

Emergency Plan of Action Update

Paraguay: Severe Local Storm

DREF Operation MDRPY017	Glide no. ST-2015-000041-PRY
Date of issue: 10 August 2015	Date of disaster: 4 April 2015
Operation manager: Pabel Angeles – Regional Disaster Management Coordinator for South America	Point of contact: Fernando Casanova, Executive Director – Paraguayan Red Cross
Operation start date: 27 April 2015	Expected timeframe: 4 month, ending on 28 August 2015.
Overall operation budget: 263,228 Swiss francs (CHF)	
Number of people affected: 10,000 people (2,000 families)	Number of people to be assisted: 6,000 people (1,200 families)
Host National Society: Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC)	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Paraguayan Red Cross has a National Headquarter Office and 11 local branches and 7 sub-branches with volunteers at the national level.	
Other partner organisations actively involved in the operation: National Emergency Secretariat (SEN), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Departmental Government, Local Municipalities, Swiss Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).	

This DREF operation update reflects the National Society request for an extension of the operational timeframe for a month in order to complete the distribution of materials, seeds and tools for agricultural recovery and distribution of small animals (pigs and poultry), the satisfaction survey of beneficiaries will also be developed during this period. To date, 4,052 people have been reached with psychosocial activities.

Summary of the Operation

On 28 April 2015, 263,228 Swiss francs were allocated from the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund to support the Paraguayan PRC to deliver assistance and support to some 6,000 people (1,200 families), with a focus on hygiene promotion, psychosocial support and livelihoods.

On 4 April 2015, a tornado hit the department of Concepción in northern Paraguay, affecting more than 1,000 families in the districts of Loreto and Horqueta. To date, the Paraguayan Red Cross, through this DREF operation has reached **1,064 people** with psychosocial support and **1,196 families** received buckets and basic hygiene promotion activities (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation [PHAST] and Community-based health and first aid [CBHFA]). Additionally, **1,200 families** received cash vouchers to reactivate their livelihoods, including Cash Transfer Training and training in agriculture and livestock production techniques.

Current conditions in the field and recurrent rains hinder access to the implementation site and weaken the health of young animals (such as piglets and chicks), which are dying from diarrhoea brought on by low temperatures, rain and excessive moisture. Given this situation, a one-month extension has been requested in order to be able to complete the delivery of these inputs while safeguarding the health of smaller animals and ensuring on-site supervision to suppliers at the time of delivery.

Currently, progress in delivering supplies to 1,200 families is calculated at 82 per cent. It has not been possible to complete delivery of agricultural inputs to all the communities, estimating the progress to date at around 70 per cent.



The National Society volunteers conducting psychosocial support activities. Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

The Canadian government through the Canadian Red Cross Society contributed CHF 22,000 to the replenishment of the allocation made for this DREF operation. The major donors and partners of DREF include: the Australian, American and Belgian governments, the Austrian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross and government, Danish Red Cross and government, DG ECHO, the Irish and the Italian governments, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Luxembourg government, the Monaco Red Cross and government, the Netherlands Red Cross and government, the Norwegian Red Cross and government, the Spanish Government, the Swedish Red Cross and government, the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), the Medtronic and Z Zurich Foundations, and other corporate and private donors. IFRC, on behalf of the Paraguayan Red Cross, would like to extend thanks to all partners for their continued support.

A. Situation analysis

A.1 Description of the disaster

On 4 April 2015, a storm system developed in the department of Concepción in Paraguay. Based on the damage caused in the district of Loreto, the event has been listed in that area as a severe microburst storm with descending winds. This phenomenon produced hail, strong winds (150-180 km/h), electric activity and heavy rains that affected several rural communities in Loreto y Horqueta. A state of emergency (Law 5229/2015) for the department of Concepción was declared on 9 April for a period of nine months. This occurred after the state of emergency issued by the Departmental Board of Concepción in two districts: Loreto and Horqueta; other districts in this department were also affected by floods in 2014.

The extent of damage is reflected by the high degree of houses destroyed, including surrounding forests and crops. According to the National Emergency Secretariat, 1,000 families are affected in the districts of Loreto and Horqueta in the department of Concepción to date. Eighty per cent of these families lost their household goods, furniture, clothing, documents, food and farm equipment because of the strong winds that removed the corrugated roofs and belongings. Additionally, roofs sustained damages due to the hail and rains. More than 150 houses were destroyed; two people died due to the collapse of their houses and 25 people suffered injuries. The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock reported 25 dead cattle and 100 dead chickens.

The storm seriously affected the infrastructure of a school and left the population without electricity because 100 concrete electrical towers collapsed. Since the transformer to operate the water processing plant did not work in the early days of the emergency, water services were suspended; the service has since been partially restored.

Table of families affected by house damages

Department	District	Community	No. of affected people	No. affected families	Deaths
Concepción	Loreto	21	6,000	1,200	2
	Horqueta	12	4,000	800	0
TOTAL		29	10,000	2,000	2

Source: Census by the Concepcion Branch (May 2015)

In Loreto, the storm mainly affected agriculture, small farmers and small livestock farming. Families engage in at least one of these three activities and some supplement their livelihoods with one or two of the other activities mentioned above.

Farming families live in rural areas and engage in small-scale agriculture. Land ownership is divided into owners, occupants, sharecroppers (farmers borrowing land for agricultural purposes) and renters, and all engage in this activity for subsistence and for commercial purposes.

Depending on the purpose, crops include:

- For food: chipa corn, beans, peanuts, black beans, cassava, sweet potato and bananas, among others.
- For animal feed: Cameroon grass, sugar can and Tupi corn.
- For sale: sesame, spurge, watermelon, melon and pumpkin, among others.

Plots cultivated for household consumption range from a few rows of trees or plants to one hectare, intercropping and rotating different species. During harvest, land parcels are divided into smaller plots, and between 1 and 5 hectares are planted if grown for commercial purposes.

Since the storm coincided with the harvest season families lost their entire cassava and sesame crops. The storm also damaged livestock shelters which resulted in the death of a significant number of pigs and poultry, which in turn has caused food shortages and affected the people's sources of income.

Families have started preparing their soils for planting; however, they require seed and pyrethroid pesticides to achieve the same level of production they had before the storm hit. Crops include pumpkin, melon, watermelon, lettuce, carrot, beet, parsley, tomato, pepper, onion and cabbage. In addition, families require fertilizer, wire, and other materials to repair destroyed fences and animal shelters.

As for families engaged in small livestock farming, most have up to 20 head, which they raise in the small parcels they possess, sometimes even paying neighbours for pasture.

Animal deaths have been high due to the lack of the feed (Tupi corn, cassava, sugar cane) used to supplement their normal food gathering. This has caused high vulnerability, in addition to the consequences brought on by insufficient food, such as weight loss, low birth rates and high incidence of pests and diseases.

According to surveys, families have had considerable losses associated with small livestock (pigs and poultry) mainly in terms of production; milk production has also suffered due to lost pastureland and fodder, which has led to the premature sale of calves whose low weights have generated less income.

Considering all this, reactivating livestock production will require anti-parasitics, health and strength restorers, hay, mineral salts, and wire to repair fences so as not to further jeopardise their livelihoods.

Most families have diversified to include several economic activities, such as agriculture (large and small scale), livestock farming (large and small) and temporary jobs. The time invested depends on the time of year and on the product generating the greatest profits.

Table of families affected by damage to agricultural activities

Department	District	Community	No. of affected people	N° of affected families	Crops damaged or lost (Hectares)	Crops partially affected (Hectares)
Concepción	Loreto	21	6,000	1200	-	1,127.75
	Horqueta	12	4,000	800	-	-
TOTAL		29	10,000	2,000	3,000 a 3,500	-

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

A.2 Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society: All processes have finalised to convene, select and hire the Operations Team in charge of implementing the DREF (project coordinator, psychologist, agronomist, with the latter being locally engaged professionals). The Livelihoods, PSS, Health and Risk Reduction and Disaster Management focal points were included, all of whom are part of the Department of Risk Reduction and Community Health.

The Risk Reduction and Disaster Management delegate directly supported relief activities and voucher delivery; provided technical assistance in using Mega V to distribute the vouchers; and assisted in coordinating the delivery of inputs, materials and small animals.

The Health Delegate supervised the supervision of information included in posters, the planning of operational efforts, and assisted the local health team in developing replications within the context of this Operation.

Volunteers participated in the Open Data Kit (ODK), MEGA V and cash transfer workshop, to both support activities by Concepción branch volunteers and as a new process to exchange experiences. The training was supported by the IFRC and the RIT member deployed. These volunteers were sent from branches in Ñeembucú, Misiones and Itapúa to support the data collection process.

The head of the National Society's Communications Department supervised distributions and voucher deliveries in communities, providing support through press releases for internal and regional communications and for publication in local media.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country: PADRU deployed a livelihoods Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member from the Guatemalan Red Cross to support both livelihood interventions and the process to implement the cash transfer tool. The RIT provided constant supervision on behalf of the IFRC's disaster management delegate for the region.

Likewise, the PRC, with ICRC support, continues to provide PSS support to 12 affected communities in Horqueta; with the Swiss Red Cross, it has been assisting 350 families to reactivate and strengthen their livelihoods.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in the country: The SEN provided 1,652 families (8260 people) in Horqueta and Loreto (Department of Concepción) with 20-kg food kits, 1,430 48-kg food kits, 1,235 zinc sheets, 8,000 tarps, 455 mattresses, 710 blankets and 710 10,000-litre water tanks.

The National Police has been working in security in the area and has been replacing identity documents for affected people so as not to interrupt their personal administrative and institutional affairs and to enable them to receive funds from governmental social programmes and retirement funds.

The Ministry of Public Works and Communications has worked together with the armed forces to rehabilitate roads affected by the disaster.

The US Agency for International Development and the Office for Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) donated 50,000 US dollars to assist families affected by the storm in the District of Horqueta, Concepción.

The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) distributed kitchen kits, beds and other materials to 500 affected families in Horqueta and Loreto, as well as school kits to eight schools (four in Horqueta and four in Loreto).

UNICEF provided 4 mobile classrooms, 3 for Loreto and 1 Horqueta.

A.3 Needs analysis, risk assessment and scenario planning

Health: Health facilities in the affected area are active, on alert and constantly monitoring. Cases of flu and respiratory problems were reported as a result of exposure to rains, since many people lost their roofs of their homes. These cases are being treated at health centres and family health units.

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare conducted vaccination campaigns against H1N1 influenza. PSS activities were implemented due to post-trauma stress among the population. Forty-two campaigns were held to provide care to 21 communities in 12 locations, reaching an average of 1,064 children and adolescents.

Water and sanitation: The damage and needs assessment showed that affected families in both districts had limited access to safe water due to the damaged community water tanks and infrastructural damage and affecting approximately 1,400 families (7,000 people), out of which only 70 per cent had water; for others supply was limited. Water supply has been restored. Twenty-four water and sanitation training campaigns have been conducted, as well as hygiene promotion actions and other components with a view to preventing water-borne diseases. 20-litre buckets were also distributed to transport, store and consume safe water.

Livelihoods: The intervention area is characterized by low-income households, extensive deforestation and environmental degradation. The storm had strong winds, hail and torrential rains, which seriously affected agricultural production for crops and vegetables, such as beans, cassava, castor, sweet potato, banana, Chip corn, Tupi corn and sesame, which were ready for harvest. The locote (pepper) harvest was lost entirely, as well as the lettuce and other types of produce. According to the Directorate of Agricultural Extension of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the livelihoods of 800 small farmer families in the district of Horqueta and 1,200 in the district of Loreto in a total of 29 communities have been affected.

Shelter: All homes use zinc sheets for roofs; during the storm, the zinc sheets were blown away. Seventy per cent of the houses are made of wood and 30 per cent are made of brick; the wooden houses were the most affected. There were 2,000 affected families (10,000 people) approximately 150 houses are destroyed and the rest are partially damaged. According to the National Emergency Secretariat, 80 per cent of the affected people lost their household goods, furniture, clothes, documents, food, and farm equipment (tools, carts and wagons). The SEN and other agencies provided essential items for the affected families' homes.

Risk Assessment: The rains from April to July 2015 saturated the soil in many communities. May and June saw higher than normal rainfall and warm weather, while in July temperatures dropped causing the death of small farm animals, affecting project schedules and delaying actions, mainly in livelihoods.

Another aspect that involved special efforts and attention were the presidential elections, which required sending a clear and consistent message that PRC actions in communities had no political motivation. The Paraguayan Red Cross issued a press release in Loreto and broadcasted in 4 radio stations for 2 days. The PRC activities were postponed for a day and fieldwork resumed the day after the voting.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

Contributing to reduce the effects caused by the storm in Paraguay by assisting 1,200 families in the district of Loreto in the Department of Concepción through PSS, hygiene promotion and early livelihoods recovery.

Proposed strategy

Based on the situation analysis in the areas of intervention in health, water and sanitation and livelihoods, a comprehensive intervention on three of these lines was proposed. In the district of Loreto, psychosocial support, hygiene promotion and livelihood activities through the Cash Transfer component was proposed due to humanitarian needs in the area and the large concentration of humanitarian support in the district of Horqueta.

It was also necessary to install capacity at the branch in order to strengthen management and organisation along with knowledge transfer at the local level. Volunteers were appointed for this purpose and to liaise between headquarters and the branch to facilitate and strengthen communications and activities.

The following actions were included within the strategic operations plan:

- ↘ **Health**
 - Psychosocial Support Activities
- ↘ **Water and sanitation**
 - Promoting the use of good hygiene practices through community visits
 - Distribution of 20-litre buckets
- ↘ **Livelihoods**
 - Distributing agricultural inputs, small animals and hardware items through cash transfers.

Target population: This DREF operation will assist 1,200 families (6,000 people) in communities in the district of Loreto in the Department of Concepción. The beneficiaries were selected according to vulnerability criteria established and agreed upon with affected communities

Vulnerability criteria and identification of target population

Beneficiary selection criteria include:

- Priority will be given to rural area populations most affected by the storm
- Low socio-economic status.
- Households with women as heads of household and with vulnerable people such as the elderly, children and people with disabilities
- Damage to their homes
- Damage to their livelihoods
- Families that have not received similar aid from other organizations.

Operational support services

Human resources: The operation was led by the Risk Management and Community Health Directorate. To strengthen coordination in targeted areas, the project hired a coordinator who was responsible for coordinating and implementing activities at the local level, as well as an administrator.

A psychosocial support person and a national livelihoods focal point person were hired, including a livelihoods field technician.

The IFRC provided insurance to 200 volunteers involved in the Operation. The Regional Disaster Management delegate for South America was responsible for coordinating with the NS the deployment of human, logistic and financial resources to implement the project. In addition, a RIT specialising in Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) was deployed to support the implementation process.

Logistics and supply chain: The operation will not procure items internationally; all procurements will be made at the national level in accordance with the National Society procedures and in compliance with the IFRC's standard policies and procedures.

Information technologies (IT): The Paraguayan Red Cross has computers and telecommunications equipment available for the operation, as well as tablets and the ODK and Mega V point persons to conduct the livelihoods' activities, PSS and health surveys.

Communications: The National Society's Communication department has kept the population apprised of the situation and of field assessment actions.

As has been done in previous emergency operations, the communication component has played a special role in documenting humanitarian aid actions in support of the affected communities. This component has enhanced accountability and transparency, and it will record beneficiary testimonies.

For this operation, the following activities are included:

- Developing, with the support of the IFRC Americas Regional Office, a web note/press release on the DREF operation with 3 photos in high definition of the PRC in action, quotes from operational/technical personnel, volunteers and beneficiaries, which will be published at: <http://www.ifrc.org/es/noticias/noticias/americas/paraguay/despues-del-tornado-69019/> and at <http://cruzroja.org.py> and disseminated over PRC and IFRC social networks
- Prepare notes for the web, as well as a report describing CTP good practices and communications with beneficiaries, which will be published in two newspapers. The first will be in both print and digital, and the second only digital. Both will be national newspapers:
1st publication: <http://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impres/interior/asisten-a-las-familias-afectadas-por-tornado-1385979.html?desktop=true>
2nd publication: <http://m.ultimahora.com/cruz-roja-inicio-segunda-ayuda-humanitaria-concepcion-n917187.html>
- Two testimony cases on communication with beneficiaries and the tools used, including the satisfaction survey. Both testimonies were developed by the National Society's Communications Department and shared for publication with the IFRC Americas regional Communication department.
- There are also two testimonies on video from a consultancy with the professional who is editing the 5-minute video; they can be seen together or independently
- Production of a 5 to 6-minute video about the operation to highlight the use of the cash transfer programme and satisfaction survey, which is in the process of being edited
- Beneficiary Satisfaction Survey, which is in the process of being conducted.

Security: The Paraguayan Red Cross has a document on National Security Policies and Procedures and for field interventions. For complete security requirements of the PRC, please click [here](#). It should be noted that security measures had to be expanded during the operation due to two incidents during this last month involving firearms and shootouts that left people dead and wounded in a neighbouring department. Actions continued without any modifications to the programme, except close monitoring of and demanding feedback regarding security, together with the ICRC and the National Police.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER): The project includes the following mechanisms for PMER:

- An update report 60 days after the start of operation.
- A market impact evaluation
- A beneficiary satisfaction survey
- A final report

The PADRU disaster management delegate conducted field visits to the affected areas, maintaining regular communications in support of the PRC. On-site monitoring was conducted for one week in the third week of July to verify progress and get suggestions to resolve certain issues.

Administration and Finance: The PRC is managing the funds in the country in accordance with the IFRC's standard procedures for reporting on operational progress, and transfers are made based on the provisions in the Letter of Agreement signed between both parties.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming / Areas common to all sectors

Outcome 1: Continuous and detailed evaluation and analysis for the design and execution of the operation.	Outputs		% Achieved
	Output 1.1 The initial assessment is updated after field visits and consultations with beneficiaries.		
Output 1.2 The Operation's management is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system.			90%
Output 1.3 Operation activities are disseminated at the local, national and regional level.			95%
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Conduct a rapid assessment of the emergency together with the branch	X		100%

Perform a detailed census together with the branch	X		100%
Develop a multi-sector and implementation plan of action	X		100%
Develop a detailed assessment of affected communities	X		100%
Develop and disseminate a press release	X		100%
Develop and disseminate two beneficiary testimonies	X		50%
IFRC monitoring	X		100%
Recruitment of National Society staff for the operation	X		100%

- **Conduct a rapid assessment of the emergency together with the branch:** Rapid assessments were conducted early during the emergency to draw up of the DREF plan of action. The results of the rapid assessments informed the main sectors to address: PSS, water and sanitation, and livelihoods actions, through cash transfer programming.
- **Perform a detailed census together with the branch:** Local authorities provided data during the initial process, which was collected using ODK. This includes both personal data and information regarding affected acreage, members by family, main livelihoods' activities and damage from the event.
- **Develop a multi-sector and implementation plan of action:** It was based on an overall operational plan that reflected all fieldwork in all areas, focusing on management, monitoring and general operation and defining actions from previous operations in this same area using ICRC and SRC funds.
- **Develop a detailed assessment of affected communities:** During the census of beneficiaries, a survey and a more detailed assessment was made of all sectors - health, psychosocial support and livelihoods - traveling to 21 communities in the district.
- **Develop and disseminate a press release:** The PRC communications department developed two press releases that were published midway through the operation. The first was published in ABC and a second one was published on the week of 4 July in the newspaper Última Hora.
1st publication: <http://www.abc.com.py/edicion-impresia/interior/asisten-a-las-familias-afectadas-por-tornado-1385979.html?desktop=true>
2nd publication: <http://m.ultimahora.com/cruz-roja-inicio-segunda-ayuda-humanitaria-concepcion-n917187.html>
<http://www.ifrc.org/es/noticias/noticias/americas/paraguay/despues-del-tornado-69019/>
- **Develop and disseminate two beneficiary testimonies:** The contract to produce a video on the CTP includes provisions to develop of two beneficiary testimonies to be included within. It may be viewed independently or as part of the video.
- **IFRC monitoring:** PADRU's disaster management delegate visited from 16 to 21 July, monitoring operational and technical management in the field throughout the operation. Likewise, he provided constant support and advice from the very start of the operation.
- **Recruitment of National Society staff for the operation:** A team was locally hired consisting of an agricultural engineer, in charge of livelihoods and with extensive experience in cash transfer programmes (CTP), to implement the delivery of cash and provide technical advice to reactivate agricultural activities; and a psychologist in charge of providing psychosocial support at the community level and supporting other areas.

The PRC's Health, Risk Reduction and Disaster Management, PSS and Administration departments assisted at the technical and operational management level. These departments provided crucial support enhancing teamwork during the operation.

Health and Care

The Ministry of Health has a mental health programme which is delivered through its Family Health Units, but it does not have psychosocial support programme (PSS). Given the issues and hardships encountered in the people affected by the storm, the National Society considered PSS a priority intervention as the upcoming rainy and windy season could have a significant impact on the daily lives of the populations concerned. To this



The Paraguayan Red Cross psychosocial teams conducting psychosocial support activities. Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

end, an assessment was made to base the intervention on the risk factors identified and to provide psychological first aid to strengthen protection factors. This was done within the context of a PSS campaign in communities and schools in Loreto, and most of the support provided by the National Society was in Loreto, as the ICRC conducted a specific intervention to assist affected families in Horqueta.

Population to be assisted: 1,200 affected families in the District of Loreto receive psychosocial first aid in order to reduce mental health risks in the affected population.

Outcome 2: The families regained their emotional equilibrium, allowing them to perform regular activities	Outputs		% achieved
		Output 2.1: At least 1,200 families receive psychosocial care.	
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Psychosocial Support Campaign Planning	X		100%
Psychosocial campaign implementation (diagnosis and first aid)	X		95%

• Psychosocial Support Campaign Planning

Weeks	Activity
1 st week in the field / Links with the community	Project presentation and induction on the principles promoted by the international Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement
	Presentation of psychological approaches. Application of projective test.
	Encouraging teamwork in order to achieve optimum results for the community. Introduction to rights promotion
Community Intervention Process	
Health theme week	Hand washing and water care
	First Aid I
	First Aid II
	Medical Care day
Rights theme week	Sexual and Reproductive Rights
	Gender Rights
	Child and Teen Rights. Parenting Guidelines
	Government agencies serving the community
Play theme week	People's Fair
	Festival of Colours
	Celebrating Friendship Day
Closing of activities	Closing of activities

Below is a brief description of activities:

1. 1st week in the field / Links with the community:

- Project presentation and induction on the principles promoted by the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement: fundamental principles of the international Movement were described with posters and slides. The project was presented along with the activities schedule, stressing Red Cross functions, discussing core values and aims and clearing up any doubts or suspicions.

Setting up of a containment-enabling recreational space, Socio-emotional support through recreational activities is a strategy aimed at alleviating tension, anxiety and fear and reducing the risk of emotional issues. Art, sports, dance, song and play are comprehensive educational strategies *par excellence*.

- Presentation of psychological approaches. Application of projective test. Activities began with a lecture and developing theme-specific dynamics. The purpose of the Person under the Rain test was explained, which was a projective instrument that sought to identify the personality, anxiety, tension and emotions of teens and children through drawing. Brainstorming was used to learn about the

expectations regarding psychosocial support (PSS) and to assess the approach to be used. With the parents' consent, the test was applied to 10 children over the age of 8 years old.

- Encouraging teamwork in order to achieve optimum results for the community. Introduction to rights promotion: Teamwork motivation workshop. Dynamics and videos were used as well as a participatory methodology. Both the development and materials encouraged the participants' reflection and critical analysis of the community. A recreational containment space was set up for dance, sports and painting; the children and teens particularly enjoyed the dance activities.
2. Health: The National Society Health focal point worked jointly with the IFRC on this issue, focusing on two sectors: water, hygiene and sanitation, and health promotion, which was developed for two weeks.
3. Rights:
- Gender Rights Promotion Week / 2 to -25 July - the workshop described gender violence and how to prevent it, later introducing the subject with a video. The audience later reflected and discussed what they had seen, generating the most common comments: "No woman should be struck, not even with a flower, and no person should be hit". They were asked what gender violence is, which led to an open space for exchanging views and discussion. This space was used to share Law 1600 that addresses Gender Violence in order to make everyone aware of how it is defined.

A cooperation activity, which used balloons to represent patients and fabrics for stretchers, was conducted. Four groups were formed, with 6 'patients' and 'stretchers'. The objective was to move the balloons to a designated point, which was used to foster team play, cooperation, and freedom of movement, concentration, respect and self-assuredness. One could observe how children accepted and respected the rules, the child leader and above all cooperation and strategies used to reach the activity's goal.

- Visualization of Feelings / 22 to 25 July - The first phase was a dynamic activity to introduce the participants to one another through body movements accompanied by three integration activities promoting a friendly and caring environment.

The second phase was an analysis of the emotional impact, effects, and individual responses to the disaster. The participants' feelings were expressed through a text balloon next to a face that described their emotions, both before and after the tornado. The children sat in a circle and were asked to talk and share about what they felt about what happened. The goal of the visualization activity is to help the children realize that 'this does not only happen to me'. This was very emotional as children spoke with tear-filled eyes expressing fear and anxiety. All of them drew a smiley face before the storm, which changed into a sad face after the storm. After the activity concluded, all of them claimed to feel less anxious and more energized.

Nine activities have been conducted and divided as follows:

- Weeks 1 to 5: activities in the PSS schedule, working in 12 groups with people from 21 communities
- Week 7: This area supported Livelihoods during voucher distributions by addressing complaints from beneficiaries and providing support and guidance to beneficiaries regarding containment.
- Weeks 6 to 8: Support for Health through area lectures.

The activities were attended by a total of 4,052 people (2,977 women and 1,075 men) who were directly benefitted.

In terms of the justification for the methodology, the integration model of tent activities is being used, in which PSS interventions to individuals extend to families and communities, so the approach is holistic and comprehensive.

Region	Department	Municipality	Community	Average number of Participants	No. of Campaigns
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Hugua Poí	191	4 Campaigns
			Virgen del Camino	143	3 Campaigns
			Cañada la Paz	186	5 Campaigns
			Virgen del Rosario	63	3 Campaigns
			San Josemí	89	5 Campaigns
			Virgen de Fátima	79	3 Campaigns
			Santa Librada	104	5 Campaigns
			Virgen del Carmen	29	3 Campaigns
			San Marcos Torales	43	3 Campaigns
			Santo Domingo	84	3 Campaigns
			Loma Florida	12	2 Campaigns

		Villa Don Bosco	41	3 Campaigns
Total		12 meeting points	An average of 1,064 Participants	42 Campaigns
<p>Obs.: HUGUA POI: composed of the communities of Ikua Pora, Trinidad; VIRGEN DEL CAMINO: composed of the communities of Laguna Mbohapy, Caacupemi, Torales San Roque, Santo Tomas; CAÑADA DE LA PAZ: composed of the community of Cañada Lourdes; VIRGEN DEL ROSARIO; SAN JOSEMI: composed of the community of San Miguel; VIRGEN DE FATIMA; SANTA LIBRADA: composed of the community of Agaigo; VIRGEN DEL CARMEN; SAN MARCOS TORALES; SANTO DOMINGO; LOMA FLORIDA; VILLA DON BOSCO.</p> <p>Based on the needs and vulnerability to post-traumatic stress, containment workshops and recreational activities were reinforced in the communities of Cañada de la Paz, San Josemi, Hugua Poi and Santa Librada.</p>				

• **Psychosocial campaign implementation (diagnosis and first aid)**

A psychologist was hired and drew up the activities schedule (described above) and the Work Methodology and plan, which consists of the following:

Understanding the nature of the t IFRC PSS, which is a process that promotes resilience among individuals, families and communities, allowing families to recover from crises and helping them to cope with such events in the future. PSS promotes the restoration of social cohesion and infrastructure while respecting the independence, dignity and coping mechanisms of individuals and communities.

The PSS working group suggests that psychosocial well-being of individuals and communities is best defined in terms of three central areas:

1. Human capacity, which refers to physical and mental health and specifically takes into account the individual's knowledge, capacity and skills.
2. Social ecology, which refers to social connections and support, including relationships, social networks, and individual and community support systems.
3. Culture and values, which refers to cultural and behaviour norms that are linked to values systems in each society, along with individual and social expectations.

PSS intervention models: Depending on the model chosen, these interventions will address the sense of loss from losing:

- Close loved ones.
- Control over their own lives and futures
- Sense of security
- Hope and initiative
- Dignity
- Social infrastructure and institutions
- Access to services
- Property
- Livelihoods

Water, Sanitation and hygiene promotion

Needs analysis: At the time of the field assessment, the water supply was affected because of damage to the pipes. Another factor that was identified was the improper handling of water, especially the storage of it. Water supply has been restored; although at the beginning of the emergency, water had to be distributed with tanker trucks (twice).

The distribution of 20-litre buckets with lids was considered, along with water, sanitation and hygiene promotion due to water storage and handling issues. This was supplemented with other subjects focused on health promotion, which will ensure the safe transport of water.

Population to be assisted: 1,200 affected families in the district of Loreto, for safe handling, transport and the consumption of water to reduce health risks among affected populations.

Hygiene promotion efforts will be conducted in order to prevent water-borne diseases, such as acute diarrhoea and gastroenteritis, since some communities are getting water from artesian wells, tanker trucks or travelling to nearby locations to secure water.

The same spaces used to perform assessments were used to develop health and community-based first aid themes, centring actions in 21 Loreto communities. PHAST workshops were provided to 31 volunteers on 12 to 13 June.

Outcome 3: Risks related to safe water and hygiene are reduced for the	Outputs	% achieved
	Output 3.1: At least 1,200 affected families have improved their practices and knowledge to reduce waterborne diseases	100%

population affected by the floods.	Output 3.2: 1,200 families improve their water storage conditions by using 20-litre water buckets.	97%	
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Conduct a PHAST workshop for volunteers	X		100%
Community PHAST sessions conducted by volunteers	X		100%
Purchase and distribution of 20-litre water buckets	X		100%

- **Conduct a PHAST workshop for volunteers:** A PHAST workshop was held with the participation of 12 active volunteers from the Concepción branch and 19 aspiring volunteers from the Andrés Barbero Institute, National University of Concepción, Inter Regional School and Regional Centre of Education in Concepción, all of which emphasized the health sciences and nursing.

Place	No. of participants
Filial Concepcion	11
Facultad Interregional	5
Centro Regional de Educacion de Concepcion	5
Universidad Nacional de Concepcion	1
Instituto Dr. Andres Barbero	7
Colegio Arminda Samaniego	2
TOTAL	31

- **Community PHAST sessions conducted by volunteers:** Community sessions were planned in two stages:

1st Water, hygiene and sanitation: prioritization of diarrhoea and dehydration, hand washing, safe water, preparing home hydrating sera and water chlorination, held from 6 to 9 June

2nd Health promotion: focusing on community first aid for fractures, burns, wounds and haemorrhages, family planning, transporting the wounded, held from July 13 to 16.

Region	Departament	City	Community	Phast	CBHFA	No. of campaigns
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Hugua Poí, Trinidad, Ykua Pora	192	169	2
			Virgen del Camino	155	88	2
			Cañada la Paz	189	49	2
			Virgen del Rosario	66	35	2
			San Josemi	102	42	2
			Virgen de Fátima	46	0	1
			Santa Librada	108	68	2
			Virgen del Carmen	45	25	2
			San Marcos Torales	22	28	2
			Santo Domingo. Villa Don Bosco	66	54	2
			Loma Florida	13	10	2
TOTALS				1004	568	2

- **Purchase and distribution of 20-litre water buckets:** A bidding and supplier selection process was conducted to acquire the buckets, which were delivered to beneficiaries following the health lectures in each community in exchange for coupons tracked through the MEGA V system. This was done in coordination with volunteers from the Concepción branch, the distributor and community leaders. A total of 1,196 buckets were delivered over a period of 2 weeks.

Community	No. of families	Date of Delivery
Ykua Pora	87	06/07/2015
Laguna Mbohapy	33	06/07/2015
Cañada La Paz	147	06/07/2015

Virgen del Rosario	77	07/07/2015
Virgen de Fatima	60	07/07/2015
Santo Domingo	42	08/07/2015
Agaigo	9	07/07/2015
Santo Tomas	10	06/07/2015
Loma Florida	12	06/07/2015
San Marcos	44	08/07/2015
Trinidad	37	06/07/2015
Villa Don Bosco	37	08/07/2015
Caacupemi	32	06/07/2015
san Miguel	23	07/07/2015
San Jose Mi	96	07/07/2015
Santa Librada	106	07/07/2015
Hugua Poi	88	06/07/2015
Cañada Lourdes	93	06/07/2015
Virgen del Camino	51	06/07/2015
San Roque	63	08/07/2015
Virgen de Carmen y Hugua Rivas	49	08/07/2015

Four buckets have yet to be delivered. This will be done following the PSS campaigns, as these beneficiary families were not present when the buckets were distributed.

Food security, nutrition and livelihoods

Needs analysis: The intervention in Loreto focused on reducing the negative impacts of the storm on small farmers and swine and poultry producers through cash provision to enable affected farmers to optimize their current resources and focus their priorities on housing and food security.

The SEN covered food needs in affected populations and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is distributing seeds in Horqueta; however, the restoration of agriculture will allow families to recover their livelihoods and food security.

Assessments in both districts identified three affected groups: farmers, ranchers and day labourers. These three livelihoods may exist within the same family, and the impact may be more marked depending upon the time of year. All these livelihoods are carried out in a context of vulnerability, i.e. in precarious conditions. By supporting farmers, the IFRC is having a positive on all 3 livelihoods, all of which were affected; agriculture was affected by crop loss, livestock production by the death or the below-value sale of animals and day labourers because they will have to go back to their places of origin to rebuild their homes or production areas.

Another aspect that justifies this kind of intervention is the financial situation of many of the affected farmers. At least 50 per cent have some kind of agricultural loan, and losing their extra income from sales will leave them without any possibility of meeting their financial commitments with the banking sector.

Many of the lost crops were for home consumption and the small amounts they managed to recover for sale were sold for a pittance. In addition, being forced to sell their animals at below market value coupled with the lack of local jobs has caused some people to migrate to other regions

Based on the season and current weather conditions, the National Society livelihoods focal point estimated that, a cash voucher of \$150 US dollars per family would ensure the purchase of agricultural inputs and equipment to recover. According to rapid assessments, local markets remain active; however, a feasibility and beneficiary selection study has been considered, as well as a video that promotes and records the use of the CTP.



Beneficiary with voucher in the community of Santa Librada. Source: PRC.

Beneficiaries have mentioned the need and importance of being able to have access to money to buy inputs to begin ploughing their lands, as many have prioritized the rebuilding of their homes and have no cash to work the land. This was corroborated as people prioritized building materials when applying for the CTP.

Population to be assisted: 1,200 families will be assisted with the reactivation of their livelihoods in the district of Loreto through the CTP. Prior to the implementation of activities, community leaders, affected families and municipalities were included in the needs assessments and feasibility study for the CTP in order to increase community empowerment. Mobilizing a livelihoods RIT specialising in Cash Transfers is being considered to support the implementation.

- **Distribution of cash transfers**

The livelihoods interventions aimed to reduce the negative impact of the storm on small farmers and small swine and poultry producers by providing cash transfers that would allow affected farmers to optimize current resources and focus their priorities on housing and food security. The operation included a detailed census and assessment

For accountability purposes, a final evaluation will be conducted, which will include a beneficiary satisfaction survey to measure relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of activities conducted according to IFRC standards and policies and minimum Sphere standards.

Outcome 4: Families have restored their livelihoods and their regular agricultural production, promoting food security.	Outputs		% achieved
		Output 4.1: 1,200 families received funding via the cash transfer for the restoration of their livelihood	
Activities	Implementation on time?		% of progress
	Yes	No	
Conduct market research/identification and selection of suppliers for the programme	X		100%
Community meetings for the identification and selection of beneficiaries with ODK	X		100%
Training on the use of CTP for families	X		100%
Implementation of cash transfer programme for 1,200 families	X		90%
Evaluation of the use of cash transfer programme by beneficiaries	X		60%
Production of a 5 to 6 minute video on the operation and the cash transfer programme	X		95%

- **Conduct market research/identification and selection of suppliers for the programme**

The livelihoods focal point conducted market research and identified potential suppliers for the programme. All of this was included in the feasibility study for the CTP. This document contained criteria to select communities and families, vulnerability criteria shared and validated with community leaders, a market analysis, and potential suppliers identified during the first meeting to present the project and spark their interest in submitting quotes. Lists of agricultural supplies were drawn up based on these studies, beneficiary requests and the experience of the field engineer, which were validated during the community meetings.

Market context in Loreto: Loreto is located 20 km from the departmental capital and 473 km from the nation's capital, Asunción. There are no bank branches; however, market volumes are large due to its agriculture- and a large-scale, livestock-based economy. It has two Cooperatives, and banking transactions are conducted at branches of large banks such as Banco Nacional de Fomento, Banco de la Nación Argentina, Visión Banco, Banco Amambay, and financial institutions such as El Comercio and Interfisa, among others.

The city has small, medium and large distributors of agricultural inputs and equipment, stores that sell essential non-food items and hardware stores. The study identified some 12 medium to large shops that sell agricultural, veterinary and hardware products, which are supplied by national distributors in the department's and the nation's capital. Some seeds are produced in the area and collected by businesses engaging in that sector.

Purchases are usually cash on delivery or on credit, which is paid off at the end of the harvest.

Most shops engage in selling food items, furniture, home appliances and utensils, and liquor.

Identified CTP beneficiaries purchased their items in Loreto and sometimes in Concepción and the border town of Horqueta.

Supplier selection: A list of agricultural inputs, seeds and equipment suppliers was drawn up, along with technical specifications. The Procurement Committee made a call for bids to select suppliers and received proposals from 5 businesses in Concepción and Loreto. After assessing bids and documentation, the 5 Hermanos Hardware store in Loreto was chosen as the supplier.

- **Community meetings for the identification and selection of beneficiaries with ODK:**

The ODK tool was used to gather livelihoods, health and PSS data for the census in communities. A total of 48 community meetings were held in the municipality of Loreto in the department of Concepcion reaching 1,391 families. The census was carried out with active involvement from the Concepción branch volunteers.

Data collected for the census served to inform the selection of beneficiaries. Lists were prepared, submitted to and approved by community leaders and members. A total of 24 meetings (2 per community) were held.

- **Training on the use of CTP to families:**

A community approach was used for CTP trainings through awareness raising and information on the programme's mechanisms and scope. Communities were involved in the determination and validation of the criteria for selecting the project's beneficiaries. Beneficiary lists were validated during the community meetings and during the stage prior to the delivery of vouchers. A total of 48 community meetings were held.

- **Implementation of cash transfer programme for 1,200 families**

This was done through a community approach and the census that resulted from the 48 community meetings. The criteria to select both beneficiaries and communities were prepared in meetings with community leaders in Loreto, where they were validated and approved.

Below are the criteria prepared by the Paraguayan Red Cross together with affected communities and their representatives:

Community selection criteria

- 1) Within the district of Loreto.
- 2) Not benefiting from organizations working on restoring their livelihoods.
- 3) Communities with high degree of vulnerability
- 4) Communities whose main livelihoods involve production activities.
- 5) Prioritized by the municipal government and SEN due to their high level of damage from the storm.

Family and Livelihoods selection criteria

- 1) Living full time in targeted communities
- 2) Families whose livelihoods were affected by the storm.
- 3) One beneficiary per family
- 4) Families whose main livelihoods involve production activities
- 5) Families with loans for production affected by the storm and who are in arrears
- 6) Families with less than 20 head of cattle
- 7) Families with less than 20 hectares of land
- 8) Families who are not in livelihoods reactivation programmes
- 9) Families who have no members earning a wage
- 10) Families with no public servants
- 11) Families with no access to loans for production
- 12) Families who have lost crops and/or livestock for household consumption.

Vulnerability criteria

- 1) Families headed by women
- 2) Single parent households
- 3) Families with at least 4 members
- 4) Families with pregnant women
- 5) Families with members with disabilities
- 6) Families with children under 5 years of age
- 7) Families with adults 60 and over.
- 8) Families with members suffering from chronic illnesses
- 9) Families with a common bathroom

The list of beneficiary families to benefit from the reactivation and strengthening of their livelihoods was prepared after the census was completed and after checking if they met the criteria.

The livelihoods focal point conducted the feasibility study for the CTP in Loreto, which included the market study.

An agricultural engineer, who was hired for the livelihoods intervention, drew up the work plan and the production plan model. Currently, an agricultural reactivation plan on agricultural and small animal production to improve production is being drafted, and training sessions are being held. After the inputs have been delivered, the field focal point will visit 10 per cent of the beneficiaries to verify the producers' implementation of the production plan.

A CTP, ODK and Mega V course was taught to 24 volunteers on 25 June with funds provided by the Swiss Red Cross, with participation from the DREF operations team and Concepción volunteers; this course was taught by the livelihoods RIT and the National Society focal point.

The list of agricultural inputs, small animals and hardware items was prepared and validated with the 21 beneficiary communities and included 115 items requested by the communities.

The vouchers have been delivered to the community, reaching 100 per cent of the beneficiary population.

Region	Department	Municipality	Community	No. of families	No. of vouchers
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Trinidad	37	37
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Hugua poi	86	86
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Ykua pora	86	86
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Virgen del Camino	51	51
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Laguna Mbohapy	33	33
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Santo Tomas	10	10
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Torales San Roque	66	66
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Cañada la Paz / Perpetuo Socorro	146	146
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Cañada Lurdes	93	93
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Caacupemi	32	32
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Virgen de Fátima	60	60
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Virgen del Rosario	86	86
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Santa Librada	102	102
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Agaigo	11	11
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Virgen del Carmen	45	45
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	San Marcos Torales	42	42
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	San Josemi	96	96
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	San Miguel	28	28
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Santo Domingo	41	41
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Don Bosco	37	37
Oriental	Concepción	Loreto	Loma Florida	12	12
TOTAL				1,200	1,200

A meeting was held with potential suppliers in Loreto, where 10 businesses were invited to submit bids, of which only 5 submitted and only two were able to fill the entire order requested by the operation. The Procurement Committee selected the 5 Hermanos Company, which is based in Loreto and is a regular supplier to the affected communities. It has the infrastructure and logistics required (trucks, vans and tractor) to provide and ensure transport to the area even in bad weather.

Agricultural inputs, small animals and hardware items are being delivered to the 22 beneficiary communities (Trinidad, Hugua poi, Ykua Pora, Jugua poi, Virgen del Camino, Laguna Mbohapy, Santo Tomas, Torales San Roque, Perpetuo Socorro, Cañada la Paz, Cañada Lurdes, Caacupemi, Virgen del Rosario, Santa Librada, Agaigo, Virgen del Carmen, San Marcos Torales, San Josemi, San Miguel, Santo Domingo, Don Bosco, Loma Florida). In some instances, the rains have delayed deliveries.

The PRC decided to suspend distributions to communities until 22 July after the internal elections were over. Politicians had been conducting smear campaigns against each other, and on one occasion, they tried to involve the operation in the smear campaigns. This was addressed by suspending activities and issuing a press release which was aired over local radio stations (Radio Futuro, Radio Teko Pyahu and Radio Ciudad) and delivered to the local government. Nevertheless, the distributions resumed on 27 July.

Current conditions in the field and recurrent rains hinder access to the event site and weaken the health of young animals (such as piglets and chicks), which are dying from the effects of diarrhoea brought on by low temperatures, rain and excessive moisture. Given this situation, a one-month extension has been requested in order to be able to

complete the delivery of these inputs while safeguarding the health of smaller animals and ensuring on-site supervision of the suppliers at the time of delivery.

To date, 82 per cent of the supply distribution to the 1,200 families has been achieved.

Evaluation of the use of Cash transfer programme by beneficiaries

This was conducted in communities who received agricultural inputs, small animals and hardware items on 23 July. Evaluations resumed on 31 July.

Production of a 5 to 6 minute video on the operation and the cash transfer programme

Material is in the final editing stage, and it will be published on the National Society's website and shared accordingly.

Agricultural production training

A market study was conducted to identify agricultural products according to production schedules in order to ensure good sales. Technical training was provided on soil preparation, planting, crop care and using agricultural defences, harvest and post-harvest. A total of 18 trainings on agricultural activities were conducted reaching 880 families from Loreto in the department of Concepcion.

Small animal production training

A market study was conducted in order to identify and ensure good sales. A technical training in breed selection, management (construction of piggeries, henhouses), choice of location, choice of materials, the utilization of farm materials, guidance, care and the presentation of products for sale. A total of 20 trainings were conducted, reaching 981 families in Loreto in the department of Concepcion.

D. Budget

Sixty-five per cent of expense receipts are in transit to the IFRC Americas regional office. The cash transfer line is responsible for most of the total budget, which is just starting to charge expenses after a process of CTP analysis, feasibility, and market and bidding process. The final DREF operation report will reflect the expenses in their entirety through a final financial and narrative report.