

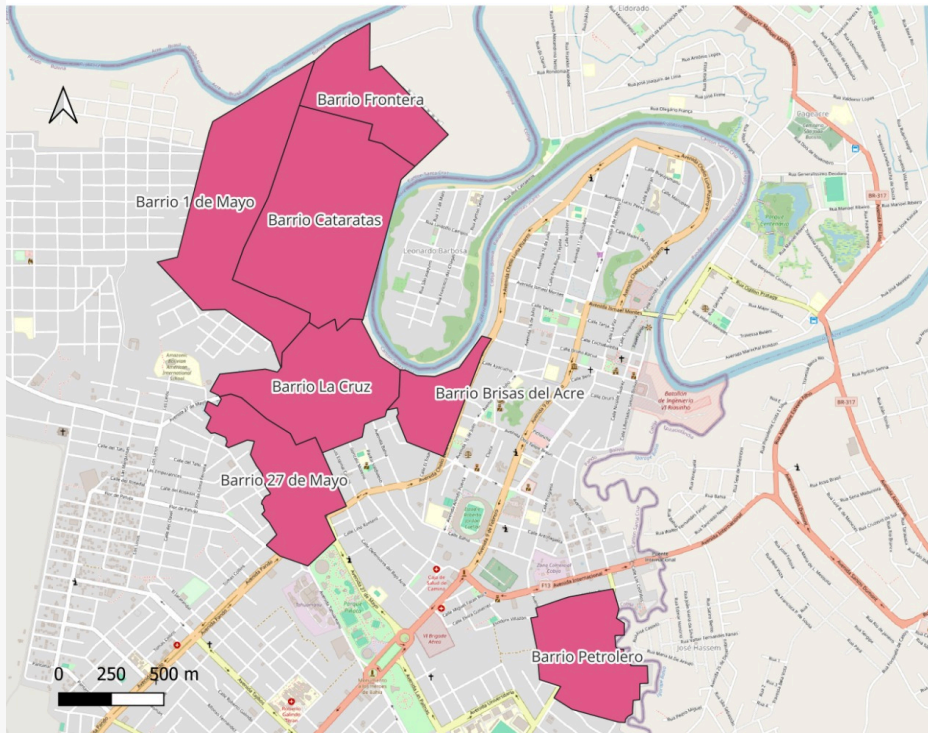


Distribution of hygiene kits in rural areas. Cobija, Pando. Source: Bolivian Red Cross.

Appeal: MDRBO016	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 142,267	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: FL-2024-000021-BOL	People Affected: 3,990 people	People Targeted: 1,500 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 13-03-2024	New Operational End Date: 30-09-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 13-03-2024		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 19-07-2024	
Additional Allocation Requested: 0		Targeted Areas: Pando	

Description of the Event

Operación DREF Inundaciones Bolivia Cobija, Pando.



Intervention Areas. Bolivian Red Cross.

Date of event

29-02-2024

What happened, where and when?

On 27 February, the level of the Acre river in the department of Pando (bordering Brazil) exceeded 17 meters, surpassing its historical maximum and resulting in the flooding of 16 urban sectors and 3 rural communities (Bajo Acre, Bajo Virtudes and Velmonte) in the municipality of Cobija, capital of the department.

On 28 February, the Autonomous Municipal Government declared a disaster situation (Decree No. 06/2024) as a result of the floods that led to the displacement and loss of property and livelihood of at least 3,710 people.

Following the declaration of the Municipality of Cobija, the Departmental Government of Pando declared on 29 February the Flood Emergency (Decree No. 03/2024) in order to advance in the activation of the Emergency Operating Committees and implementation of contingency plans in view of the imminent risk of floods due to the unusual increase in the level of the rivers of the department, as well as the need to support the emergencies in the municipalities of Cobija and Santos Mercado.

Simultaneously, the National Government's Joint Command of Response to Adverse Events, in collaboration with the Amazon Strategic Operational Command and the Sixth Naval District "Pando," deployed 279 military personnel to engage in post-flood activities. These efforts aim to assist the population by cleaning houses and streets in the municipality.

According to the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defense, between November 2023 and March 2024, at least 60 individuals have lost their lives, and 238,151 families have been affected by the rains in 201 municipalities.

Flooding and overflow continued in the department of Cobija throughout March. After that time, the water levels of the rivers crossing the region, primarily the Acre River, decreased, allowing the population to gradually return to their homes and daily activities. However,



the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (SENAMHI) continues to monitor the climatic situation, while national and local authorities are still supporting affected families with the reconstruction of damaged homes and schools, as well as the cleaning of streets and homes to address diseases resulting from contact with contaminated water and vectors.



Increased flow of the Acre River. Source: BRC.



BRC assessing the impact of the floods. Source: BRC.



Water covering rooftops in Cobija. Source: BRC.

Scope and Scale

According to data compiled by the Humanitarian Country Team in Bolivia, between 1 November 2023 and 4 March 2024, a total of 112 adverse events related to rainfall have been recorded throughout the country, with the month of February being the most intense with a total of 56 recorded events. Floods (flash floods), as well as seasonal or prolonged floods (slow floods), tend to occur within the first 3 months of the year, a pattern that links with the rainfall beginning in November, reaching its peak in January and persisting until March (1).

The year 2024 has been particularly critical for Bolivian communities that had just experienced a prolonged drought in 2023 due to the El Niño phenomenon. Between 1 November 2023 and 12 July 2024, VIDECI's national report on the effects of the rainy season recorded 9 departments with 80 affected municipalities (33 of which have declared disasters), at least 78,034 families affected, 896 houses impacted, 104,601 hectares of crops lost, 245,401 head of livestock affected and 29 deaths (2).

The worst emergency recorded so far has been in the Municipality of Cobija, Department of Pando, where at least 1,140 families (3,990 people) were affected by floods that peaked in intensity on 24 March 2024. Since the first days prior to the emergency, the Municipal Government and relief institutions set up 8 shelters, and three more were set up after the river burst its banks. According to the BRC registers, during the emergency, at least 1,022 people were staying in shelters.

Although the river level began to decrease on 29 February, according to information gathered by the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the municipality faces significant challenges and humanitarian gaps after the flooding that exceed its current response capacity, in addition to the total loss of goods and belongings of 300 families, evaluations conducted by the HCT in the area highlighted in particular the impact on educational institutions and health facilities.

According to PAHO/WHO, which held coordination meetings in the affected area with local health authorities, the "Mapajo" health facility was 100% physically damaged, resulting in the total loss of furniture, part of the medicines, supplies, and some minor medical equipment. Also, a rehabilitation center for people with disabilities, which had complete equipment and furniture, was totally affected (3). Finally, according to the Ministry of Education, two educational units, "Héroes de la Distancia" and "Sofía Cal Piñeiro," were affected by the loss of computers and furniture and damage to infrastructure.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. PAHO	https://www.paho.org/es/noticias/5-3-2024-opsoms-apoya-autoridades-nacionales-locales-respuesta-emergencia-por-inundaciones
2. National Rainfall Impact Report 2024. 1 November 2023 - 12 July 2024. VIDECI.	http://www.defensacivil.gob.bo/web/uploads/imagenes/doc_20230531_141841.pdf



3. Bolivia: Inundaciones, lluvias intensas, deslizamientos, mazamorras y riadas (al 4 de marzo de 2024)

<https://reliefweb.int/attachments/7768fa8b-a56b-4f19-b66d-8959e8b7120d/Bolivia%20--%20Inundaciones%2C%20lluvias%20intensas%2C%20deslizamientos%2C%20mazamorras%20y%20riadas%20%28al%204%20de%20marzo%20de%202024%29.pdf>

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Through this Operations Update No. 1, the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) aims to inform about:

A two-month no cost timeframe extension:

- This extension will allow the BRC to finalize administrative and financial closure for ongoing activities due to a change in National Society leadership. This change is not expected to affect the normal performance of activities as all major procurements and deliveries were completed. As of the writing of this Operations Update, only the implementation of the CVA program and the distribution of mesh covers for water tanks and containers for physical vector control are pending.

A change to the operational strategy:

- Based on budget savings and community needs, the BRC will help rural communities build capacity in disaster risk reduction by developing a vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA).
- The CVA delivery strategy for 300 families has been revised. Following feasibility and banking risk analysis, MoneyGram and RedRose will be used as financial and data management service providers. This approach, managed directly by the IFRC Americas office with local support, minimizes delays due to recent leadership changes. The amount has been adjusted to the local market price of 1,660 Bolivianos, reflecting the basic basket of goods in the affected area.

A change to the budget:

To ensure operational capacity for the two additional months, the BRC plans to use the savings from reduced administrative and transportation costs and savings from some activities finalized in the CEA and WASH sectors to cover personnel costs for the extension. This allows the contracts of the Local Coordinator and Financial Coordinator to be extended for two months.

The budget lines are now as follows:

Sector of intervention	Previous amount	Revised amount
CVA	75,137 CHF	77,099 CHF
Health	12,496 CHF	8,135 CHF
WASH	9,429 CHF	7,916 CHF
CEA	2,745 CHF	2,444 CHF
Risk Reduction	0 CHF	1,972 CHF
Secretariat Services	19,425 CHF	19,425 CHF
NS Strengthening	23,044 CHF	25,275 CHF

These adjustments ensure the completion of essential activities, strengthen community disaster preparedness, and optimize resource allocation for the Cobija flood response.



Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

26-02-2024



Hygiene kits distributions. Source: BRC.



Fumigation campaigns. Source: BRC.



Community meetings. Source: BRC.

Multi Purpose Cash

From March to May, the Bolivian Red Cross conducted a feasibility study for cash assistance to 300 families affected by floods, finding over-the-counter withdrawals as the most accessible and cost-effective option. In April, eligible families were identified with community leaders, and a bank risk analysis was performed. A financial service provider with prior experience was chosen for smooth implementation. Since June, challenges with local accounts have arisen, prompting the Bolivian Red Cross and IFRC to consider using international digital platforms like MoneyGram and data management tools such as RedRose.

Health

The Bolivian Red Cross provided health services through the Pando branch, working alongside staff from the headquarters. Basic first aid was administered to around 70 people. Additionally, emotional support was offered to approximately 300 people affected by the emergency.

As part of the operation, training was provided to the 300 prioritized families on health promotion and the prevention and management of gastrointestinal diseases. This training aimed to equip families with the knowledge and skills needed to protect their health in the aftermath of the floods. In addition to the training, each family received a hygiene kit, which included essential items to maintain cleanliness and prevent the spread of infections.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Six hygiene promotion sessions reached 300 families, delivering key messages on proper waste disposal, home cleanliness, water container coverage, and the incubation process of *Aedes aegypti*. The sessions also covered recognizing dengue, Zika, and Oropouche symptoms, the risks of self-medication, and when to seek medical attention.

Additionally, hygiene kits were distributed to 300 families, containing essential items like toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand soap, sanitary towels, toilet paper, shampoo, eco-friendly bags, chlorine for water disinfection, and detergent.



	In July, six more hygiene promotion workshops will be conducted for 15 communities, focusing on water care and handwashing practices.
Community Engagement And Accountability	During the implementation of the operation, active coordination with community leaders in the affected areas was carried out, in line with the CEA approach. By involving local leaders, the operation not only ensured effective execution but also built strong relationships with those impacted by the adverse event. This measure allowed for addressing community needs and concerns effectively, thereby enhancing the overall impact of the operation and fostering trust within the local population.
Coordination	<p>At the national level, the authorities of the Bolivian Red Cross participate in the Humanitarian Country Team, which is made up of agencies of the United Nations System, NGOs, and civil society organizations. The Bolivian Red Cross is currently co-leader of this team at the national level.</p> <p>At the local level, the Bolivian Red Cross Pando's Departmental Branch is part of the Municipal Committee for Risk Reduction and Disaster Attention - COMURADE. By decision of those present, it was agreed that the BRC-Pando Branch would carry out the data collection and registration of the people affected by the event.</p>
Assessment	<p>The Departmental Branch of Pando deployed 20 volunteers to collect data on the needs of the families affected by the floods, as well as to register the families that were evacuated to the different shelters in the municipality.</p> <p>The Pando's Departmental Branch conducted a needs assessment of the population affected by the floods, identifying financial support for the return to their homes and the distribution of hygiene kits as the main lines of support to the affected population in addition to the response provided by public authorities.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for Andean Countries based in Lima covers Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru. The CCD maintains a close relationship and coordination with the Bolivian Red Cross. Additionally, permanent communication is maintained with the different levels of the IFRC, who have made their technical support available to the Bolivian Red Cross for planning, execution, and reporting, if required.</p> <p>During the first week of March, the IFRC Reference Centre for Disaster Preparedness (CREPD) was in Bolivia supporting the development of the first cycle of the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) through a workshop to elaborate contingency plans, where the Pando branch participated and elaborated a draft of a Floods Contingency Plan which is still in draft waiting to be approved. This activity was supported by IFRC with Swiss Red Cross funding.</p>
Participating National Societies	The Swiss Red Cross has an office in the country. It supports the National Society in strengthening its institutional policy on risk and disaster management, among other crucial policies, seeking to contribute to the development of institutional capacity to create conditions that guarantee the effectiveness of Disaster Risk Management and Health services and programs.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC has an office in Bolivia and supports the National Society in the strategies of strengthening the capacity of the National Society, Safer Access, and Restoring Family Links, especially in border regions. The Bolivian Red Cross is not currently taking action with the ICRC in response to the emergency.



Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>The National Government has supported the affected families by sending 40 tons of humanitarian aid.</p> <p>Likewise, in response to the lowering of the river level, 276 army personnel and machinery have been mobilized to support the removal of debris and the cleaning of streets and houses.</p> <p>The Department of Health (SEDES PANDO) implemented a two-pronged approach to address vector-borne disease risks following the recent flooding. First, they conducted thorough surveillance of mosquito breeding sites within flood-affected areas. This was followed by using larvicides directly in residents' water storage containers to control mosquito population growth effectively.</p> <p>Additionally, a comprehensive fumigation campaign was carried out across the affected zones. These interventions were strategically timed to coincide with the return of displaced residents into their damaged homes.</p> <p>The departmental vector-borne disease prevention campaign aimed to mitigate the potential surge of dengue fever, chikungunya, Zika virus, and the oropuche fever.</p> <p>Furthermore, the Municipal Government of Cobija mobilized its departmental vehicles to facilitate the logistical challenge of transporting evacuated families back to their residences. Additionally, Civil Defense, in collaboration with the armed forces, deployed personnel and vehicles to bolster the evacuation assistance efforts, ensuring the safe and efficient return of displaced individuals.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>Following the flooding event in Cobija, several Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) launched a coordinated humanitarian response. The Bolivian Red Cross focused its efforts on peri-urban neighbourhoods and rural communities within the municipality, ensuring comprehensive coverage across these areas. Meanwhile, other humanitarian agencies, including Save the Children, World Vision, UNICEF, and Caritas Bolivia, concentrated their interventions in District 1, the epicentre of the disaster.</p> <p>Among the main response actions listed included, but are not limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Save the Children: Distributed candle filters as part of their intervention strategy. - World Vision: Provided 150 clothing kits for adult women, along with a mix of 20-liter and 5-liter water drums. - Caritas Bolivia: Delivered food assistance valued at 200 Bolivianos to 600 families. Additionally, they supplied construction materials worth 1,600 Bolivianos to 200 families for repairs. - The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) coordinated with the Ministry of Health and Sports to conduct damage assessments in the affected area, supporting local authorities. They also provided risk prevention materials and donated water purifiers to the Ministry's National Environmental Management Program. Furthermore, PAHO offered technical expertise to shelter management teams to facilitate epidemiological analyses of relevant diseases, enabling the timely detection of potential health risks. - UNICEF deployed personnel to the affected zone to deliver emotional support to families through their Safe Family program. They are also working with educational authorities to reintegrate students from the flooded "Héroes de la Distancia" and "Sofía Cal Piñeiro" schools back into their classrooms.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Humanitarian Country Team, led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and composed of United Nations 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 among humanitarian organizations to support the development of a coordinated response to the emergency. The Bolivian Red Cross is co-leader of this coordination space together with WFP.

Through the Risk Management Education Roundtable (MEGERI) led by the Ministry of Education, the Bolivian Red Cross is carrying out specific evaluations regarding education and the impact on schools together with UNICEF and Save The Children.

At the local level, the Bolivian Red Cross participates in the Municipal Committee for Risk Reduction and Disaster Response (COMURADE), whose objective is to provide analytical advice and recommendations on Risk Reduction and Emergency and/or Disaster Response actions in coordination with the main municipal authorities of Cobija.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

At the onset of the emergency, authorities in Cobija ordered the evacuation of 5,507 people. According to VIDECI and the Country Humanitarian Team in Bolivia, as of 1 March, the Municipal Government of Cobija had established 11 shelters, housing 1,022 people from 326 families. Four of these shelters concentrated the largest number of people: 158 people (68 women and 90 men) in the Ernesto Nishikawa Coliseum (15.45% of the total), 156 people in the La Peta Coliseum (15.2%), 155 people in the La Amistad Coliseum (15.1%), and 141 people in the Vaca Diez Educational Unit Coliseum (13.8%). If the emergency had escalated and the rains had increased, support would have been needed to set up new shelters.

To move both to the shelters and to gradually return to their homes, the affected families had to incur extraordinary expenses, which were difficult to cover as their livelihoods were also impacted. Within the shelters, the main needs were related to the provision of basic services for the affected families, primarily medical care, food, lighting, water, and sanitation, which had to be provided with the necessary safety and hygiene measures.

Currently, the more than 1,000 families returned to their homes after 21 days in March, as the presence of water inside the houses has disappeared and the likelihood of rain decreased. After their return, they carried out cleaning activities to remove mud and debris left by the floodwaters. These activities were coordinated with the municipality, which provided trucks to collect the accumulated waste from the streets. Although there was no total destruction of homes, the buildings have been affected by excess moisture, impacting both their structure and finishes, and resulting in the loss of furniture and belongings. As time progresses, mold is beginning to appear, and other consequences such as deterioration of wall surfaces, damage to electrical systems, and potential pest infestations are becoming evident.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The municipality of Cobija faces substantial environmental degradation, primarily driven by deforestation and cattle ranching activities. This has exacerbated existing socioeconomic challenges within the community. Reports on socioeconomic development indicate a high prevalence of poverty among residents, particularly within riverside neighborhoods bordering the Acre River.

The recent overflow of the Acre River has displaced a significant number of families, forcing them to evacuate to shelters as their residences lie submerged. The assessment carried out by the BRC reveal that 74% of families interviewed (994 in total) have suffered complete or partial loss of personal belongings. These families required tools and cleaning supplies for post-flooding sanitation, along with replacement household items like mattresses and bedding.

Furthermore, the flooding has disproportionately impacted individuals reliant on daily income, often generated through informal cross-border trade with Brazil. This situation has exacerbated the need for stable employment opportunities within the affected population. Children have also lost essential school supplies, hindering their potential reintegration into educational routines.

The assessment conducted by the BRC indicates that only 37% of households have a formally employed head of household. This highlights a significant reliance on informal work, with an estimated 23% of families depending on such income sources. Additionally, 24% of households are currently unemployed, and 15% rely on small business ventures.

Agricultural Livelihoods:

Floodwaters have disrupted irrigation systems in at least three rural communities. This disruption may lead to the suspension of upcoming planting seasons or the loss of seed stock for future agricultural cycles. The potential decrease in food availability for both human and animal populations could further strain the livelihoods of affected families, who are already grappling with housing damage



and reduced access to food due to crop losses.

Financial Needs and Relocation Efforts:

Urban residents report resorting to bank loans to cover immediate necessities, including food and basic household goods. In contrast, families in rural areas are seeking to relocate their homes to higher ground, often with assistance from various organizations. While relocation efforts are underway, a partial return to work has also been observed.

Health

Vector-borne Diseases and Control Measures:

The stagnant floodwaters in both urban and rural areas have become breeding grounds for mosquitoes and other disease vectors. This has resulted in a rise in vector-borne illnesses, primarily dengue and malaria.

The Departmental Health Service (SEDES) and the municipality have collaborated to implement vector control measures in urban areas. These measures include elimination of mosquito breeding sites and targeted fumigation campaigns. The Departmental Pando Branch, in coordination with the local municipality, has also undertaken similar vector control activities in rural areas.

According to data from the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Pando Department reported 1,943 dengue cases up to Epidemiological Week 25 (22 June). This represents a 42% decrease compared to 2023 and constitutes approximately 5% of all nationally reported cases. However, a slight increase in cases was observed in the department during the latter weeks of April (Epidemiological Weeks 17 to 19), potentially linked to the rise in precipitation.

Impact on Healthcare Facilities:

The "Mapajo" health facility sustained significant infrastructural damage due to the flooding. While part of the medication, supplies, and some minor medical equipment were salvaged before the river overflowed, the facility itself was severely affected. The municipality has taken responsibility for repairing the damaged infrastructure, and the health center is now operational.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

At the beginning, flooding caused significant damage to water and sanitation infrastructure, contaminating drinking water systems and sources. While EPSA reported that drinking water treatment plants were operational, the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) faced severe issues, with four out of eight pumping stations submerged and non-functional. This contamination increased the risk of waterborne diseases and highlighted the urgent need for hygiene items, especially for families outside shelters.

Currently, the situation remains challenging, with contamination issues still affecting water and sanitation infrastructure. EPSA has confirmed that four out of eight pumping stations remain non-operational, with repairs expected to take around 6 to 8 months. The distribution of hygiene kits has supported families in cleaning public spaces and homes, and maintaining personal hygiene. However, the ongoing damage continues to pose risks, making further distribution of hygiene kits and essential sanitation supplies crucial to address the immediate needs of affected families. Monitoring and maintenance efforts also continue to manage and mitigate the impact of these infrastructure challenges.

Education

The recent flooding has had a considerable impact on the education sector, particularly affecting the infrastructure of two schools: Héroes de la Distancia and Sofía Calpiñeiro. Due to the damage sustained, classes have been suspended, and students have been temporarily relocated to a nearby educational facility.

This relocation has sparked a divergence of opinions among stakeholders. Parents prefer that their children remain in the temporary school due to concerns about the possibility of future flooding. Conversely, some local authorities and parents believe that students should return to their original schools once repairs are completed. This split in opinion highlights the urgent need for a clear and well-defined strategy for repairing and reopening the affected schools.

Furthermore, there is a critical need for the educational community to receive comprehensive information on risk reduction and disaster preparedness. Providing clear guidance on how to mitigate risks and prepare for potential emergencies will address current concerns and enhance the resilience of the community.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Training and awareness of risk management are essential in the current emergency. These will enable the community and committees to enhance their knowledge and skills, strengthening their preparedness and response capacity for future disasters and effectively mitigating the impacts of the current emergency. Active community involvement in identifying risks and planning responses is also critical to ensure that the solutions implemented are both relevant and effective.

In this context, equipping community committees with specialized equipment for initial response is crucial to improve their effectiveness in managing emergency situations. Additionally, analysis on local vulnerabilities and capacities is needed to understand specific risks and develop response strategies that address the community's needs.



Community Engagement And Accountability

During the emergency, families faced uncertainty regarding their well-being and the future of their communities, as not only their homes but also public structures such as medical centers and schools were affected. The intervention of state entities and humanitarian organizations required the collaboration of local leaders, who acted as trusted individuals to strategically coordinate and transparently channel aid to those most affected.

Although there are no longer people housed in shelters, the population still needs access to key information. At this point, it is crucial to provide details on care practices, disease prevention, and information about the institutions providing support. The ongoing involvement of local leaders is essential to ensure that the most vulnerable families receive appropriate assistance and to maintain communication about the availability of resources and services. Additionally, it is important for people to have the opportunity to provide feedback on the assistance received and their situation through accessible information channels in the context.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The assessment encountered some challenges in locating families and completing the initial needs survey. Many families were not available at their homes due to displacement from the floods, which affected the completeness of the data collected. Additionally, some families either refused to complete the questionnaire or only provided partial responses, indicating that they did not have sufficient time to fully engage with the process.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF operation, the Bolivian Red Cross aims to support 300 families (1,500 people) affected by the overflowing of the Acre River in the municipality of Cobija, Bolivia, through the implementation of activities in the Health, WASH, Multipurpose Cash, DRR and CEA sectors.

Operation strategy rationale

The purpose of this DREF operation is to contribute to responding with the necessary inputs to the floods produced in 12 neighbourhoods and 3 rural communities of the municipality of Cobija, contributing to reducing the suffering of families and allowing them to recover from the emergency through:

- Humanitarian assistance through the multipurpose cash transfer program (MCTP) to enable families to meet their basic needs, such as the purchase of inputs for the repair of their homes, food, and household items such as mattresses and sheets destroyed during the emergency.
- Delivery of family hygiene kits supporting the prevention of diseases transmitted by contaminated water and helping people gain a sense of normality after the flood.
- Delivery of cleaning kits to support households and schools/community centers in post-emergency sanitation efforts
- Promotion of community health, oriented to the prevention of vector-borne diseases.
- Disaster Risk Reduction activities to strengthen the capacity of communities to cope with floods.

The intervention will last 6 months and will be carried out by the volunteers of the Pando's Departmental Branch, with the continuous



monitoring and support of the Central Office staff through its national directory and the volunteer, health, communication, and relief and disaster operational units.

This operation aims to support 300 families in addressing their most immediate needs after the flood and facilitate their recovery process.

Because the Bolivian Red Cross is an auxiliary to public authorities, effective intervention hinges on strong inter-institutional coordination. This collaborative effort involves central government authorities, governor's offices, and municipalities. The active participation of the community, volunteers, and central office staff is also crucial. The scope of the operational strategy in each prioritized sector is detailed below.

A) MULTIPURPOSE CASH

To assist 300 families (1,500 people) through a multipurpose cash transfer program intended as a temporary relief for affected families to cover unsatisfied basic needs while the Government and other strategies for the return or relocation of affected families are being finalized.

The program will prioritize 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.

Depending on the number of members in each family and the level of impact, each family will receive a total of Bs 1,660 BOB (approximately CHF 207), corresponding to the estimated value of the local basic family basket. The cash distribution will be made through IFRC financial and data management service providers (such as MoneyGram and RedRose) by the Regional Office for the Americas. The CRB has experience in similar operations, including cash distributions for Pando floods earlier this year (supported by the Swiss Red Cross) and drought response (MDRBO015), assisting 1,250 families.

To prioritize families for assistance, the BRC conducted a needs assessment using the KoboCollect application. At the operational level, ten-member volunteer assessment teams were trained in the municipality of Cobija.

These teams will cover all 12 neighbourhoods (Central, Cataratas, Frontera, La Amistad, San Felipe, 27 de mayo, Petrolero, Brisas del acre, Junin, La Cruz, 1ro de mayo and Bahia) and the rural community of Bajo Virtudes, Bajo Acre and Belmonte following the neighbourhood distribution established by the Municipal Government.

B) WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

To assist 300 families (1,500 people) through the delivery of family hygiene kits and the development of community workshops on water care, hygiene, and prevention of waterborne diseases.

The definition of the items in the kits will be established with the communities, seeking to ensure that they are culturally sensitive and adapted to their specific needs. For the definition of the amount per kit, the Sphere parameters were considered, so each kit may include, but is not limited to, the following items: soap 100 grams per person per month, toothpaste 75 grams per person, toothbrush 1 unit per person, sanitary towels 10 x women per month, hand sanitizer, glass, and 20-liter jerry can, other items such as wet wipes, mosquito repellent and diapers could be considered in the composition.

C) HEALTH

To assist 300 families (1,500 people) through the distribution of supplies to communities for cleaning and filling tanks as well as the development of community cleanup campaigns and community workshops.

The community workshops will be conducted on environmental protection strategies against mosquitoes such as repairing and closing holes in windows, walls, and roofs, using insecticide-treated mosquito nets on windows and doors if available, eliminating standing water and covering water containers, and messages on how to store food, avoid potential infection through contaminated water and avoid proliferation of rodents.

Health activities will focus on supporting the Government's strategy through its technical table of health and nutrition for vector control and entomological survey. Currently, the plan to be implemented by the Departmental Government includes the destruction of breeding sites and unsuitable materials, fumigation, and delivery of mosquito nets in order to mitigate the transmission of Dengue, Zika, and Chikungunya.

D) DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT:

Due to recurrent flooding and the steady rise in the river year after year, a needs assessment will be conducted in the rural zone using the Comprehensive Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) methodology. The assessment will identify actions to prepare for and reduce flood impact, building more resilient communities. Branch volunteers will be trained in VCA to engage with the rural community using tools like risk maps, seasonal calendars, and resilience assessments. This analysis will empower the community to develop contingency plans and mitigation measures for flooding.



This plan will be shared with the Risk Management Unit and the Municipal Government as a foundational document to be replicated in different risk management scenarios.

E) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA)

Prior to the start of the intervention, meetings will be held with community leaders and local authorities to present the personnel, volunteers, and the operation's strategy in order to generate adequate entry into the communities. Through these coordination spaces, the most affected areas and special attention cases to be prioritized during the intervention will be determined. Likewise, during the surveys, questions will be added to identify people with special protection needs.

As feedback mechanisms to gather information from the communities, a WhatsApp group 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 aid was for the population served and to collect some recommendations.

The CEA approach will be incorporated throughout the operation to ensure proper community participation in the process. The main operational activities in this area will be linked to community communication. They will include 1) Production and radio broadcasting of Micro spots on water care and prevention of vector-borne diseases, 2) Design of materials with key messages, to be decided after the multisectoral evaluation, and dissemination of these through institutional social networks and printed materials delivered to the population. Printed messages will also be delivered to people receiving CVA support so that they have more information about the delivery process. 3) Banners with key messages installed in strategic meeting places. This activity was tested in COVID-19 projects developed by the Bolivian Red Cross with good results. Alliances will be established with public institutions to place the banners in strategic locations.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation plans to reach 300 families (1,500 people) affected by the floods in the municipality of Cobija. Prioritization will be based on the families' ability to meet basic needs and barriers to accessing humanitarian aid established by public authorities, UN agencies, and international NGOs in the affected area.

Likewise, the selection criteria include two indicators that will delimit the total people to be reached: vulnerability and impact.

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, people with disabilities, as well as migrant population with protection needs.

The Bolivian Red Cross has links at the community level that will allow the branches to adequately identify the most vulnerable cases and those with the greatest lack of access to government assistance activities.

Total Targeted Population

Women	552	Rural	12%
Girls (under 18)	148	Urban	88%
Men	600	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	200		
Total targeted population	1,500		



Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Identification of vector-borne diseases in staff and volunteers.	Providing volunteers with repellents, long-sleeved shirts, and boots as a preventive measure against possible vector-borne and zoonotic diseases in the intervention areas.
Possible delays in procurement	All items to be distributed (with the exception of CVA) will be procured locally to avoid delays in procurement. Also, in case of changes or delays, the National Society will inform community leaders, with whom it is in close coordination, in a timely manner.
Increased flooding and blockage of access to communities due to the rainy season	Periodic monitoring of SENHAMI rainfall forecasts and early warning systems of the Ministry of Environment and Water. Preparation of contingency plans for floods with the departmental branch.
Delay in the post-flood survey and needs analysis process.	The Bolivian Red Cross has cell phone kits acquired for the assessment processes within the framework of operation MDRBO015. These kits will be sent to the departmental branch to support the information-gathering processes.
The NS is facing major changes in government and senior management positions, which are expected to significantly impact the delivery of the CVA programme.	To prevent additional delays in the delivery of the CVA programme, it will be implemented through financial service and data management providers from IFRC.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Considering the health emergencies recently declared by the Municipal Government of Cobija, there is a risk of vector proliferation in the area, as well as river overflows and landslides that could affect the work schedules of the teams at the territorial level.

During the first month of operation, the contingency plans and security protocols for the personnel and volunteers of the Pando departmental branch will be updated.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 77,099

Targeted Persons: 1,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of feasibility and market studies conducted	1	1



Number of families assisted with multipurpose cash	300	0
Number of volunteers trained in cash assistance delivery processes	9	0
Percentage of families covered through post-distribution surveys	80	0

Progress Towards Outcome

From March to May, the Bolivian Red Cross's conducted a feasibility study for the delivery of cash assistance to 300 families severely affected by floods. The study identified over-the-counter withdrawals as the most viable modality in terms of accessibility (with travel times to banks ranging from 30 minutes to 2 hours) and reduced administrative costs.

In April, the process of identifying and confirming eligible families was completed in collaboration with community leaders. A bank risk analysis was also conducted based on the offerings of financial institutions in the intervention area. As a result, a financial service provider with prior experience in cash transfer programs for the Bolivian Red Cross was selected, ensuring a smooth implementation of the program in the region.

Since June, the Bolivian Red Cross has faced challenges operating accounts in the country despite its technical and operational efforts in the intervention area. Therefore, the National Society along with the IFRC is considering using international digital financial platforms like MoneyGram and data management platforms like RedRose, following best practices from other countries.



Budget: CHF 8,135

Targeted Persons: 1,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of family kits distributed for physical vector control for dengue	300	300
Number of community workshops in vector and reservoir control	7	6

Progress Towards Outcome

Six workshops on vector control were conducted between May and June, reaching 300 people. Four workshops were held in the urban area, while the remaining two focused on rural communities. These workshops aimed to equip residents with the knowledge and tools necessary to mitigate mosquito breeding. Following the training, each participating family received a cleaning kit containing essential supplies to support cleaning campaigns at both community facilities and households. These kits included 1 kg of powdered detergent, 1 liter of bleach, rubber gloves, 10 nylon garbage bags, a kitchen sponge, a cleaning brush, a plastic bucket, a mop head, and a floor cloth.

The Bolivian Red Cross supported the municipality in fumigation activities, prioritizing the three most affected rural communities. In July, cleaning campaigns will be expanded to encompass all 12 urban communities, and additional fumigation activities will continue in the three rural communities. These efforts are further supported by the ongoing distribution of mesh covers for water tanks and containers, which help prevent mosquito breeding in stored water.



Budget: CHF 7,916

Targeted Persons: 1,500



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of families who received a hygiene kit	300	300
Number of community workshops on hygiene promotion	4	6

Progress Towards Outcome

Six hygiene promotion sessions were conducted as part of the vector control workshops, reaching a total of 300 families. During these sessions, key messages were delivered on the need for proper waste disposal to eliminate breeding grounds, the importance of adequate home cleanliness, correct covering of water storage containers, and information on the incubation process of *Aedes aegypti*. The sessions also covered how to recognize the symptoms of dengue, Zika, and Oropouche, the importance of avoiding self-medication, and when to seek medical attention at a health Centre.

In addition, hygiene kits were distributed to 300 families. These kits included toothpaste, a toothbrush, hand soap, sanitary towels, toilet paper, shampoo, and eco-friendly bags. Chlorine was also provided for water disinfection and detergent for cleaning.

Looking ahead to July, 6 additional workshops focused on hygiene promotion will be conducted for the 15 communities. These workshops will specifically address water care and handwashing practices



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 1,972

Targeted Persons: 30

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of VCA completed	3	0
Number of community risk management plans shared with the RMU	3	0
Number of kits for disaster preparedness delivered	3	0

Progress Towards Outcome

New activity



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 2,444

Targeted Persons: 140,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of radio micro spots	1	1

People indirectly reached through messages on prevention measures and good practices	140,000	0
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Progress Towards Outcome

A communication materials kit was developed as part of the radio broadcast of messages on disease prevention and health promotion in the context of the emergency. The kit includes content on dengue, diarrheal diseases, water care, and handwashing. The messages have been broadcast on the local radio since July, and the first reach report will be available at the end of the month.

Additionally, banners addressing water care, dengue, and diarrheal diseases were created, along with large-scale posters on waste classification, solid waste disposal, recycling, and vector control. These materials are displayed at the University, neighborhood councils, and were used in training sessions and by the local branch.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 19,425

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of monitoring visits carried out	1	1
Number of surge deployments	1	1

Progress Towards Outcome

One monitoring visit by the Operations Coordinator of the CCD for Andean Countries was conducted to accompany the execution of the operation and monitor activities in light of changes in the operational strategy. Additionally, a Surge Operations Manager was deployed for one month to support the Bolivian Red Cross response, providing assistance in organizing the operation and conducting the feasibility study.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 25,275

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	0
Number of monitoring visits carried out	4	3
Number of volunteers insured	20	20
# of staff hired to support the implementation	2	2



Progress Towards Outcome

Three visits were conducted by the National Society, focusing on inter-institutional coordination with public authorities and community leaders in Pando, providing support to the branch for the feasibility study development, and coordinating meetings with the Country Humanitarian Team in the affected area. Additionally, planning and cadastral activities were undertaken to coordinate the distribution of materials for housing repairs.

A Local Coordinator and a Financial Coordinator were hired to enhance the management of the operation. Moreover, 20 volunteers were insured and received training to effectively carry out field activities.

About Support Services

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

Considering the Bolivian Red Cross has limited personnel available to support the intervention, the following professionals were hired as National Society staff and are 100% dedicated to the operation:

One local coordinator - 100% (5.5 months): Responsible for developing operational actions in the field, coordinating with local authorities, establishing synergies with other humanitarian organizations, developing awareness processes with the affected communities, managing volunteers, coordinating CVA activities, facilitating volunteer training processes, gathering information for the diagnostic and complementary processes within the framework of the CEA.

One Financial Coordinator - 100% (5.5 months): Responsible for the development of a purchasing and procurement plan and preparation of periodic financial reports.

These personnel were initially contracted for 3.5 months. However, they will receive a 2-month contract extension as part of the operational update.

For the implementation of this operation, 20 volunteers are deployed in areas close to the prioritized areas, and they have the support of the Departmental Delegations to assist vulnerable populations if required. The volunteers are covered by insurance contracted by the National Society for 2024.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

An operations manager was deployed for one month to support the start-up of the operation, update territorial security plans, prepare work plans, and distribute roles and responsibilities within the National Society's technical teams and volunteers involved in the emergency response.

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

The National Society conducts all procurement processes in accordance with IFRC procedures, with the exception of the CVA delivery, which the Regional Logistics Unit of the IFRC Americas Regional Office will manage.

How will this operation be monitored?

The operation is continuously monitored from the Bolivian Red Cross headquarters through the Disaster Risk Management Unit to ensure the correct implementation; all personnel and volunteers involved in the process are trained in the National Society's emergency response procedures, which are aligned with IFRC guidelines for emergency response. The coordination responsible for the Disaster Risk Management Unit periodically visits the intervention zones to supervise the activities carried out and provide technical support to the teams in the field.

The Country Cluster Delegation for the Andean Countries also provides support to the National Society at the administrative level for the transfer of funds and financial follow-up, as well as face-to-face and remote support to monitor the progress of the operation.



Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The National Society's communication unit produces and disseminates audiovisual material on the emergency and response actions. These materials are broadcast through social networks to raise public awareness of the auxiliary role.

Content and means of communication are adapted to disseminate key messages through the most commonly used channels in prioritized localities, as part of the CEA strategy, with radio and printed graphic information being the most utilized.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRBO016 - Bolivian Red Cross
Bolivia: Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	97,567
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	77,099
Health	8,135
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	7,916
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	1,972
Community Engagement and Accountability	2,444
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	44,701
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	19,425
National Society Strengthening	25,275
TOTAL BUDGET	142,267

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal

25/07/2024

#V2022.01

[Click here to download the budget file](#)



Contact Information

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[Click here for the reference](#)

