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DREF Operation Update Paraguay: Floods

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation	Operation Number MDRPY018; Glide Number FL-2015-000171-PRY
Date of issue: 8 January 2016	Date of disaster: 15 December 2015
Operation manager: Pabel Angeles – Regional Disaster Management Coordinator for South America	Point of contact: Fernando Casanova – Director General of the Paraguayan Red Cross
Operation start date: 24 December 2015	Expected timeframe: 3 months
Overall operation budget: 205,098 Swiss francs (CHF); CHF 155,097 in the first allocation, CHF 50,000 in the second allocation	
Number of people affected: 130,000 (26,000 families), increased from original estimate of 12,565 people (3,513 families) affected	Number of people to be assisted: 10,370 people (2,074 families), increased from original target of 5,225 people (1,045 families)
Host National Society: The Paraguayan Red Cross (PRC) has 10 branches, 200 volunteers and 40 staff members.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: Swiss Red Cross, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Emergency Secretariat (SEN), Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare (MSPBS) – II Health Region, Armed Forces, fire department, volunteer fire department in San Pedro de Ycuamadyu, Agricultural Extension Directorate (DEAg), National Navy, National Police, Paraguayan Red Cross, National Electricity Authority (ANDE), departmental government through its Disaster Risk Management and Reduction Secretariat	

<Click [here](#) for the DREF budget. Click [here](#) for the contact information>

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Atypical flash flooding was reported in the northern department of San Pedro in Paraguay in December, affecting up to 19,750 people (3,950 families) in the department, with 2,845 people in collective centres and an estimated 2,600 people located in areas blocked due to the flooding. Alongside the unusual precipitation (heavy rain storms and hail), these flash floods have led to the overflowing of the Jejuí, Paraguay, Aguaray-mi, Aguaray-Guazú Rivers in the San Pedro department. On 23 December 2015, a state of emergency was declared through Act 5561 for municipalities in the departments of Concepción, San Pedro, Misiones, Ñeembucu, Amambay, Presidente Hayes and



Flooding in a community in San Pedro. Source: Government of San Pedro

Central. A DREF operation was launched on 24 December for CHF 155,097 to support Paraguay Red Cross to deliver assistance to up to 1,045 households (5,225 people) through emergency health and care, water and sanitation as well as food security and nutrition activities.

Please note that while Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) funding was issued on 24 December, the escalating situation in other parts of the country, including Asunción, has resulted in a request for a second allocation while an assessment to inform the preparation of an emergency appeal is underway. As most of the funds from the first allocation have already been committed to the procurement of relief items, the small second allocation is to enable some relief activities while the emergency appeal is being prepared.

In the following days, heavy rains persisted and inundated other parts of the country. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) report issued on 28 December 2015, at least 130,000 people across the country were evacuated because of river overflows caused by heavy rains. The department of Asunción has been the most affected by rising river levels, which have reached 7.71 metres, the highest level in the past 20 years. This situation has been attributed to the El Niño phenomenon.

A total of 114 collective centres have been set up in Asunción to house 12,649 families who were evacuated from several areas either because they have been affected or are at risk from overflowing rivers.

Temporary housing centres (CHATs) set up in Asunción

Zones	CHATs	Families
Yukyty	14	609
Cateura	19	1,668
Santa Ana	11	1,249
Bañado Sur 1ra. DI	2	2,059
Sajonia-Chacarita	15	1,781
Mbigua	16	943
Tablada Nueva	13	1,237
Lombardo-Santa Rosa	5	1,013
Puerto Botanico-Viñas Cue	14	1,181
Zeballos Cue	5	909
Total	114	12,649

Source: Paraguayan Red Cross

In the districts of Guayaibi, Capiivary, San Pedro de Ycuamandyyú, Lima and Nueva Germania 1,105 families were also affected by hail storms.

This plan of action is being expanded to meet the humanitarian needs of the affected population in Asunción. The Paraguayan Red Cross and IFRC are assessing the situation to increase aid for the affected communities, and they are planning to launch an emergency appeal.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society

The national headquarters of the Paraguayan Red Cross is located in Asunción; the National Society has 10 branches, 200 volunteers and 40 staff members. The PRC has an established management structure, composed of a paid staff consisting of an executive director; legal advisor;



PRC volunteers assisting affected families in the field. Source: PRC

director of cooperation and strategic relations; director of volunteering; director of youth; director of administration; head of the communication department; director of risk reduction; community health and social inclusion; and head of training. Volunteer staff members provide support in the areas of relief and youth.

Support from PRC national headquarters has been essential in establishing all response actions implemented in Asunción and in the San Pedro department. The Paraguayan Red Cross is supporting information management, situation update reporting and damage assessments. In terms of operational coordination and logistics, the PRC is monitoring EOC operations, donations and warehouse management.

The National Society risk reduction and disaster management team has the capacity of being able to coordinate actions, as well as having trained volunteers available to provide support for this operation. Currently, there are 45 national intervention team (NIT) members and there are teams specialized in livelihoods, the Open Data Kit (ODK) and Mega V tools, psychosocial support, and water and sanitation and hygiene promotion. The risk reduction and disaster management unit of the Paraguayan Red Cross has activated its emergency operations centre (EOC), which in turn has activated local NIT members and maintains a database of other NIT members available for deployment.

In San Pedro, the PRC has a steering committee that is providing support to the affected population. The PRC additionally has appointed personnel to the governor's departmental EOC. The PRC San Pedro branch EOC also has been activated, with a national intervention team member in charge of these actions and responsible for available PRC volunteers.

The PRC has also mobilized and deployed an assessment team to San Pedro composed of the risk management, health and social inclusion director, the disaster risk management and reduction unit director, a PRC volunteer agronomist specializing in livelihoods; a PRC volunteer livelihoods technician with experience in ODK and Mega V; three local volunteers, a general NIT member and two PRC responders. The rapid assessment was conducted in four specific areas that were difficult to access due to their remoteness.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Water and Sanitation

Asunción: Access to clean and safe water in the collective centres in Asunción is guaranteed by the Sanitary Services Company of Paraguay (ESSAP for its acronym in Spanish), with the installation of water faucets. However, there are collective centres in which water supply is limited since these faucets have yet to be installed. Additionally, the demand is high with one faucet being used for 10 families. Attention is needed to support people's knowledge and practice of clean water practices, particularly since the water points are not always near the collective centre itself or storage is done in less safe conditions.

The latrines can potentially overflow as the level of the rivers rises. If contamination were to occur, the population will need to use aqua tabs to purify their water. Additionally, mobile toilets have not been installed in the locations where the displaced people have temporarily settled. According to the evaluation done by the Water Roundtable, there is an urgent need to install 355 temporary toilets. In many of the collective centres, the toilets are holes in the ground.

Lastly, the rain water is not being drained in a safe manner, which could produce health problems.

San Pedro: the water supply network has not been affected, and 90 per cent of the population has access to this service. Nonetheless, the remaining population, especially those located near rivers, are consuming untreated river water that San Pedro's Disaster Management Secretariat is distributing to each household via an electric motor. Currently, 462 families have flooded dwellings, and 520 families have been cut off by the flooding and do not have access to safe drinking water. Some latrines have been breached by the flood waters, which could adversely affect the consumption of water directly from the river.

Health

Asunción: Cases of injury during displacement have been registered. Two people have died due to electrocution and other two have died due to strong water currents. In the temporary camps, cases of diarrhoea and skin problems have been reported, which possibly could be eradicated with promotion of hygiene and safe water use.

The emotional impact on the affected population is noticeable, particularly due to the large number of young people, elderly adults and people with a disability who are located in these temporary camps. The sense of powerlessness and lack of future plans makes this situation extremely problematic combined with the reality of the loss of income due to the emergency. In the latter case, this entails the inability to purchase construction materials, rent vehicles to move their household items, acquire emergency medication. Children and adolescents are also exposed to high levels of social and family tension, which added to their own losses and difficulty to understand the situation, are a challenge to their healthy adaptation. Some of the symptoms seen in children include increased aggressiveness, crying, insomnia, among others.

As these aspects have been observed at the community level, it is necessary to foster community resilience building and work with the affected children and adults to overcome this disaster. Preventative communication, which allows for community warning and community building, is required.

The communities visited by the PRC requested increased medical attention from State institutions. A vaccination campaign was conducted in 1 of the 112 collective centres in Asunción.

San Pedro: To date, no injured, missing, or deceased persons or emergency-related outbreaks have been reported. People have been treated for respiratory diseases, dermatitis, diarrhoea and colds, among other ailments.

On-site assessments have detected a high degree of emotional impact among the affected population, particularly since 90 per cent are experiencing this kind of emergency for the first time. The sense of helplessness and hopelessness regarding the future is pervasive in the face of the loss of livelihoods and discouraging forecasts. Initial assessments indicate a low level of social cohesion in the communities that were visited, which might impact the rate at which community resilience building occurs.

A primary health care unit with medical supplies is available for assistance if required.

Risk Assessment

Within the collective centres in Asunción, different risks relate to abandoned electric wires. The PRC teams that enter into any area need to identify the live electric wires due to the danger these pose when wet.

As previously mentioned, the social impact on the affected population include stress and increased tensions. It is necessary to continually monitor these elements on the individual and collective level. The PRC has experience in working with collective centres and is respected by the population with whom it works.

The national-level EOC, from the SEN, has not been fully launched to provide all of the information and coordination with other institutions, thus making it more of a challenge to coordinate the provision of humanitarian aid. The PRC is working with the municipal body COMUEDA towards this required inter-institutional coordination.

Lastly, the level of the soil saturation and the lack of mechanisms for draining standing water could take up to three months. Rainfall is expected to peak in March and April, which would worsen the impact of this scenario and make it difficult to assist all of the affected population.

As local state institutions normally finish their fiscal years during this period, state funds are scarce and often unavailable. Additionally, municipalities in this area are currently in a transition period between incoming and outgoing authorities, which also affects the availability of resources and assistance.

An assessment of the situation is underway to inform launch of an emergency appeal in the coming days.

B. Operational strategy and plan

Overall objective

Ensuring that at least 2,074 affected families (10,370 people) in the districts of San Pedro and 1,029 affected families in Asunción have access to humanitarian aid in terms of health, water and sanitation, according to each affected department's needs.

Proposed strategy

Reduce the negative impact that flood damage has caused on water and sanitation of the affected population. The DREF will also support the costs of both the completed rapid assessment and a detailed assessment in preparation for the emergency appeal. The number of volunteers has also increased from 70 to 200 mobilized to respond to the disaster, resulting in an increase in budget lines for the provision of volunteer insurance in case of accidents as well as personal protective equipment. The following are the lines of action:

Water and Sanitation

Asunción:

- 1,029 families affected by floods are provided with jerrycans.
- 10 sanitary units set up in collective centres are repaired and receive proper maintenance.
- At least 1,029 families affected receive water and health promotion information and training.

San Pedro:

- Up to 600 households whose homes have been completely flooded and who remain incommunicado receive hygiene kits and jerrycans.
- At least 1,045 affected households receive water and health promotion information and training.

Target population

Asunción

Temporary housing centres (CHATs) in Bañado have been prioritized for intervention because they have not received the same coverage as other CHATs in Bañado Sur; furthermore, as part of the IFRC's participation in the Sectorial Water Panel and the organization of the response along with other actors, this zone has been designated a Paraguayan Red Cross area of intervention. The vulnerability and precariousness of Bañado Norte CHATs at the social level is characterized by a lack of coordination and community-organizing actions due to the forced displacement of the population caused by the floods. The IFRC intends to meet the needs of the 1,029 families in the 12 CHATs.

CHATs	Affected families	Total # of people
Cancha Humaita	48	240
Gas corona	166	830
Laguna Pyta	102	510
Faenamiento del Ejercito	140	700
Seccional Sub 28	40	200
Vereda Hogar San Vicente	92	460
Insfran	50	250

Hire staff	X	X										
Prepare and disseminate 2 press releases			X					X				
Prepare and disseminate 2 beneficiary stories					X				X			
Monitoring of the operation by IFRC			X									
Beneficiary satisfaction survey										X	X	

Health and Care

Needs analysis: To date, no injuries have been reported in relation to the flooding or secondary events. No probable outbreaks of diseases or epidemics have been detected. However, people have been treated for diarrhoea, respiratory diseases, dermatitis and colds, among others. The affected people in Asunción require first aid care because of injuries and occasional electric shocks they sustained while setting up their own emergency collective centres.

A psychosocial support line needs to be activated due to the high degree of emotional impact observed during the field assessment. The population is experiencing uncertainty and emotional upheaval due to the loss of their homes, sources of income, which is exacerbated by the time required for recovery.

Population to be assisted: A total of 1,045 families in San Pedro and 1,029 families in Asunción, who have had their physical, first aid and mental health impacted by the emergency.

OBJECTIVES	INDICATORS											
Outcome: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced in San Pedro and Asunción	% of the affected people in the area who can access appropriate health promotion											
Output 1.1 Affected families have health promotion information and materials In San Pedro and Asunción	Number of people diagnosed and receiving psychosocial support											
Activities	Week											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Design and printing of materials	X	X										
Community health promotion sessions		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Dissemination of key messages for social media		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Output 1.2 Psychosocial support provided to the target population materials in San Pedro and Asunción	No. of people diagnosed and who received PSS											
Activities	Week											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Design and printing of materials	X	X										
Psychosocial campaign		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Referral system for people requiring psychological care		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Output 1.3 First aid care for the affected population in Asunción	No. of people receiving first aid care											
Activities	Week											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Purchase of first aid supplies	X	X										
First aid treatment received	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion

Needs analysis: Water storage and handling have been affected by the floods, as well as by the improper handling of the containers used for this purpose. In San Pedro the affected people with (all or more than 50 per cent) flooded homes have lost their household belongings, including personal hygiene items. Other people have been out of contact due to the floods, and they also require these supplies. In the case of Asunción, drinking water is provided by ESSAP; however, the water is not being properly stored or used because of the precariousness of these temporary housing facilities.

This assistance needs to be supplemented by a hygiene, water care, and water and sanitation campaign, complemented by the distribution of hygiene kits. These hygiene kits will contain:

- 5 toothbrushes
- 5 tubes of toothpaste
- 5 combs
- 5 hand towels
- 5 500ml-bottles of shampoo
- 10 bars of bath soap
- 5 bars of laundry soap
- 10 sanitary napkins
- 10 rolls of toilet paper
- 5 razors
- 5 40-litre trash bags

Population to be assisted: A total of 1,045 affected families in San Pedro and 1,024 families affected in Asunción at risk from epidemic or disease outbreaks and/or that present conditions of improper or poor water handling in San Pedro and 12 CHAT's in Asunción, ensuring the beneficiaries' participation in activity proposals. A total of 600 prioritized families will receive a hygiene kit and two 20-litre jerry cans in San Pedro and 1,024 prioritized families will receive an initial two 20-litre jerry cans in Asunción while detailed assessments continue.

OBJECTIVES		INDICATORS											
Outcome 1 Reduction of water related diseases in the target population in San Pedro and Asunción		Mortality and morbidity rates in affected areas											
Output 1.1 Hygiene promotion activities, which meet Sphere standards, are provided to the entire affected population in San Pedro.		1,045 families reached with hygiene promotion. 30 PRC volunteers involved in hygiene promotion activities 80% increase in personal hygiene knowledge											
Activities	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Hygiene promotion activities, including workshops, in the affected communities			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Survey on hygiene conditions in the affected communities to define the intervention strategy				X	X								
Implementation of a Participatory Hygiene And Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) workshop for volunteers in San Pedro			X	X									
Tender process for acquisition of hygiene kits		X	X										
Selection of provider			X										
Distribution and delivery of 600 hygiene kits to communities in San Pedro.				X	X	X	X						
Maintenance and repair of 10 sanitary units already set up in the collective centres and the establishment of 5 additional ones in Asunción.		X	X	X	X								
OBJECTIVES		INDICATORS											
Output 1.2. Distribution of 2 20-litre jerrycans to 600 families in San Pedro		100% of households receive 20-litre jerrycans for water storage											
Activities	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Tender process for acquisition of 20-litre jerrycans		X	X										
Selection of provider			X										
Distribution of 1,200 jerrycans				X	X	X	X						
Output 1.2. Distribution of 2 20-litre jerrycans to 1,029 families affected in Asunción		100% of households receive 20-litre jerrycans for water storage											
Activities	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

Tender process for acquisition of 20-litre jerrycans	X	X										
Selection of provider		X										
Distribution of 2,058 jerrycans			X	X	X	X						
Tender process for acquisition of 20-litre jerrycans	X	X										

To date, the PRC has 10 sanitary units (shower and toilet connected to the drainage system) installed in 4 temporary shelters. As these have been used in a prior operation and currently are heavily used by people located in the collective centre, these sanitary units require urgent maintenance.

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Paraguayan Red Cross:

- Ing. Carlos Escobar Goiburu, President in functions of the Paraguayan Red Cross, email: presidencia@cruzroja.org.py

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DREF OPERATION

MDRPY018 - PARAGUAY Floods

06/01/2016

DREF Grant
Budget CHF

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	46,674
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	28,874
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	27,275
Utensils & Tools	16,151
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	118,974
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	4,466
Transport & Vehicle Costs	18,353
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	22,819
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	23,271
Volunteers	6,842
Other Staff Benefits	3,470
Total PERSONNEL	33,582
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	1,489
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	1,489
Workshops & Training	993
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	993
Travel	4,363
Information & Public Relations	3,911
Office Costs	2,083
Communications	3,870
Financial Charges	496
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	14,723
Partner National Societies	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	12,518
Total INDIRECT COSTS	12,518
TOTAL BUDGET	205,098