



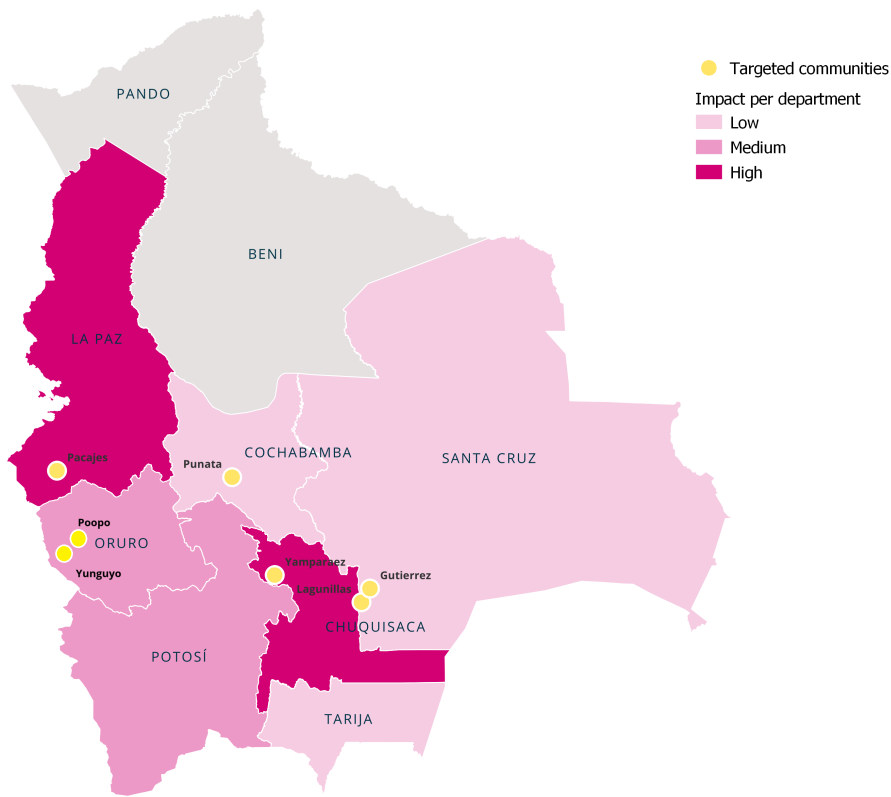
Drought hits seven out of nine of Bolivia's regions. La Nación Newspaper. 22 September 2023.

Appeal: <b>MDRBO015</b>	Country: <b>Bolivia</b>	Hazard: <b>Drought</b>	Type of DREF Response
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 276,661</b>	
Glide Number:	People Affected: <b>1,948,056 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>5,000 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>2023-10-08</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>6 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>2024-04-30</b>	DREF Published: <b>2023-10-10</b>
Targeted Areas:	<b>Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, La Paz, Oruro, Santa Cruz</b>		

# Description of the Event

## Bolivia | Drought

### Affected areas



Date Produced: 29 September 2023  
The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.  
Produced by IM Team, HDCC, IFRC ARO.  
Sources: GADM, IFRC.



Map 1. Map of areas affected and areas prioritized by the Bolivian Red Cross. Source: National Drought Impact Report. VIDECI. Updated to 29 September 2023.

## What happened, where and when?

Bolivia is currently facing a severe crisis due to a combination of intense winter heat fueled by the climate crisis and the El Niño phenomenon. Large portions of the country are experiencing drought, water shortages, and rising average temperatures. Local authorities have issued stark warnings, emphasizing the seriousness of the situation during what has turned out to be the hottest winter ever recorded in the country. Temperatures have skyrocketed to a scorching 40°C. Notably, on 25 September, Bolivia recorded its highest-ever September temperature, reaching 40.3°C. In the weeks ahead, some regions are expected to experience even more extreme temperatures, potentially reaching as high as 45°C. By December, there is a “high probability” Bolivia’s iconic Lake Titicaca will be 64cm below the drought alert level, breaking a low water record set in 1998 by 33cm (1).

The Bolivian Drought Monitor reveals that all of the country's Macroregions, which are spatial monitoring units with similar climatic characteristics, are witnessing areas affected by drought. However, as indicated in Map 2, the Macroregions Altiplano (3,200 to 5,000 masl), Valles (1,500 to 3,000 masl), Yungas-Chapare (150 to 4,200 masl), and Chaco (279 to 2,000 masl) are the most severely impacted, experiencing significant soil moisture loss and displaying areas of moderate to extreme drought (2).

At the departmental level, the drought is most severely affecting seven out of Bolivia's nine departments: La



Paz, Potosí, Cochabamba, Oruro, Chuquisaca, Tarija and Santa Cruz. In four of these departments - Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, Oruro, and Potosí - the Departmental Emergency Operations Centers (COED) have recommended the declaration of a state of emergency.

Consequently, on 29 September, the Departmental Autonomous Government of Oruro promulgated Departmental Decree No. 235, titled "Declaration of Departmental Disaster due to Adverse Drought Event in Oruro Municipalities," in response to the drought's impact on over 200 communities (3).

Similarly, on 21 September, the Departmental Autonomous Government of Cochabamba, through Decree No. 5585, declared a Departmental State of Emergency due to the ongoing drought situation. They called upon Municipal Autonomous Governments, Indigenous Peasant Farmers of Cochabamba, and the general public to use water responsibly for both irrigation and human consumption. Additionally, they urged everyone to take preventive and preparatory measures in anticipation of potential adverse events, emergencies, or disasters resulting from the current conditions. Notably, the recorded rainfall in municipalities has been the lowest since 1950, measuring less than 200 millimeters (4).

On 14 September, the Autonomous Departmental Government of Chuquisaca declared a Departmental Emergency due to Meteorological (Frost) and Climatological (Drought) Threats via Departmental Decree No. 034. At the time of this departmental decree, 14 municipalities had already declared a State of Municipal Emergency, affecting over 68,690 families in the department (5).

Source:

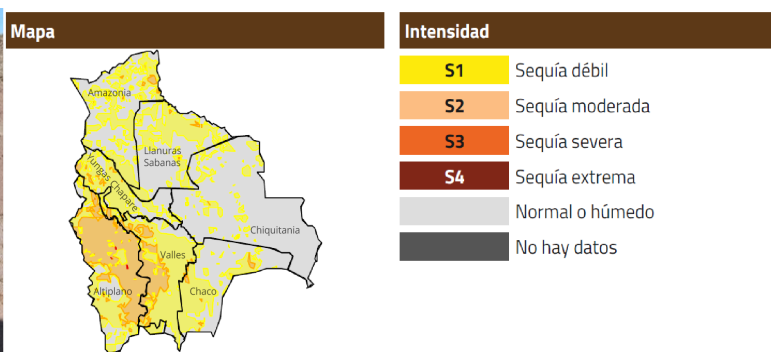
(1)<https://www.savethechildren.net/news/bolivia-hottest-winter-record-ends-drought-more-half-country#>

(2)Bolivian National Drought Report. August, 2023 - <http://monitoresequias.senamhi.gob.bo/>

(3)<https://tinyurl.com/Declaratoria-Emergencia-Oruro>

(4)<https://gobnaciondecochabamba.bo/storage/uploads/1695326298650ca05a9b280.pdf>

(5)<https://gaceta.chuquisaca.gob.bo/>



Drought is severely affecting agriculture, livestock. Map 2. Drought intensity level by macroregion in Bolivia.

## Scope and Scale

In the seven departments affected by the droughts, approximately 2,000 communities and 487,014 families, totaling 1,948,056 individuals, have been impacted. Among them, 140,923 families, encompassing 563,692 individuals, are in need of immediate assistance due to the difficulties they face in maintaining their livelihoods. The National Report on Drought Impact, issued by the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defence (VIDECI) on 29 September, provides a detailed breakdown of the affected population in each department, as follows:



- La Paz: 177,868 families affected, and 43,834 families in need of immediate humanitarian assistance reported across 788 communities in 47 municipalities. Likewise, 12,940 hectares of crops and 117,473 heads of livestock are reported to have been affected.
- Potosi: 42,463 families affected, and 22,188 families in need reported across 468 communities in 14 municipalities. Also, 801 hectares of crops and 18,888 heads of livestock are reported to have been affected, including 220 heads of livestock lost.
- Cochabamba: 35,070 families affected, and 34,109 families in need reported across 728 communities in 31 municipalities. Also, 6,643 hectares of crops and 48,437 heads of livestock have been affected.
- Oruro: 25,549 families affected, and 11,157 families in need reported across 214 communities in 18 municipalities. Also, 2,032 hectares of crops and 249,192 heads of livestock were affected, including 184 heads of livestock lost.
- Chuquisaca: 7,592 families affected, and 22,384 families in need reported across 540 communities in 27 municipalities. Also, 937 hectares of crops and 74,341 heads of livestock are reported to have been affected, including 111 heads of cattle lost.
- Tarija: 5,669 families affected, and 5,377 families in need reported across 209 communities in 7 municipalities.
- Santa Cruz: 1,880 families affected, and 1,874 families in need reported across 39 communities in 6 municipalities.

Rural areas often rely on agriculture and livestock as the main source of income and employment; therefore, drought can negatively impact these communities by reducing agricultural income and food availability, which in turn can lead to migration and poverty. Drought has a direct impact on agriculture, since it reduces the availability of water for irrigation, leading to crop loss. This can lead to crop failure, decreased food production and food insecurity. Likewise, drought reduces the availability of grass and water for livestock, which affects livestock production and can lead to the loss of animals.

Urban areas are also affected by drought, as water scarcity can lead to restrictions on water use, increase drinking water prices, and affect the quality of water supply. In this way, the frequency of hydration is reduced, hygiene measures are impaired, and the incidence of stomach and infectious diseases increases, as well as those caused by vectors due to incorrect storage of water.

In recent decades, climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of drought events in Bolivia. Between 2016 and 2017, the strongest drought in the last 25 years took place and, this year, the most serious drought in the history of the country is occurring.

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	<b>Yes</b>
Did it affect the same population groups?	<b>Yes</b>
Did the National Society respond?	<b>No</b>
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	<b>No</b>
If yes, please specify which operations	-

### Lessons learned

Even though the Bolivian Red Cross has not requested funding from the DREF to address drought-related emergencies in the past, the National Society has implemented multiple DREF Operations in response to other crises. The most recent instances occurred in 2019, where the National Society launched operations to respond to Floods (MDRBO012), Fires (MDRBO013), and Civil Unrest (MDRBO014). These responses encompassed critical activities such as conducting needs assessments, providing cash assistance, and distributing essential items like



jerry cans and chlorine tablets for water purification.

As part of the development of this DREF Application, the National Society has drawn upon valuable lessons learned from previous operations, including:

- Administrative barriers in importing sanitary inputs, such as sodium hypochlorite. Therefore, taking into account the lessons learned, all items related to the water, sanitation, and hygiene components of this operation will be procured locally.
- Among the National Society's recent experiences in cash assistance programs is the project "Humanitarian assistance to families affected by floods in the municipality of Cobija in the department of Pando" reaching 190 families through this modality, as well as receiving hygiene and chlorinated water supplies between March and July 2023. Taking into account the installed capacity and previous knowledge of the National Society, cash assistance has been contemplated as one of the activities in this operation.

## Current National Society Actions

### Coordination

At the national level, the Bolivian Red Cross authorities participate in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), made up of agencies of the United Nations System, NGOs, and civil society organizations.

At the local level, representatives of the departmental branches of the Bolivian Red Cross participate in the coordination meetings of the Departmental Emergency Operations Centres (COED), where they discuss the progress of the emergency and possible response and mitigation measures. Specific response actions have not yet been initiated in the five departments prioritized for this intervention (La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Oruro and Chuquisaca)

Within the HCT, the Bolivian Red Cross participates in the Sector Roundtables to address the strategy in each priority area. To date, the Risk Management Education Table has been activated, in which there has been a conversation with VIDECL about the importance of complementing the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) carried out, since it was a rapid mapping of needs in the affected areas and more detailed information is required. As such, the Bolivian Red Cross is including multisectoral assessment as part of the planned intervention.

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

### Secretariat

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Andean Countries is providing support to the Bolivian Red Cross in the response to the drought emergency that is affecting the country. Key activities include regular monitoring of the situation and support during the design of the response strategy. Additionally, through the IFRC Americas Regional Office, support and technical assistance have been provided for the request of this DREF.

This DREF Operation is part of a broader process of support to the strengthening of the National Society by different partners of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, including the Secretariat.



**Participating National Societies**

The Swiss Red Cross has an office in the country and supports the National Society in strengthening its institutional policy on Disaster Risk Management, among other crucial policies, seeking to contribute to the development of the institutional capacity to create conditions that ensure the effectiveness of Disaster Risk Management and Health services and programs.

Through this DREF, additional support will be provided to the Bolivian Red Cross for the implementation of response actions.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC has an office in Bolivia and supports the National Society along the strategies to strengthen the capacity of the National Society, Safer Access, and Restoring Family Links at international border areas. Currently, ICRC is not undertaking specific activities for this emergency.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

**Government has requested international assistance**

No

**National authorities**

In November 2022, the National Government of Bolivia presented the Pluri-national Plan for Immediate Response to Drought, through which it is providing assistance to 53 municipalities in eight departments by delivering tanks, renting cisterns, and building infrastructure, as well as providing water for consumption and irrigation, and providing agricultural supplies. These actions are part of the 838 water, sanitation, irrigation, and watershed management projects for human consumption and agricultural activity that the government has programmed for the current period of government.

National and local authorities are also supporting the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) reports in affected municipalities. To date, 88 municipalities have gone through an initial information-gathering process to identify priority needs and affected communities.

**UN or other actors**

The Humanitarian Country Team is elaborating a Contingency Plan to address the response to the El Niño phenomenon, which will subsequently be transformed into a Work Plan that will allow the intervention of humanitarian agencies in a coordinated manner. In addition, it is compiling information that will serve as the basis for the Thematic Committees that will be formed to undertake the response in each affected sector. The Work Plan seeks to invite the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defence (VIDECI) to work on response actions in coordination with the humanitarian platform

**Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?**

The Humanitarian Country Team, led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and composed of UN agencies, such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and non-governmental organizations, such as World Vision, Save the Children-CAHB and Soluciones Prácticas, promotes coordination and information exchange between humanitarian organizations to support the development of a coordinated response to the emergency. In this coordination group, the National Society has a co-leadership role.



At the initiative of the Ministry of Education, the Technical Committee for Risk Management (MEGERI) has also been formed, in which the National Society participates through its national authorities. The Bolivian Red Cross is also part of the Water Sectoral Technical Roundtable at the invitation of the Ministry of Environment and Water.



# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Droughts are causing lakes, rivers, reservoirs, and wells to reduce flow, forcing authorities and the general population to ration water consumption. In rural areas, the population is forced to use contaminated water for drinking or daily activities, such as washing clothes and cooking. In some cases, the population has opted to consume unsafe water, sharing the same water sources from which the animals feed, and in other cases, they have an intermittent water supply, usually less than half a day, pushing communities to fetch water from several kilometers away.

Among the recommendations given by the Government are to ration water for consumption and irrigation, maintain water supply systems, correctly chlorinate drinking water, and purchase water storage modules; measures that are difficult to comply with for a population whose income has been reduced due to the emergency, especially in the case of those engaged in agricultural and livestock activities.

According to the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) reports, the main needs are water supply systems (tanker trucks and pipelines) and storage products (water tanks). At the departmental level, the following needs have been reported:

- In Potosí, the population's request includes the provision of water and the construction of drinking fountains due to the scarcity of water.
- In La Paz, the assessment shows a need for water storage tanks and water purification tablets.
- In Cochabamba, the assessment has identified the need for the distribution of water in hospitals and schools and, in some municipalities, the need for storage tanks.
- In Chuquisaca, the DANA report showed the need for storage tanks and water treatment tablets.
- In Santa Cruz, VIDECI has not yet been able to collect data. However, among the requests from the population are solutions for water storage and water purification tablets.
- In Oruro, the most urgent needs reported in the DANA's reports correspond to 5,000-litre community-level storage tanks and family tanks to support crop irrigation and animal water consumption.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

According to the last National Drought Impact Report, published by the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI) on 29 September, more than 23,000 hectares of crops have been affected by droughts, and the planting season scheduled for July, August, and September has not been able to be completed as usual. The main crops affected are potatoes, corn, chili peppers, legumes, grains, fruit trees, vegetables, and pastures for animal consumption.

Likewise, more than 500,000 livestock are seeing their food supply affected, and more than 500 have already been lost due to the lack of water resources. For the affected families, the loss of their production represents the total loss of their livelihoods since they constitute their daily food and their only source of income. In this sense, the current emergency puts at risk not only the productive activities but also the lives of the affected population. Because of this, many families intend to migrate to other parts of the country, as municipalities affected do not have enough capacity to respond to the emergency.

According to information from the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI), more than 200 municipalities have been affected by droughts in seven departments. Of these, 88 have gone through an initial information-gathering





process and are included in Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) reports.

The primary needs reported are related to the purchase of staple foods (flour, sugar, rice, noodles, and oil), minor construction and housing adaptation tools (shovels, picks, machetes, wheelbarrows, pliers, pincers and others), fertilizers (manure and chemical fertilizers), and seeds for agricultural activities (corn, potatoes, wheat, and others).

At the departmental level, the preliminary results of needs assessments include:

- In Potosí, the needs reported are the lack of income to purchase seeds, fertilizers, and an irrigation system for their crops.
- In La Paz, the assessment shows a need for fodder for livestock and food for people who have lost their crops. In addition, prices have risen due to increased shortages due to the climate crisis.
- In Cochabamba, the evaluation has identified the need for fodder for their livestock, the purchase of seeds, and support to purchase essential items in their basic family food basket.
- In Chuquisaca, DANA's report showed the need to purchase food and agricultural inputs.
- In Santa Cruz, VIDECI has not yet been able to collect data. However, among the population's requests are solutions for purchasing essential goods.
- In Tarija, seven municipalities have been declared in a disaster situation, and two of them have been directly affected by the reduced flow and scarcity of fish in the Pilcomayo River.
- In Oruro, cold waves have been added to droughts, damaging crop areas. Among the main needs of the population are seeds for barley and oat crops, as well as water storage tanks for regular irrigation of crops.



## Health

As a result of drought, high temperatures, and the use of contaminated water, diarrheal infections are increasing in children under nine years of age, causing an increase in the incidence of anemia and malnutrition, mainly in children under five years of age. Preliminary EDAN results confirmed this scenario, mainly in the department of Oruro (1)

The lack of rain may limit the presence of disease-transmitting mosquitoes. However, at the same time, the absence of rainfall encourages people to accumulate water in containers where the insects breed, as in the case of dengue, which posed a health concern in the country during the first and second quarters. In 2023, Bolivia has registered 139,964 cases of dengue nationwide. Among the total number of cases, Santa Cruz had the highest with 101,586 reported cases, followed by Cochabamba with 2,877 cases, Chuquisaca with 5,022 cases, and La Paz with 3,486 cases

Source:

1. <https://www.iagua.es/noticias/europa-press/bolivia-se-enfrenta-grave-sequia-invierno-mas-caluroso-historia>

## Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Currently, the National Society is closely coordinating with the Integrated Information and Early Warning System for Disaster Risk Management - SINAGER-SAT and public authorities at Departmental Emergency Operations Centre to access specific information about communities and families prioritized

Only 88 out of 105 municipalities were covered through Damage and Need Analysis Assessments. Some of



them were collected in early September and need to be updated, considering the increased humanitarian needs with the extended drought. Some of the key challenges identified by the National Society include the lack of information regarding population groups with specific protection needs, such as pregnant women, older adults, children, and people with disabilities, also information on the impact of the drought on schools and hospitals.

During the first month of implementation, in parallel with chlorine and tank distribution, the National Society will conduct a multi-sectorial rapid need assessment to identify specific gaps in PGI and CEA, among other needs that still need to be identified.

## Operational Strategy

### Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF Plan of Action, the Bolivian Red Cross aims to provide humanitarian assistance to 1,250 families (5,000 people) affected by droughts in the departments of La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca and Oruro, through the implementation of activities in the areas of WASH and Multi-purpose cash.

### Operation strategy rationale

#### A. MULTISECTORAL ASSESSMENT

The first stage of this operation includes a multisectoral assessment that will complement the efforts of government entities and the Humanitarian Country Team to have updated information that will help make informed decisions on response actions. This assessment arises from the need to have detailed information on the needs of the affected population since the DANA was a quick general mapping. The importance of collecting more data that can guide humanitarian interventions was discussed with the members of the Humanitarian Country Team and with VIDECI since some municipalities, such as Pacajes, are requesting support to carry out this assessment

The assessment will be carried out during the first month of intervention and will allow revalidating the communities' prioritization and response strategy. The assessment will be coordinated with the National and Departmental Emergency Operations Centers and carried out only in those territories where the DANA assessment has not been carried out or where the available information must be complemented. The results will be shared with the National System for Risk Reduction and Disaster Response (SISRADE) entities and partner organizations actively participating in the Humanitarian Country Team. In parallel with the evaluation, some response actions, such as community workshops, will be initiated.

Mobile phones will store the KoboCollect application to collect information in the field, allowing volunteers to collect data with and without internet access. At the operational level, evaluation teams of 8 volunteers will be formed for each department (Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, La Paz, and Oruro). A total of 7 localities have been prioritized for this assessment based on the information provided by the branches, the current capacity of the National Society, and the data coming from the Departmental Emergency Operations Centers, as follows

- Santa Cruz: Municipalities of Lagunillas and Gutiérrez.
- La Paz: Province of Pacajes.
- Chuquisaca: Province of Yamparaez.
- Cochabamba: Municipality of Sacaba.
- Oruro: Municipalities of Yunguyo and Poopo.

Furthermore, humanitarian assistance will be provided to the affected population through the following areas of intervention:



## B. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

This operation seeks to improve access to safe water for 1,250 families (approximately 5,000 people) affected by droughts through the following activities

- Support to communities with water storage solutions: One of the needs identified is the irregular supply of water in the most affected communities. To facilitate the logistics for the regular supply of water to communities, the operation contemplates the purchase, delivery, and installation of water storage tanks (5,000 liters each) in each of the seven prioritized localities, thus facilitating the reduction of the frequency with which the Departmental Governments must supply each place.

- Support families with solutions for water storage and purification: To prevent the use of unsafe water for human consumption, the Bolivian Red Cross will purchase and distribute sodium hypochlorite tablets in the communities with the greatest difficulties in accessing the water supply programs of the Departmental Governments. Two units of 10-liter jerry cans for water storage will be purchased and distributed to each family. Upon completion, 1,250 families (approximately 5,000 people) will benefit from these deliveries. To fill the family tanks, the government will supply the water through water tanks

- Community workshops on water care and health: Parallel to the delivery of supplies, informative workshops will be held for the community to explain the correct use of hypochlorite tablets in water purification and to disseminate key messages on water and health care. Ensuring safe water consumption is a measure that directly impacts reducing malnutrition by preventing infectious diseases and weakening the immune system.

Considering this, the community workshops will not only focus on teaching the correct process of water purification and storage but will also include health content related to the main diseases that could arise from inadequate water treatment, how to prevent them, and how to treat them.

## C. MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

CVA assistance has been designed as temporary relief for affected families while government and other entities' strategies to respond to the emergency are being finalized. The operation will provide cash assistance to 550 families (approximately 2,200 people) affected by the droughts through two deliveries (one delivery of each)

- Delivery of multipurpose cash to cover unsatisfied basic needs: Due to the droughts, families have seen their livelihoods affected, losing hectares of crops and livestock. This has contributed to increased prices of the basic food basket due to shortages of some products (1). In response to this situation, the Bolivian Red Cross will deliver multipurpose cash to 275 food-insecure families, prioritizing those with special protection needs, such as families with pregnant women, children under five years of age, older adults, single-parent families, and people with disabilities

Each family will receive one delivery of BOB 1,391 (approximately CHF 180), corresponding to the estimated value of the family basket. The cash distribution will be made through IFRC debit cards, managed by the Regional Office for the Americas, similar to previous experiences with the National Society (Chiquitana Fires 2019, COVID-19 pandemic 2020, and floods in Pando 2022)

- Delivery of cash to protect livelihoods: One of the consequences of the droughts is the shortage of animal fodder and the corresponding increase in prices for the livestock farming population. Therefore, an additional cash delivery will be made to selected families for BOB 2,250 (approximately CHF 290) each as part of the response actions. This value has been determined based on the calculation of fodder requirements to feed 2 to 3 heads of cattle per month. The selected families may coincide with those that benefited from the multipurpose cash or differ based on their vulnerability

Before the deliveries, a feasibility study and risk analysis will be conducted to validate the calculated amounts, the acceptance of the selected modality by the communities, the potential risks for the intervention, the population's access to financial providers, the analysis of the capacity of local markets to support the demand for food, among



other criteria contemplated in the IFRC Cash Hub's toolbox for cash delivery in emergencies

#### D. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

To tackle the mid-term needs of communities, the operation will develop community workshops to prevent wildfires and promote alternative farming techniques, such as using drought-resistant seeds. To achieve this, IFRC ARO will also support the National Society in the mid-term strategy design to protect the livelihoods of prioritized communities.

#### E. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA)

Before the intervention is initiated, meetings with community leaders and local authorities will be held to present the staff, volunteers, and the operation strategy so that an appropriate entrance to the communities is generated. Through these coordination spaces, the most affected communities and special attention cases will be determined in order to be prioritized during the intervention. Also, during the initial multisectoral assessment, questions to identify people with special protection needs will be added.

As feedback mechanisms to gather information from communities, a WhatsApp hotline will be constantly available to the population, where they will have the opportunity to send their concerns and suggestions. Likewise, at the end of the cash delivery, a survey will be applied to find out how beneficial the help was for the assisted population and collect some recommendations.

The CEA approach will be incorporated throughout the operation to ensure the correct participation of the communities in the process. The main operational activities in this area will be linked to community communication and will include: 1) Production and radio dissemination of Micro spots on water care, fire prevention, and other prevention measures adapted to native languages and local contexts. 2) Design of materials with key messages, which will be decided after the multisectoral evaluation, and dissemination of these through institutional social networks and printouts delivered to the population. Printed messages will also be delivered to people receiving CVA so they can have more information on the delivery process. 3) Banners with key messages installed in strategic meeting places. This activity was tested in the COVID-19 projects developed by the National Society with good results. Alliances will be established with public institutions to place the banners in strategic places.

#### SUSTAINABILITY

Prioritized branches will continue monitoring communities and supporting Departmental Governments to provide additional assistance after the operation. IFRC will share regular situational reports with key stakeholders such as ECHO and Movement Partners in the country for additional support in long-term initiatives. The operation will strengthen partnerships with government authorities, laying the groundwork to draft Early Action Protocols (EAP) and Forecast Based Financing (FbF) that can rely on anticipatory actions for future droughts in the country.

Source:

(1) <https://lapatria.bo/2023/08/07/el-precio-de-la-cebolla-se-dispara/>

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation will assist 1,250 families (5,000 people) affected by the droughts in the departments of Santa Cruz, Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, La Paz and Oruro. Prioritization will be based on families' capacity to cope with the climate crises and their access to humanitarian assistance

Prioritization was made considering the severity of the drought reported by VIDECI and information provided by local Branches on communities in need of support. The number of households and additional communities to be reached can be updated based on field coordination with the Departmental Emergency Operation Centres and information



gathered through the multisectoral rapid assessment.

Even though La Paz and Santa Cruz have yet to declare an SoE, both departments were considered for this operation considering the level of affectation in VIDECI's reports. In La Paz, 34 out of 87 municipalities reported affectation (39% of the municipalities), and 177 thousand families were affected (51% of the families affected). In the case of Santa Cruz, communities were prioritized considering their lack of support and their proximity to Chuquisaca, which is the department that has reported the most significant impact of the drought.

The following locations have been prioritized:

- In the department of Santa Cruz, the municipalities of Lagunillas (100 families) and Gutiérrez (150 families) were prioritized for their level of affectation and location close to the Camiri Municipal Branch, from where volunteers can be deployed
- In the department of La Paz, the Pacajes province (250 families) was prioritized as it has many affected families that are likely to migrate due to its geographical location (south of La Paz)
- In the department of Chuquisaca: the Municipality of Yamparuez (250 families), as it is one of the most affected municipalities, with an estimated 100% damage to crops and water access
- In the department of Cochabamba, the province of Sacaba (250 families), affected by droughts and heat waves
- In the department of Oruro, the municipalities of Yunguyo (100 families) and Poopo (150 families) will be prioritized.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

During the prioritization of families, special attention will be given to groups with special protection needs, such as pregnant women, single-parent families, families with children under five years of age, older adults, and people with disabilities.

The National Society has community-level links that will allow branches to adequately identify the most vulnerable cases and those with the most significant gaps in access to government assistance activities. Finally, considering that some communities have suffered more significant barriers to access to water resources due to geographical isolation, the operation will seek to prioritize rural communities with more significant difficulties in accessing water.

## Total Targeted Population

Women:	1,998	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	517	70.00 %	30.00 %
Men:	1,981	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	504	1.00 %	
Total targeted population:	5,000		

## Risk and security considerations

Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Increased heat waves	Hydration and personal protection equipment to be regularly distributed to volunteers (sunscreen for volunteers in the field).



Availability of volunteers due to extra-organizational activities (work, study, etc.).	Call for volunteers living near the affected areas to assist in the operation or close branches that may be able to travel to support the operation's activities.
Not all volunteers have cellular equipment to carry out the data collection.	The purchase of cellular equipment is planned for downloading the Kobo tool and the evaluations.
Delays in the purchase of items	The NS collaborates closely with community leaders to inform them about potential challenges during the operation. Besides, all items for distribution will be procured locally with local providers to prevent delays in the purchase.
Social protests could limit access of staff and volunteers to provide timely assistance.	Conduct regular monitoring of security constraints during the operation and dissemination of the international Red Cross Movement's principles regarding humanitarian assistance with public authorities and social leaders in affected areas.

**Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation**

During the last year, Bolivia has experienced increased social conflicts due to the demands of the population, poor public management, delays in the execution of public works, social claims for environmental protection, and recognition of divergent diversities. According to information from the Observatory of the Conflict Analysis of the UNIR Foundation in Bolivia, in 2022 there were 1,125 social conflicts, 23% more than registered for 2021 and 11% more than reported in 2019 before the pandemic.


Based on the information from the observatory, social protest activity increased in June 2022 due to claims from different parts of the country over land occupations, especially in the Cochabamba and Santa Cruz departments. During November, one of Bolivia's most massive recent mobilizations took place due to the postponement of the National Population and Housing Census. This process affects the public system of aid distribution in different regions.

In addition to the protests above, the increase in drought has resulted in a favorable environment for an increase in forest fires, which, according to information from the Vice-Ministry of the Environment, has affected 11,000 hectares, with the departments of Santa Cruz and La Paz being the most affected to date. The national government has launched afforestation and reforestation programs and awareness-raising activities in municipalities that may be exposed to hot spots monitored through a nationwide forest monitoring system.

Considering the health emergencies recently declared by the National Government due to the increase in confirmed rabies cases in La Paz, the regular risk watch in this operation is crucial. This decree has led to massive animal vaccination campaigns. Another public health indicator to be monitored during the emergency is the spread of Chagas disease, which has reached a prevalence between 6.1% and 10% at the national level, with the departments of Tarija, Chuquisaca, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz being the most affected to date.




# Planned Intervention

	<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 8,959
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	140000
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
Number of radio micro spots		5	
People indirectly reached through messages on prevention measures and good practices		140000	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Micro spots on water care, fire prevention and other prevention measures, adapted to the intervention areas and local languages.</li> <li>- Dissemination of key messages through two modalities: 1. Social networks. 2. Printed material.</li> <li>- Banners with key messages installed in strategic meeting places.</li> </ul>	

	<b>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 2,750
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	210
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
Number of community workshops on risk reduction measures		7	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		Community workshops on alternative farming techniques to prevent wildfires (1 per prioritized community).	

	<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 31,509
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	5000
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
Number of communities receiving tanks (5,000- liters) for water storage and distribution		7	
		1250	

Number of families receiving supplies for drinking water treatment (sodium hypochlorite + two 10-liter canister)	
Community workshops on water care	7
Number of boreholes rehabilitated	5
Community workshops on water care and diseases prevention	7
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase, distribute, and install 5,000-liter water tanks in the prioritized localities (1 per locality).</li> <li>- Purchase and distribute sodium hypochlorite tablets to purify water daily.</li> <li>- Purchase and distribute 2,500 10-liter jerry cans for family water storage (two per family).</li> <li>- Community workshops on water care (1 per locality).</li> <li>- Borehole rehabilitation in prioritized communities (activity depends on DANA results).</li> </ul>


	<b>Secretariat Services</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 16,242
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	0
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
Number of monitoring visits carried out		2	
Number of field visits to support the NS technically.		2	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring visits by CCD Andean Countries and ARO staff to the National Society to accompany it in gathering information for communications, monitoring, evaluating, generating reports, and systematizing lessons learned from the operation.</li> <li>- Field visits from IFRC ARO to provide technical support based on the needs identified by the NS (Livelihood and communication strategy).</li> </ul>	

	<b>National Society Strengthening</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 67,620
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	40
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
		40	





Number of volunteers trained and equipped for the development of rapid needs assessments	
Number of lessons learned workshops conducted	1
Number of DREF workshops conducted	1
Number of monitoring visits carried out	4
<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct multi-sectorial need assessments in the prioritized localities.</li> <li>- Purchase of cell phones for data collection during the needs assessment.</li> <li>- Mobilization of National Society needs assessment and damage analysis teams.</li> <li>- Lessons learned workshop with staff and volunteers of the branches involved in the operation.</li> <li>- DREF training workshop for NS staff and volunteers to be updated regarding recent changes introduced as part of the DREF Evolution process.</li> <li>- Monitoring visits by the National Society to support the prioritized branches during the operation.</li> </ul>

	<b>Multi-purpose Cash</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 149,581
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	2200
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
Number of feasibility studies completed		1	
Number of families receiving Multipurpose CVA		275	
Number of families receiving CVA for livelihoods protection		275	
Number of community workshops on CVA		7	
Number of cards delivered		550	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Feasibility study prior to the implementation of CVA programs.</li> <li>- Shipment of IFRC debit cards from Panama to Bolivia.</li> <li>- Delivery of Multipurpose cash assistance to the affected population to cover: a) basic needs, and b) Livelihood protection (purchase of food for animals and agricultural products). The selected families could coincide between both deliveries or be different.</li> <li>- Community workshops on CVA addressing cash delivery process and efficient use of money (1 per locality)</li> </ul>	



- Post-distribution monitoring surveys to know the use given to the CVA.

## About Support Services

### **How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.**

The National Society has limited staff. Therefore, staff who can dedicate exclusively to the operation will be recruited for this operation. The following professionals will be hired as staff members of the National Society and will be 100% dedicated to the operation

1x National Coordinator

1x Financial Assistant

5x Field Coordinators

For the implementation of this operation, 40 volunteers residing in areas close to the prioritized communities will be deployed, who will be supported by the Departmental Branches to assist vulnerable populations if required. Volunteers will be covered by insurance contracted by the National Society for 2023.

### **If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?**

The National Society will carry out all procurement processes in accordance with the procurement regulations, except for debit cards for CVA, which will be managed by the Regional Logistics Unit of the IFRC Americas Regional Office.

### **How will this operation be monitored?**

The operation will be continuously monitored from the Bolivian Red Cross head office through the Disaster Risk Management Unit and the National Coordinator, who will also be in constant communication with the Field Coordinators. To ensure that the operation is implemented correctly, all staff and volunteers involved in the process will be trained in the National Society's emergency response procedures, which are aligned with IFRC guidelines for emergency response. The National Coordination will also regularly visit the intervention zones for on-site progress monitoring.

The CCD for Andean Countries will support the National Society at the administrative level to transfer funds and financial monitoring, as well as face-to-face and remote support during the initial needs assessment, field coordination, and reporting.

### **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.**

The National Society's communications unit will produce and disseminate audio-visual material about the emergency and the National Society's response actions. The materials will be transmitted through the Bolivian Red Cross website and social networks to raise public awareness of the National Society's auxiliary role.

Considering that the emergency context may vary during the implementation of the operation and that the reality of each locality is different, the National Society will adapt the content and means of communication for disseminating key messages to those most used in the prioritized localities.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRBO015 - Bolivian Red Cross Bolivia: Droughts

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>192,799</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	149,581
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	31,509
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	2,750
Community Engagement and Accountability	8,959
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>83,862</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	16,242
National Society Strengthening	67,620
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>276,661</b>

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



# Contact Information

For further information, specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **National Society contact:**

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- **IFRC focal point for the emergency:**

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[Click here for the reference](#)

