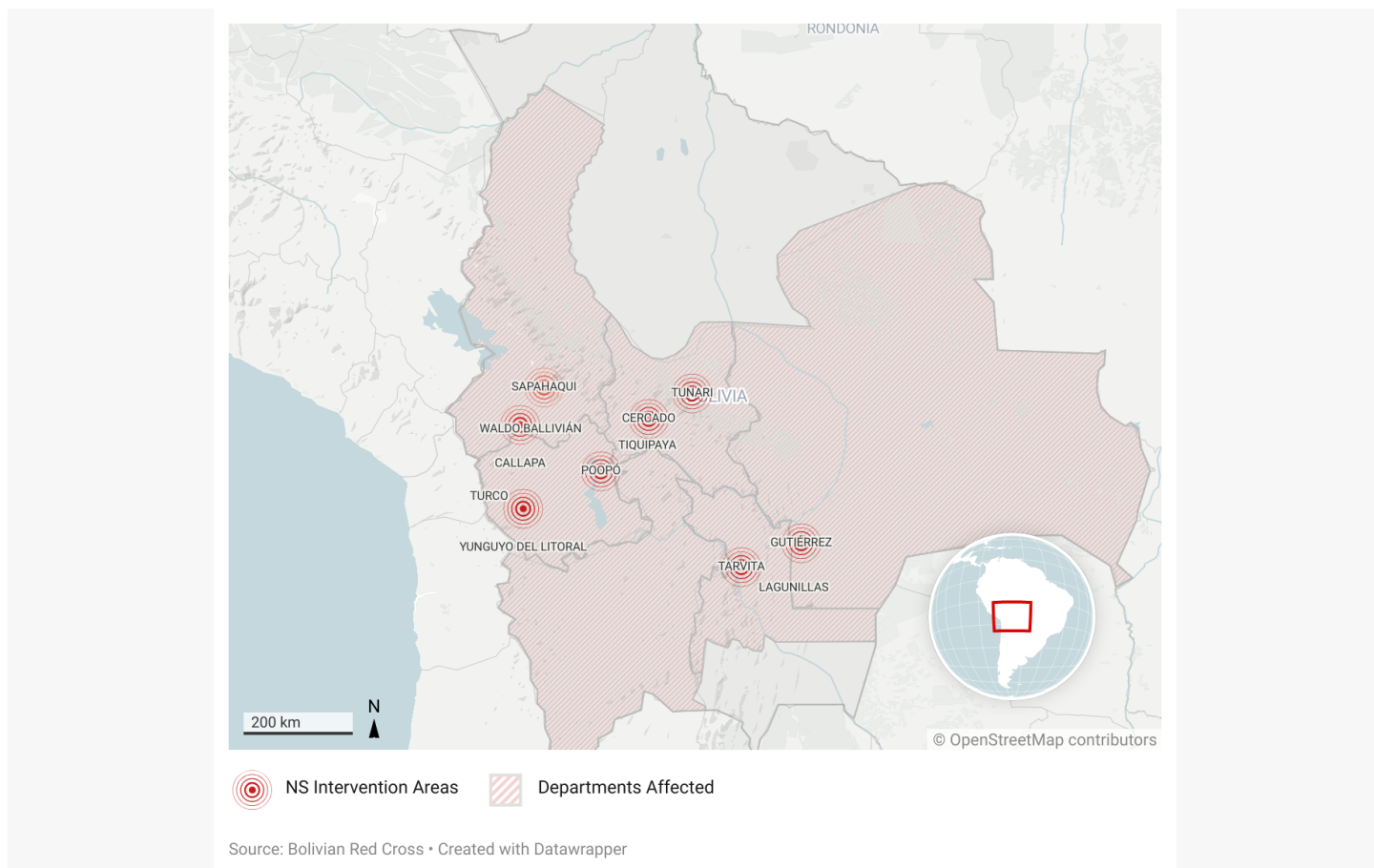




Meeting with Higerani villagers, Cochabamba, Bolivia. January 2024. Source: IFRC.

Appeal: <b>MDRBO015</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 276,661</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Orange</b>	Hazard: <b>Drought</b>
Glide Number: <b>2023-000191</b>	People Affected: <b>1,948,056 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>5,000 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>08-10-2023</b>	New Operational End Date: <b>30-06-2024</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>8 months</b>
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: <b>08-10-2023</b>		Reporting Timeframe End Date: <b>15-03-2024</b>	
Additional Allocation Requested: <b>0</b>		Targeted Areas: <b>Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, La Paz, Oruro, Santa Cruz</b>	

# Description of the Event



National Society intervention areas. MDRBO015 - Droughts 2023-2024.

## Date when the trigger was met

2023-09-29

## What happened, where and when?

Fueled by the climate crisis, Bolivia has witnessed a rise in extreme weather events. In 2023 alone, the country endured a record-breaking scorching winter with temperatures reaching a staggering 40 degrees Celsius, followed by persistent flooding that began in November (1).

A recent report from the Vice-Minister of Civil Defense (VIDECI), published on 20 March, reveals the devastating impact of droughts. Between June and December of 2023, over half a million families (511,610) across six Bolivian departments were affected. The drought also impacted livestock, with more than 28.5 million heads affected, and crops, with more than half a million affected (565,725). The severity of the drought led to 178 municipalities declaring a state of disaster, while an additional nine declared a state of emergency (2).

By February 2024, a report from the National Disaster Early Warning System (SNATD) drought monitor showed positive developments. Five out of the country's seven macroregions experienced a decrease in drought intensity, with conditions shifting from moderate to weak. However, challenges remain in specific areas. Moderate to severe drought persists in parts of the Chaco macroregion (southern Chuquisaca, southern Santa Cruz, and Tarija) and the Chiquitania macroregion (northern Santa Cruz and Beni) (3).

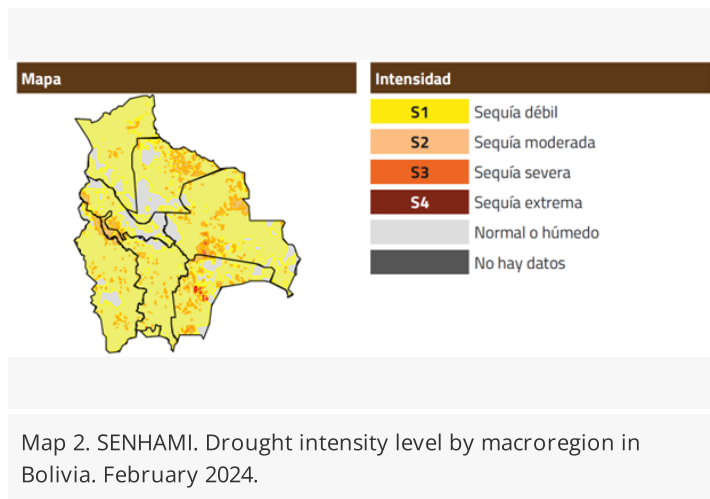
SENHAMI data reveals ongoing soil moisture loss across Bolivia. Most areas within six macroregions face dry to extremely dry conditions, with the Valles (Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Tarija, and Potosí), Llanuras-Sabanas (Beni and Santa Cruz), and Chiquitania (northern Santa Cruz and Beni) macroregions being the most affected (3).

The National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts the current El Niño will linger until April 2024, potentially triggering more extreme weather events in Bolivia, such as the flooding that followed the 2023 drought. It is highly expected that the extended dry period had significantly altered soil properties, making the topsoil more susceptible to drying and compaction by sunlight. This reduced pore space, hinders the soil's ability to absorb water. Consequently, when the rain returned, it ran instead of infiltrating,



leading to flash floods. (1)

Examples of this phenomenon include Santiago de Callapa- La Paz and Villa Tunari- Cochabamba, two of the twelve prioritized municipalities that have also been affected by flash floods and landslides in 2024. (4)



Soil erosion in affected areas. February 2024. Source: Bolivian Red Cross.

## Scope and Scale

A recent report by Bolivia's Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI) paints a grim picture of the long-term effects of the extreme droughts that ravaged the country in 2023. As of 20 March 2024, over 5,380 communities and 511,610 families (approximately 2.05 million people) continue to grapple with the drought's consequences.

The National Report on Drought Impact by VIDECI reveals the widespread impact across Bolivian departments:

- La Paz: The hardest-hit department, with 226,247 affected families, of which 85,887 require humanitarian assistance. Droughts impacted 19,260 hectares of crops and 147,907 heads of livestock.
- Potosí: 51,280 families were affected, and 29,235 families in need of humanitarian assistance across 22 municipalities. Also, 801 hectares of crops and 5,664 heads of livestock were affected.
- Cochabamba: 72,777 families were affected, and 47,087 families in need of humanitarian assistance across 35 municipalities. Also, 5,643 hectares of crops and 48,437 heads of livestock were affected.
- Oruro: 42,878 families affected, and 19,672 families in need reported across 374 communities in 30 municipalities. Also, 2,032 hectares of crops and 279,205 heads of livestock were affected.
- Chuquisaca: 80,174 families affected, and 28,912 families in need reported across 766 communities in 29 municipalities. Also, 109,086 hectares of crops and 74,958 heads of livestock were affected, including 111 heads of cattle lost.
- Tarija: 19,742 families affected, and 11,093 families in need reported across 221 communities in 8 municipalities.
- Santa Cruz: 18,512 families affected, and 10,770 families in need reported across 291 communities in 12 municipalities.

The drought pose a severe threat to rural communities heavily reliant on agriculture and livestock for income and employment. Reduced agricultural yields and food availability of 2.05 million people can lead to migration and increased poverty.

Droughts directly impact agriculture by limiting irrigation water, leading to crop failures, decreased food production, and food insecurity. Additionally, reduced availability of water and forage affects livestock production and can lead to animal losses.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reports that these droughts, coupled with recent flooding, have devastated agricultural land, already affected by drought during the 2023 planting season, limiting maize planting (potentially impacting millions who rely on it), leading to below-average crop levels in 2024 (5).



## Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. (1) ACAPS- Bolivia flooding and landslides in Beni, La Paz, and Pando departments	<a href="https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Ma_in_media/20240325_ACAPS_briefing_note_Bolivia_-_Flooding_and_landslides_in_Beni_La_Paz_and_Pando_departments.pdf">https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Ma_in_media/20240325 ACAPS briefing note Bolivia - Flooding and landslides in Beni La Paz and Pando departments.pdf</a>
2. (2) VIDECI- Nationwide assessment of the damages- Droughts 2023-2024	<a href="http://www.defensacivil.gob.bo/web/uploads/imagenes/doc_20230531_144253.pdf">http://www.defensacivil.gob.bo/web/uploads/imagenes/doc_20230531_144253.pdf</a>
3. (3) SNATD- Bolivia Drought Monitor: Newsletter February 2024	<a href="http://monitoresequias.senamhi.gob.bo/#/">http://monitoresequias.senamhi.gob.bo/#/</a>
4. (4) VIDECI- Nationwide humanitarian assistance - Rains 2023-2024	<a href="http://www.defensacivil.gob.bo/web/uploads/imagenes/doc_20230531_141841.pdf">http://www.defensacivil.gob.bo/web/uploads/imagenes/doc_20230531_141841.pdf</a>
5. (5) FAO- Crop prospects and food situation - Triannual Global Report	<a href="https://www.fao.org/3/cd0022en/cd0022en.pdf">https://www.fao.org/3/cd0022en/cd0022en.pdf</a>

## 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:

The recent El Niño event, a major climate phenomenon affecting global weather patterns through Pacific Ocean temperature changes, brought severe drought to Bolivia in 2023 – the worst in 25 years. While some areas have seen rain, farming communities continue to struggle with long-term consequences such as reduced seed germination, increased soil erosion, animal feed shortages, and lower incomes.

In recognition of the ongoing challenges faced by Bolivian farming communities due to the severe 2023 drought, the Bolivian Red Cross is strategically adapting its initial livelihood intervention. Previously focused on the distribution of cash assistance, the program will now prioritize the provision of soil recovery supplies to 1,250 farming families most severely impacted by the drought. This revised approach directly targets their urgent need to restore the productivity of their land and rebuild their livelihoods.

After a five-year absence of DREF funding applications and limited capacity at headquarters due to reduced staff, the National Society is now facing a nationwide emergency that requires strengthening coordination mechanisms with five different branches, national authorities, and local authorities, which impacted the initial rollout of activities. To ensure the successful completion of the livelihood intervention in prioritized communities, the Bolivian Red Cross is requesting an additional month for program implementation. This extension is necessary to address the logistical challenges presented by remote locations and facilitate the completion of post-distribution surveys.

Through this Operation Update No. 1 The Bolivian Red Cross aims to inform about:

- Timeframe extension: The operation duration has been extended by two months, concluding on June 30, 2024. This additional time allows for a more comprehensive follow-up support to affected families.
- Livelihood Recovery: Based on the needs of 1,250 families in prioritized areas, the program will now include the distribution of "MI-1



micro-organisms" for soil remediation. This aims to support short-term agricultural recovery efforts.

- Cash Transfer Program: The assessment conducted by the Bolivian Red Cross in 20 communities has revealed a broader impact on families. To address this, the cash transfer program will now support 1,250 families, up from the initially planned 650.
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: Following community feedback on sodium hypochlorite, the program will adopt the use of MI-1 micro-organisms for household water treatment. This addresses concerns and provides a more suitable solution.
- Revised borehole Rehabilitation Strategy: Field assessments and consultations with local suppliers indicate limited potential for successful borehole rehabilitation in prioritized communities. Due to insufficient borehole capacity and no guarantee of post-repair functionality, the program will focus resources on alternative water solutions, such as the delivery of additional water tanks at prioritized communities.

In order to optimally develop this operation, the National Society is well-prepared for distributions based in the experience acquired so far. Logistics and coordination mechanisms are largely established, feasibility studies are complete, and bidding processes for essential purchases have begun. The IFRC Delegation will provide close support to the National Society during the rest of the operation.

## Current National Society Actions

### Start date of National Society actions

2023-09-25

<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	As part of the operation, the Bolivian Red Cross has distributed and installed eight 5,000 litre water tanks in Cochabamba, Oruro and Santa Cruz. In addition, the National Society has distributed 1,330 jerry cans to 665 families in 12 communities.
<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	With regard to community awareness, the National Society developed 19 workshops on water care, 18 workshops on prevention of diarrhoea and dehydration, and broadcast five radio spots on water conservation, fire prevention and promotion of sustainable practices for soil recovery.
<b>Coordination</b>	<p>The Bolivian Red Cross authorities maintain constant coordination at the national level with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), which includes agencies of the United Nations System, NGOs, and civil society organizations. Within the HCT, the Bolivian Red Cross contributes to the Sector Roundtables, where strategies are discussed and developed for each priority area, ensuring the coordination and effectiveness of the operation.</p> <p>At the local level, representatives from the departmental branches of the Bolivian Red Cross actively participate in ongoing coordination meetings of the Departmental Emergency Operations Centres (COED). These meetings are crucial for discussing the progress of emergencies and implementing response and mitigation measures in the five departments prioritized for this intervention (La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Oruro, and Chuquisaca).</p>

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for Andean Countries is supporting the Bolivian Red Cross in responding to the country's drought emergency. Key activities include regular monitoring of the situation and support during the design of the response strategy. Additionally, through the IFRC Americas Regional Office, support and technical assistance have been provided for this DREF operation.</p> <p>The IFRC has submitted an application to ECHO's call for proposals within its Humanitarian Implementation Plan. This application aims to support mid- and long-term recovery activities in affected communities. In addition, coordination with the IFRC Climate Center and the German Red Cross to explore various possibilities for supporting the National Society (NS) in designing Early Action Protocols has taken place. Within the</p>
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	first three months of the operation, the IFRC deployed two Rapid Response Personnel (an Operations Manager and a Livelihoods Coordinator) for two months to strengthen the Bolivian Red Cross Operation in the country.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	<p>The Swiss Red Cross has an office in the country and supports the National Society in strengthening its institutional policy on Disaster Risk Management, among other crucial policies, seeking to contribute to the development of the institutional capacity to create conditions that ensure the effectiveness of Disaster Risk Management and Health services and programs.</p> <p>Through this DREF, additional support will be provided to the Bolivian Red Cross for the implementation of response actions.</p>

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

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

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	<p>To date, the General Directorate of Prevention and Risks (DGPR) continues to provide humanitarian assistance to affected families.</p> <p>In November 2022, the National Government of Bolivia presented the Plurinational Plan for Immediate Response to Drought, through which it is assisting 53 municipalities in eight departments by delivering tanks, renting cisterns, and building infrastructure, as well as providing water for consumption and irrigation, and providing agricultural supplies. These actions are part of the 838 water, sanitation, irrigation, and watershed management projects for human consumption and agricultural activity that the government has programmed for the current period of government. National and local authorities are also supporting the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) reports in affected municipalities.</p> <p>Based on the latest report from the DGPR, up to December 2023, the Bolivia government authorities assisted 55,426 families in 137 municipalities through 813 tons of humanitarian assistance delivered and more than 7.8 million of Bs invested. During the first quarter, the National government continued to provide humanitarian assistance to 9,923 in 50 municipalities through 231 tons of humanitarian assistance delivered. Please refer to the following link for further information on records of attention provided: <a href="http://www.defensacivil.gob.bo/web/uploads/images/doc_20230531_144112.pdf">http://www.defensacivil.gob.bo/web/uploads/images/doc_20230531_144112.pdf</a></p> <p>The Government of Santa Cruz has spent more than 5 million BS to mitigate the effects of the droughts, including the purchase of 21 cistern cars, nine vans, 100 candle filters, 240,000 water purification tablets and 30 20,000-litre geotanks, which have been distributed to the most affected municipalities. For its part, the central government is promoting the rehabilitation and drilling of 200 wells in Oruro, Cochabamba and La Paz.</p>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	<p>In February, Bolivia's Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) took a crucial step to address the country's dual challenges: drought and floods. The HCT agreed to prepare response plans through thematic groups and technical tables, focusing on both drought and post-fire recovery efforts.</p> <p>The HCT is also working closely with the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI) to</p>



coordinate emergency flood response efforts across the country. This includes providing critical support to affected communities, with the World Food Programme offering cash assistance and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) contributing technical expertise among others.

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

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

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

According to the National Drought Impact Report, published by VIDECI on 20 March, more than 134,790 hectares of crops have been affected, and the planting season scheduled for July, August, and September could not be completed as usual. The main crops affected are potatoes, maize, chili peppers, legumes, grains, fruit, vegetables, and pasture for animal consumption.

A recent field assessment conducted by the Bolivian Red Cross with 1,302 families in 20 prioritized communities across 12 municipalities and 5 departments of Bolivia sheds light on the impact of the 2023 drought. This report focuses on how these communities, heavily reliant on agriculture and livestock rearing, were affected and the subsequent emergency response efforts.

The assessment reveals a strong dependence on agriculture across most prioritized communities. Departments like Chuquisaca (90.23%), La Paz (93.41%), and Santa Cruz (75.89%) rely heavily on farming, while Oruro (84.21%) leans towards livestock rearing. Cochabamba presents a unique case with a more diversified economy, with farming at 33% and construction at 25%.

The economic vulnerability becomes even clearer when considering the average monthly income of interviewed families. A staggering 70% earn between 0 and 1,000 Bolivianos (Bs) – a figure that falls far below the National minimum wage (around 2,262 Bs). This highlights the vulnerability of these communities even before the drought.

The assessment also paints a grim picture of how the drought ravaged livelihoods. Crop losses were the most significant impact, affecting 69% of families. The situation was particularly dire in La Paz (90%), Santa Cruz (85%), and Chuquisaca (85%). Animal loss followed closely, impacting 37% of families. This translates to severe food insecurity, especially considering the low pre-drought income levels.

Compounding the crisis, the drought significantly disrupted local markets. A staggering 93% of families reported an increase in food costs, while other essentials like water, clothing, public transportation, and working supplies also saw price hikes. Chuquisaca was hit the hardest, with 89% of respondents experiencing cost increases for at least one essential item.

Market availability also showed signs of strain. While 29% of interviewees reported finding all basic needs at local markets, 39% found only some items available, and 31% struggled to find enough to meet basic needs. La Paz and Santa Cruz appeared to be the most impacted in terms of market functionality.



### Health

The combination of drought, high temperatures, and contaminated water sources significantly increases the risk of diarrheal infections, especially among children under nine. Field assessments conducted by the National Society identified a need for healthcare services to address the rise in stomach illnesses and dehydration due to water scarcity and limited hygiene facilities. This issue is further exacerbated by the lack of support for rural populations. National Society surveys reveal that only 30% of households have received any form of aid.

While drought brings its own health challenges, the recent uptick in rainfall across the country raises concerns about arboviral diseases



like dengue. As of epidemiological week eight in 2024, Bolivia has reported 11,221 cases of dengue, a significant decrease (82%) compared to the same period in 2023. However, specific areas remain hotspots, with Santa Cruz (3,361 cases), Cochabamba (3,015 cases), and La Paz (2,365 cases) leading the pack. The Bolivian Red Cross continues to monitor the number of cases in affected areas closely.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Even before the drought struck, a significant portion of the prioritized communities relied on precarious water sources. Nearly half (43%) depended on rivers and lakes, while only 13% had access to water networks, highlighting a pre-existing vulnerability. Boreholes provided water for 34% of the population, and water tankers were a vital source for 10%.

As a result of the drought, the reliance on rivers and lakes decreased slightly (11%), with a corresponding increase in the use of boreholes (4%). Water tankers played a more significant role, with distributions reaching 17% of families. However, this also reveals a disparity, with Cochabamba and Santa Cruz having the highest dependence on water tankers (43% and 30% respectively).

The Bolivian Red Cross assessment underscores the importance of household water storage capacity. Communities with a higher percentage of families having tanks (Cochabamba 46%, Santa Cruz 38%, La Paz 31%) would have a better coping capacity to deal with droughts. Conversely, Oruro (19%) and Chuquisaca (1%) faced challenges due to limited storage capabilities.

The assessment paints a worrying picture of how the drought dramatically reduced access to water for essential needs. Prior to the drought, families reported good access to all basic needs: consumption (90%), cooking (90%), bathing (81%), cleaning (73%), and irrigation (60%). By January 2024, however, all these figures had dropped significantly. Access to irrigation suffered the most (reduced to 7%), followed by cleaning (24%), bathing (34%), cooking (58%), and even consumption (57%).

### Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Between December 2023 and January 2024, the Bolivian Red Cross conducted a field assessment to adapt the operational strategy to the more detailed needs identified in prioritized communities. The assessment reached 1,302 families in 20 communities of the five departments. The main results are outlined in this Operations Update and are the basis of the operational response strategy.

The implementation of the assessment encountered numerous challenges. Initial difficulties were experienced in coordinating with branches. These challenges were further compounded by the logistical hurdles associated with the geographically dispersed communities. These remote locations, situated far from urban centers, significantly impacted both the initiation and completion of the assessment activities.

To address the limited experience in field assessments, Rapid Response Personnel (RRP) and PMER staff from the CCD provided support to the National Society. The assessment results are available for consultation at the following link: <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiZTZhYTJjMTUtZmZjMi00MGYxLWFhMGQtYWE3ZTViNDdkMTImlwiwCI6ImEyYjUzYmU1LTczNGUtNGU2Yy1hYjBkLWQxODRmNjBmZDkxNyIsImMiOiJh9&pageName=ReportSection>

## Operational Strategy

### Overall objective of the operation

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

### Operation strategy rationale

#### A. MULTISECTORAL ASSESSMENT

From December to January, the Bolivian Red Cross, in collaboration with its five departmental branches, conducted a multisectoral assessment using KoboCollect to identify specific community needs related to livelihoods, water access, and preferred Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) modalities.

At the operational level, each branch assembled evaluation teams of eight volunteers to carry out the assessments.



Based on the assessment results, the operational strategy was updated to reach 20 communities that were prioritized for intervention. These communities are located in:

- La Paz, 3 communities in Sahapaqui, Santiago de Callapa, and Waldo Ballivian municipalities.
- Santa Cruz, 6 communities Lagunillas and Gutiérrez municipalities.
- Cochabamba, 4 communities in Cercado, Tiquiyapa, and Villa Turani municipalities.
- Orruro, 3 communities in Turco, Poopó, and Yunguyo Litoral municipalities.
- Chuquisaca, 4 communities in Tarvita municipalities.

The selection involved collaboration with local authorities and HCT partners to identify areas with the most significant gaps in existing humanitarian assistance programs.

The Bolivian Red Cross remains committed to supporting the drought-affected population and will continue to provide humanitarian assistance through various intervention areas as follows:

## B. LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

The operational update will incorporate a strategic focus on livelihoods, specifically targeting the recovery of drought-affected soils. Drought disrupts the balance of soil microbial communities, leading to biological degradation. This translates to reduced crop yields and quality, along with diminished soil functions like nutrient storage, water retention, and climate regulation.

Soil's hidden power lies in its microbial communities. These communities drive a staggering 80-90% of essential soil processes and significantly impact its structure and fertility. Recognizing this, the update proposes utilizing microorganisms for soil bioremediation.

This bioremediation approach offers a sustainable, versatile, and cost-effective solution. The product, composed of coadjuvant microorganisms (MI-1), assists in both planting and harvesting. It promotes healthy plant growth, ultimately leading to higher yields and improved agricultural produce quality. It can also be used for water disinfection purposes, as described in the following sector.

The proposed approach aligns well with the preferences of the Bolivian population. While hesitant towards chemical or genetically modified products, they have expressed familiarity and acceptance of this microbial-based solution due to their past experience with it.

## C. WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

This emergency operation prioritizes improving access to safe water for 1,250 families (approximately 5,000 people) affected by drought. Field assessments conducted by the Bolivian Red Cross revealed a critical need to strengthen water storage capabilities and promote safe water practices within communities. To address these needs, the operation will implement the following strategies:

### 1. Enhanced Water Storage for Communities:

One of the identified needs is the irregular water supply in the most affected communities. To address this challenge and improve water logistics, the operation will provide 5,000-liter water storage tanks in 9 out of 20 communities with the lowest water storage capacity. This will reduce the frequency of water deliveries by Departmental Governments and strengthen the communities' resilience to future water shortages.

To prevent the use of unsafe water for consumption, the Bolivian Red Cross will distribute two 10-liter jerry cans for water storage to each of the 1,250 families (approximately 5,000 people).

### 2. Safe Water Practices and Health Promotion:

Alongside these supplies, informative workshops will continue to be delivered by Bolivian Red Cross Volunteers about:

- Water and Health: These sessions will highlight the importance of safe water consumption for reducing malnutrition and preventing infectious diseases. They will cover the main waterborne illnesses, their preventative measures, and basic treatment options.
- Correct Use of Microorganisms (MI-1) for water disinfection: This workshop will replace the previous focus on sodium hypochlorite, considering its low cultural acceptance. Participants will learn how to use MI-1 to ensure safe drinking water effectively.

## D. MULTIPURPOSE CASH ASSISTANCE

While water remains the primary concern in affected communities, access to food has emerged as a significant secondary need. The Bolivian Red Cross' multi-sectoral analysis revealed that 93% of families reported an increase in the cost of basic food items, and 70% faced higher costs for agricultural inputs.

Given the widespread drought impact and the precarious living conditions of families, the operation will expand its reach. The number of



supported families is expected to increase from 550 to 1,250, all of whom have suffered total or partial livelihood loss.

To determine the distribution amount (570 Bs./74 CHF), the program considered the average cost of acquiring essential livelihood recovery inputs (seeds: 450 Bs, fertilizer: 500 Bs), along with transportation expenses.

Two distribution modalities were established based on a feasibility study:

- Over-the-counter Withdrawal (ID Required): This method applies to 15 prioritized communities. Residents will present identification documents to receive cash assistance.
- Cash in Envelopes: This method is used in the remaining 5 communities due to potential limitations in those areas.

The study identified several factors influencing the choice of distribution methods:

- Limited Experience with Cards/Coupons: Residents in rural communities often lack experience with debit cards or vouchers. This limits effectiveness as some might struggle to use them.
- Infrastructure Challenges: Rural areas might lack the infrastructure needed for voucher redemption (e.g., limited access to designated shops).
- Immediate Access to Resources: Cash allows for immediate access to essential resources in areas with distance and connectivity limitations. This avoids delays associated with voucher redemption or waiting for physical goods.

The cash transfer program will work alongside the livelihood recovery strategy, which utilizes soil bioremediation products to further support agricultural recovery efforts. To assess the effectiveness of both programs, a post-distribution survey will be conducted. This survey will gather information on two key aspects:

- Cash Utilization: The survey will explore how beneficiaries used the cash assistance they received.
- Bioremediation Product Satisfaction: The survey will gauge the level of satisfaction with the soil bioremediation products provided.

#### E. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

This operation extends its focus beyond immediate relief by incorporating workshops that empower communities to manage future challenges.

- Community Workshops on Risk Reduction Measures: These workshops will equip residents with the knowledge and skills to identify and mitigate various risks associated with droughts and other potential threats.
- Sustainable Agriculture Techniques: Building on the success of soil bioremediation, the workshops will explore additional sustainable techniques like solar irrigation. This will help communities adapt to changing environmental circumstances and build long-term resilience.

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

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

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

Key findings from the multisectoral field assessment conducted by the Bolivian Red Cross regarding community engagement for its drought response operation show that:

- While only 37% of communities surveyed had prior awareness of the Red Cross, a significant positive was the high level of trust. A remarkable 93% of respondents reported feeling comfortable with Red Cross staff and volunteers. This highlights the importance of fostering strong personal connections within communities.
- The assessment revealed a clear preference for community meetings (73%). Leveraging this preference allows for face-to-face interaction, fostering a sense of collaboration and addressing concerns directly. Additionally, local radio stations (26%) and WhatsApp (19%) will be used for broader dissemination of vital information, as are the second and third preferred communication channels highlighted by families.

Targeted communities, primarily located in rural areas, rely on a well-established leadership structure. These trusted leaders, with titles like Caciques, Apus, Mallkus, and Mburuvicha (depending on the region and tradition), play a crucial role in community life.

The CEA approach will be incorporated throughout the operation to ensure the correct participation of the communities in the process. The main operational activities in this area will be linked to community communication and will include: 1) Production and radio dissemination of Micro spots on water care, fire prevention, and other prevention measures adapted to native languages and local contexts. 2) Design of materials with key messages, and dissemination of these through institutional social networks and printouts



delivered to the population. Printed messages will also be delivered to people receiving CVA so they can have more information on the delivery process. 3) Banners with key messages installed in strategic meeting places. This activity was tested in the COVID-19 projects developed by the National Society with good results. Alliances will be established with public institutions to place the banners in strategic places.

## SUSTAINABILITY

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

# Targeting Strategy

## Who will be targeted through this operation?

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

Prioritization was adjusted based on the evolution of the emergency and coordination with DRR authorities. The following municipalities have been prioritized:

- In the department of Santa Cruz, Lagunillas and Gutiérrez municipalities.
- In the department of La Paz, Santiago de Callapa, Waldo Ballivian and Sapahaqui municipalities.
- In the department of Chuquisaca, Tarvita municipality,
- In the department of Cochabamba, Cercado, Tiquipaya and Villa Tunari municipalities.
- In the department of Oruro, Turco, Poopó and Yunguyo Litoral.

## Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

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

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

# Total Targeted Population

Women	1,998	Rural	70%
Girls (under 18)	517	Urban	30%
Men	1,981	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	504		
Total targeted population	5,000		



# Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Delays in the purchase of items	The NS collaborates closely with community leaders to inform them about potential challenges during the operation. Besides, all items for distribution will be procured locally with local providers to prevent delays in the purchase.
Social protests could limit access of staff and volunteers to provide timely assistance.	Conduct regular monitoring of security constraints during the operation and dissemination of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's principles regarding humanitarian assistance with public authorities and social leaders in affected areas.
Limited access to hard-to-reach areas	Alternative access routes to remote or inaccessible locations will be mapped, always seeking to ensure the safety of staff and volunteers.
Increased heat waves	Hydration and personal protection equipment to be regularly distributed to volunteers (sunscreen for volunteers in the field).
Availability of volunteers due to extra-organizational activities (work, study, etc.).	Call for volunteers living near the affected areas to assist in the operation or close branches that may be able to travel to support the operation's activities.
Not all volunteers have cellular equipment to carry out the data collection.	The purchase of cellular equipment is planned for downloading the Kobo tool and the evaluations.

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

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

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

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

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

### Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No



# Planned Intervention



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 56,557

**Targeted Persons:** 5,000

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of families reached with livelihood recovery supplies	1,250	0

### Progress Towards Outcome

Both bioremediation microorganisms and spray backpacks, essential products for this strategy, are readily available for purchase at the local level. This eliminates potential delays associated with external sourcing and simplifies logistics.

Effective EM-1 microorganisms are a product validated and used by IFRC for soil bioremediation to clean up sites contaminated by oil spills and other pollutants such as solvents, heavy metals and pesticides. EM-1 is a biological product containing a mixture of bacteria that feed on contaminants, and has been used in Central America, Europe, Asia and Africa, having proven its efficacy for soil remediation and safety for people. To ensure proper use of this product, the National Society has planned distribution accompanied by training sessions for volunteers and the community.



## Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 106,812

**Targeted Persons:** 2,200

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of feasibility studies completed	1	1
Number of families receiving Multipurpose CVA	1,250	0
Number of community workshops on CVA	12	0

### Progress Towards Outcome

\* One feasibility study completed and validated by IFRC

\* In Oruro, training on CVA modality delivered.

The Regional CVA team is supporting the National Society in establishing procedures for cash assistance delivery. For an initial group of 250 families, cash will be distributed in envelopes following these guidelines that IFRC is currently drafting with the National Society. For the remaining 1,000 families, cash disbursements over the counter are considered the preferred and most secure option for these communities, as the feasibility study showed.





## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 22,490

Targeted Persons: 5,000

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of communities receiving tanks (5,000- liters) for water storage and distribution	11	8
Number of families receiving supplies for drinking water storage (two 10-liter canister)	1,250	665
Community workshops on water care	20	19
Community workshops on diarrhoeal disease and dehydration prevention	20	18

### Progress Towards Outcome

Water Storage Tanks: Eight 5,000-liter water tanks were delivered and installed in communities facing significant water storage challenges. The distribution breakdown is as follows:

- \* Cochabamba: Higuerani (1 tank), Valle del Sol (3 tanks)
- \* Oruro: Turco (1 tank), Vilaque (1 tank), Yunguyo (1 tank)
- \* Santa Cruz: Tunita (1 tank)
- \* Three additional tanks are planned for delivery in Chuquisaca department.

Household Water Storage: A total of 1,330 jerry cans were distributed across 12 communities, reaching 665 families:

- \* La Paz: 3 communities (380 jerry cans for 190 families)
- \* Oruro: 3 communities (478 jerry cans for 239 families)
- \* Santa Cruz: 6 communities (472 jerry cans for 236 families)

Water Conservation Awareness: 19 community workshops on water care and conservation were held, reaching 1,010 participants. One workshop is pending in La Paz- Sapahaqui community.

Prevention of diarrhoeal disease and dehydration awareness: 18 community workshops on prevention of diarrheas and dehydration were held, reaching 991 participants. Two workshops are pending in Chuquisaca (1) and La Paz (1).



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 1,124

Targeted Persons: 210

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of community workshops on risk reduction measures	12	0



## Progress Towards Outcome

To empower communities to manage future challenges, the Bolivian Red Cross has adapted existing resources from the IFRC. These resources, including the Urban Action Kit (<https://www.ifrc.org/document/urban-action-kit>) and Heat Wave Guide and Key Messages (<https://www.ifrc.org/document/city-heat-wave-guide-red-cross-red-crescent-branches>), will be used to conduct community workshops on risk reduction measures in 12 municipalities.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 7,667

**Targeted Persons:** 140,000

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of radio micro spots	5	5
People indirectly reached through messages on prevention measures and good practices	140,000	0

## Progress Towards Outcome

To promote key messages in drought-affected communities, the Bolivian Red Cross produced three short radio spots (micro-spots) in Spanish, Guarani, Aymara, and Quechua. These spots will be broadcast from March until the end of the operation through five departmental radio stations. The spots will address:

- Water conservation: Encouraging responsible water use during the drought.
- Community clean-up for wildfire prevention: Highlighting the importance of community collaboration to reduce wildfire risk.
- Livelihoods: Environmental restoration and conservation: Promoting sustainable practices for long-term recovery.

Final audience reports will be available once the operation is completed, providing insights into the campaign's effectiveness.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 11,982

**Targeted Persons:** 0

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of monitoring visits carried out	2	1
Number of field visits to support the NS technically.	2	2
Number of surge deployments	2	2

## Progress Towards Outcome

The Bolivian Red Cross received crucial support from IFRC staff throughout the response:

Americas Regional Office: A communications focal point conducted a visit to provide support for the design of the communication plan for the emergency and capture testimonies of affected population.



Country Cluster Delegation:

- A focal point supported the feasibility study for multi-purpose and conditioned cash assistance.
- A delegation visit offered assistance and monitored procurement processes at the National Society.

Rapid Response Deployment: Two personnel were deployed for two months: an Operations and Programs Coordinator and a Livelihood Coordinator, offering essential expertise on the ground.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 70,029

**Targeted Persons:** 40

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers trained and equipped for the development of rapid needs assessments	40	55
Number of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	0
Number of DREF workshops conducted	1	0
Number of monitoring visits carried out	4	2

### Progress Towards Outcome

Needs Assessment and Monitoring:

- \* Conducted a multi-sectoral needs assessment in prioritized communities.
- \* Purchased eight phones for data collection during the initial phase.
- \* Two monitoring visits conducted by the Bolivian Red Cross HQ.

Capacity Building:

Delivered six training sessions for staff and volunteers at branches:

- Community Engagement & Accountability (2 sessions, 42 participants)
- Diarrheal Disease & Dehydration Prevention (1 session, 39 participants)
- Livelihoods (1 session, 12 participants)
- Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (2 sessions, 55 participants)

## About Support Services

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

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

- 1x National Coordinator
- 1x Financial Assistant
- 5x Field Coordinators

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



duration of their deployment. The National Society provides coverage for 2023, and the IFRC will support insurance costs in 2024.

Considering the travel distances and field conditions, volunteers (along with staff) will be provided with a basic Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) kit (hat, sunscreen, polo shirt, water bottle and one backpack).

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

The National Society will carry out all procurement processes in accordance with the procurement regulations.

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

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

The CCD for Andean Countries will support the National Society at the administrative level to transfer funds and financial monitoring, as well as face-to-face and remote support during the initial needs assessment, field coordination, and reporting. The CCD will also provide close support to the National Society, particularly during the next month of implementation. This is a critical period as most of the final deliveries to communities are planned for this time. Furthermore, PMER and CEA staff from the CCD will also assist the NS with post-delivery monitoring. This monitoring will be crucial in measuring the effectiveness of the implemented strategy.

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

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

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



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

MDRBO015 - Bolivian Red Cross  
Bolivia: Droughts

### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>194,649</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	56,557
Multi-purpose Cash	106,812
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	22,490
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	1,124
Community Engagement and Accountability	7,667
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>82,012</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	11,982
National Society Strengthening	70,029
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>276,661</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

