proposed operation

<b>Food security and livelihoods</b>	
<b>Outcome: Affected families have immediate access to food and recover their livelihoods through the implementation of micro mitigation projects</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
2,000 families have received relief food items during the first month of the operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments;</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and a registration system to deliver intended assistance;</li> <li>• Implementation of Mega V and ODK systems for beneficiary registration;</li> <li>• Distribution of food to 2,000 families during one month;</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user;</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions;</li> </ul>
1,000 families have reactivated their livelihood at the end of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recruitment of a specialist to provide technical advice to families;</li> <li>• Development of selection criteria for identification of families;</li> <li>• Ten technical lectures on sustainable land management, care of livestock and beekeeping techniques;</li> <li>• Preparation of terms of reference for the purchase of seeds and livestock and beekeeping supplies;</li> <li>• Distribution of livelihood supplies;</li> <li>• Implementation of micro agricultural rehabilitation projects;</li> <li>• Signing of a collaboration agreement with the Municipality of Filadelfia;</li> </ul>
100 families have irrigation systems for their crops by the end of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of the diagnoses and proposals on modalities of irrigation systems;</li> <li>• Identification of locations where irrigation systems will be installed;</li> <li>• Design and development of the irrigation system;</li> <li>• Listing and purchase of supplies and materials for irrigation systems;</li> <li>• Installation of the irrigation systems;</li> <li>• Monitoring and technical advice.</li> </ul>

To provide some context to better understand the PRC intervention, it must be explained that the SEN has already delivered food to 3,496 families (1,813 in Presidente Hayes, 1,006 in Boquerón and 677 in Alto Paraguay). The WFP has also reached 3,312 families and plans to assist 6,000 more families by the end of the period. With this in mind, the 2,000 families to be reached by the National Society will cover the current gap to reach the approximately 15,000 families in need of nutritional support.

The Paraguayan Red Cross will provide support for the distribution of 2,000 food parcels in coordination with WFP and the SEN. The three organizations have agreed that the modality of distribution will be food-for-work, in order to make improvements in communities and, in the case of the Paraguayan Red Cross, to repair the affected catchment water systems.

The content of the food parcels is as follows:

<b>Content</b>	<b>Energy (person /day)</b>	<b>Quantity per month (kilograms)</b>
<b>Rice</b>	198	10
<b>Flour</b>	105	5
<b>Noodles</b>	105	5
<b>Sugar</b>	100	5

<b>Beans</b>	187	10
<b>Salt</b>	0	2
<b>Mate herb</b>	n/a	5
<b>Oil</b>	200	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>895</b>	<b>47</b>

A rural livelihoods specialist will be hired to support the National Society to better determine the detailed needs and develop a strategy for recovery. The specific items to be purchased and distributed, such as seeds, animal feed and similar items will be determined based on his/her recommendations.

The National Society has the necessary equipment for Mega V and ODK in place from a previous DREF operation and will use it for the current Emergency Appeal.

<b>Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion</b>	
<b>Outcome: Contribute to the wellbeing of 500 families (2,500 people) in ten communities through better access to water and hygiene promotion</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
One hundred water collection systems rehabilitated within the first quarter of the intervention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring of two water and sanitation technicians;</li> <li>• Conduct an assessment on community needs to identify materials and accessories needed to repair water systems;</li> <li>• Ten educational sessions on maintenance and repair of water catchment systems;</li> <li>• Conduct bacteriological studies of water at household level;</li> <li>• Acquisition of one portable laboratory for water analysis;</li> <li>• Distribution of materials and accessories to repair the water systems;</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of water systems in coordination with community members;</li> </ul>
Five communities have new and efficient drinking water systems at the end of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement of an engineer specialized in water systems;</li> <li>• Development a study to identify groundwater sources;</li> <li>• Development of an assessment of water to be recovered;</li> <li>• Identifying the points where the systems will be installed;</li> <li>• Sign mutual cooperation agreements among communities, municipalities and Paraguayan Red Cross;</li> <li>• Establish a unskilled labour control system in coordination with the community;</li> <li>• Five trainings on management and maintenance of water systems;</li> <li>• Five trainings on community organization and participation in coordination with the municipalities;</li> <li>• Establishment of a local committee for the management of the community water systems;</li> <li>• Building of five water projects;</li> <li>• Transfer of projects to communities and municipalities through official documentation;</li> </ul>
500 families from ten communities have participated in hygiene promotion activities at the end of the first semester of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One CBHFA training for volunteers in the Filadelfia branch for at least 15 volunteers;</li> <li>• Ten hygiene promotion awareness fairs carried out by volunteers and technical staff;</li> <li>• Conduct household visits to promote family hygiene and household water treatment;</li> <li>• Design and development of training material;</li> <li>• Distribution of hygiene kits as part of the promotion campaign.</li> </ul>

Due to the distances between communities and the difficult access to the intervention area, the PRC is planning activities in a small number of communities in order to achieve a better impact and focus resources on the identified families whose water systems have been affected.

In this same line, many of the educational sessions will be conducted on these same days, working with community members on hygiene promotion, household water treatment, as well as on the maintenance of their existing water systems.

The PRC will work together with the communities in order to evaluate the possibility of using drilling techniques or improving traditional water storage methods, if the former is not possible.

### Communications

<b>Outcome: Improve the communication in emergencies systems of the Paraguayan Red Cross for the dissemination and advocacy regarding the activities to be implemented through the project</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Ten communities have received hygiene promotion messages and shared their experiences about droughts at the end of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hiring of a communications officer for the operation;</li> <li>• Two press releases on the actions taken by the Red Cross and other organizations;</li> <li>• Five live stories from beneficiaries affected by drought;</li> <li>• Development of a campaign to promote hygiene through local radio in Spanish.</li> </ul>

With the support of this appeal, the Paraguayan Red Cross will move forward a set of actions to raise the visibility of the emergency, considering both the needs of the affected population and the work done by the organization in order to help people cope with their losses. These actions consider the integration of a communications officer into the PRC team. The communications officer will have the responsibility to provide accurate, timely humanitarian stories and work closely with media outlets through the provision of press releases, interview coordination and general communications as needed. Additional support will be provided to the hygiene campaign, including approaching local radios for support and ensuring that quality information is provided to the intended audience.

### Logistics

<b>Outcome: Strengthen the capacity of the Paraguayan Red Cross in purchasing and logistics processes for the implementation of the activities of the appeal.</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
Strengthen the Paraguayan Red Cross purchasing and logistics department for project implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping of the local procurement capacities;</li> <li>• Mobilize an officer experienced in logistics from the Americas Zone Office;</li> <li>• Train the National Society administration staff in IFRC purchasing procedures;</li> <li>• Monitor local purchases for emergency activities of the operation.</li> </ul>

The IFRC Global Logistic Service (GLS) in the Americas Zone Office will assist this operation through the provision of technical support and monitoring on procurement procedures to the Paraguayan Red Cross. The GLS will also revise and validate the purchase processes carried out by the National Society for items related to the response operation.

### Disaster preparedness

<b>Outcome: Contributing to the enforcement of the Paraguayan Red Cross and the Paraguayan legal framework for disaster response management.</b>	
<b>Outputs (expected results)</b>	<b>Activities planned</b>
At the end of the project the PRC has a disaster response system validated and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the National Disaster Response Plan;</li> <li>• One national disaster response team – NIT workshop for at least 25 volunteers;</li> <li>• One local communication system in Boquerón branch;</li> </ul>

disseminated at the national level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equipment of the PRC's Emergency Operations Centre;</li> <li>• Refurbishing the office of the Boquerón branch that will coordinate most of the actions;</li> <li>• Procurement of three first aid kits for cars and one for the branch functioning as operations centre;</li> </ul>
The auxiliary role of the Paraguayan Red Cross will be reinforced through providing technical legal advice to its government on International Disaster Response Law (IDRL) to increase the capacity to receive and manage international disaster assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a task force comprised by governmental entities and civil society representatives;</li> <li>• Conduct interviews with relevant stakeholders in the country with a role in the international disaster response;</li> <li>• Conduct consultative national workshops with stakeholders (governmental entities and civil society representatives);</li> <li>• Development of a plan of action to implement recommendations based on the IDRL Guidelines;</li> <li>• Development of a detailed IDRL study identifying the main gaps in the domestic legislation in receiving and managing international disaster assistance.</li> </ul>

The Paraguayan Red Cross is currently leading a process of change and modernization in the way it is fulfilling the humanitarian mission. Therefore, the development of a national disaster response plan is considered a strategic priority. In addition, one of the challenges faced is the strengthening of the response capacity at the branch level, particularly of those implementing the current operation that is occurring in several remote communities. Therefore the National Society's branch that will coordinate the operation will require some refurbishing, in order for it to handle the increase in activities, including the improvement of communications equipment and the procurement of first aid kits to include in rented cars.

At the end of the project, the National Society will have supported the governmental authorities to be better prepared and capable of receiving and managing international disaster assistance. To achieve this, a task force comprised by governmental entities and civil society representatives will be created to assist in the analysis and the drafting of recommendations to improve the current legal framework for disaster response based on the IDRL Guidelines.

### Capacity of the National Society

The Paraguayan Red Cross is currently leading a process of change and modernization in the way it is fulfilling the humanitarian mission. As part of the challenges it faces is the strengthening of the capacity for national response and of its branches. The National Society has one national office located in Asuncion with a defined organizational structure. Nationwide, the PRC has eight active branches and three branches undergoing a reactivation process, totalling an active national presence in eight out of 17 existing departments. Similarly, the PRC has a total of ten sub-branches, some of which are departmental. At the moment it has some 1,200 trained volunteers working in relief and youth projects.

The National Society has extensive experience in dealing with emergencies, disasters and health emergencies. Similarly, the Paraguayan Red Cross is in the process of strengthening its institutional procedures supported by the IFRC. Within the intervention area in question, the PRC has one active branch with a total of 33 volunteers. The local branch has its own administrative office and telecommunications equipment including high-frequency radio equipment, as well as a van in fair condition.

The PRC maintains a strategic-operational relationship with the National Emergency Secretariat - SEN, with which it carries out the monitoring of ongoing events which may cause emergencies and/or disasters. In emergency situations, the corresponding alerts are activated together with the EOC. At present PRC has a cooperation agreement in the country with the Swiss Red Cross, Finnish Red Cross, ICRC and IFRC.

### Capacity of the IFRC

Although the emergency addressed by this appeal is considered a slow-onset situation, its level of humanitarian impact is high, as it is directly linked to the livelihoods of vulnerable people. The fact that this

type of emergency is a recurring situation in the Chacó area of Paraguay only worsens the position faced by the local population. In this regard, and considering the organizational change which frames the actual context of the National Society, the execution of this operation will involve an increased level of support from the staff of the IFRC PADRU unit and other Americas Zone Office focal points that will need to work together with their counterparts in the PRC for both specific technical advice and operational monitoring.

At coordination level of the operation, the IFRC has appointed the Regional Disaster Management Coordinator for South America as the person responsible initially of the operation during the first three months; once this period passes, the operation will be transferred to the IFRC country representative.

For the implementation of field activities during the first three months, a member of the Regional Intervention Team (RIT) will be mobilized to Paraguay to support the PRC, and subsequently an international delegate will be hired as country operation coordinator to support the implementation of the activities proposed in this appeal. This will require that the National Society receives the equipment and funds on time to implement the activities and is provided the necessary external technical support. In addition the IFRC Finance Unit, both at the regional and zone office levels, will provide the necessary technical support during the emergency and recovery phases of the project. Similarly, the IFRC will provide personnel in the following areas: Logistics, Disaster Management, Water and Sanitation, Disaster Law, Innovation and PMER.

### Budget summary

See attached budget for details.

Walter Cotte  
Under Secretary General  
Programme Services Division

Bekele Geleta  
Secretary General

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## 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](mailto:presidencia@cruzroja.org.py)
- **IFRC Regional Representation:** Gustavo Ramírez, regional representative for Chile and Paraguay; phone: +541 1495 17420; email: [gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org](mailto:gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Zone:** Benoit Porte, Pan-American Disaster Response Unit coordinator; phone: +507 66793238; email: [benoit.porte@ifrc.org](mailto:benoit.porte@ifrc.org)

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

- **In the Americas zone office:** Jennie Trow, relationship management and accountability coordinator; phone: +507 6672 3170; email: [jennie.trow@ifrc.org](mailto:jennie.trow@ifrc.org)

### For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- **In the Americas zone office:** Karina Lapteva, relationship management senior officer; phone: +507-6678-8343; email: [karina.lapteva@ifrc.org](mailto:karina.lapteva@ifrc.org)
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Click [here](#)

1. Emergency Appeal budget [below](#)
2. 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.

[www.ifrc.org](http://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.
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**EMERGENCY APPEAL**  
MDRPY015 Drought Chaco Paraguay

09 October 2013

Budget Group		Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
500	Shelter - Relief				0
501	Shelter - Transitional				0
502	Construction - Housing				0
503	Construction - Facilities	164,034			164,034
505	Construction - Materials				0
510	Clothing & Textiles				0
520	Food	145,808			145,808
523	Seeds & Plants	91,130			91,130
530	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	116,191			116,191
540	Medical & First Aid	1,075			1,075
550	Teaching Materials	41,009			41,009
560	Utensils & Tools				0
570	Other Supplies & Services				0
571	Emergency Response Units				0
578	Cash Disbursements				0
<b>Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES</b>		<b>559,247</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>559,247</b>
580	Land & Buildings				0
581	Vehicles				0
582	Computer & Telecom Equipment	5,832			5,832
584	Office/Household Furniture & Equipment				0
587	Medical Equipment				0
589	Other Machinery & Equipment				0
<b>Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT</b>		<b>5,832</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,832</b>
590	Storage, Warehousing				0
592	Distribution & Monitoring				0
593	Transport & Vehicle Costs	28,250			28,250
594	Logistics Services				0
<b>Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE</b>		<b>28,250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,250</b>
600	International Staff	72,904			72,904
661	National Staff	24,186			24,186
662	National Society Staff	63,700			63,700
667	Volunteers	16,677			16,677
<b>Total PERSONNEL</b>		<b>177,467</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>177,467</b>
670	Consultants	13,943			13,943
750	Professional Fees	1,367			1,367
<b>Total CONSULTANTS &amp; PROFESSIONAL FEES</b>		<b>15,310</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>15,310</b>
680	Workshops & Training	28,250			28,250
<b>Total WORKSHOP &amp; TRAINING</b>		<b>28,250</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>28,250</b>
700	Travel	16,403			16,403
710	Information & Public Relations	6,835			6,835
730	Office Costs	9,478			9,478
740	Communications	7,746			7,746
760	Financial Charges	1,823			1,823
790	Other General Expenses				0
799	Shared Office and Services Costs	16,700			16,700
<b>Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>58,985</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58,985</b>
830	Partner National Societies				0
831	Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)				0
<b>Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
599	Programme and Services Support Recovery	56,767	0		56,767
<b>Total INDIRECT COSTS</b>		<b>56,767</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>56,767</b>
597/8	Pledge Earmarking & Reporting Fees				0
<b>Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>		<b>930,108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>930,108</b>
<b>Available Resources</b>					
Multilateral Contributions					0
Bilateral Contributions					0
<b>TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS</b>		<b>930,108</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>930,108</b>