



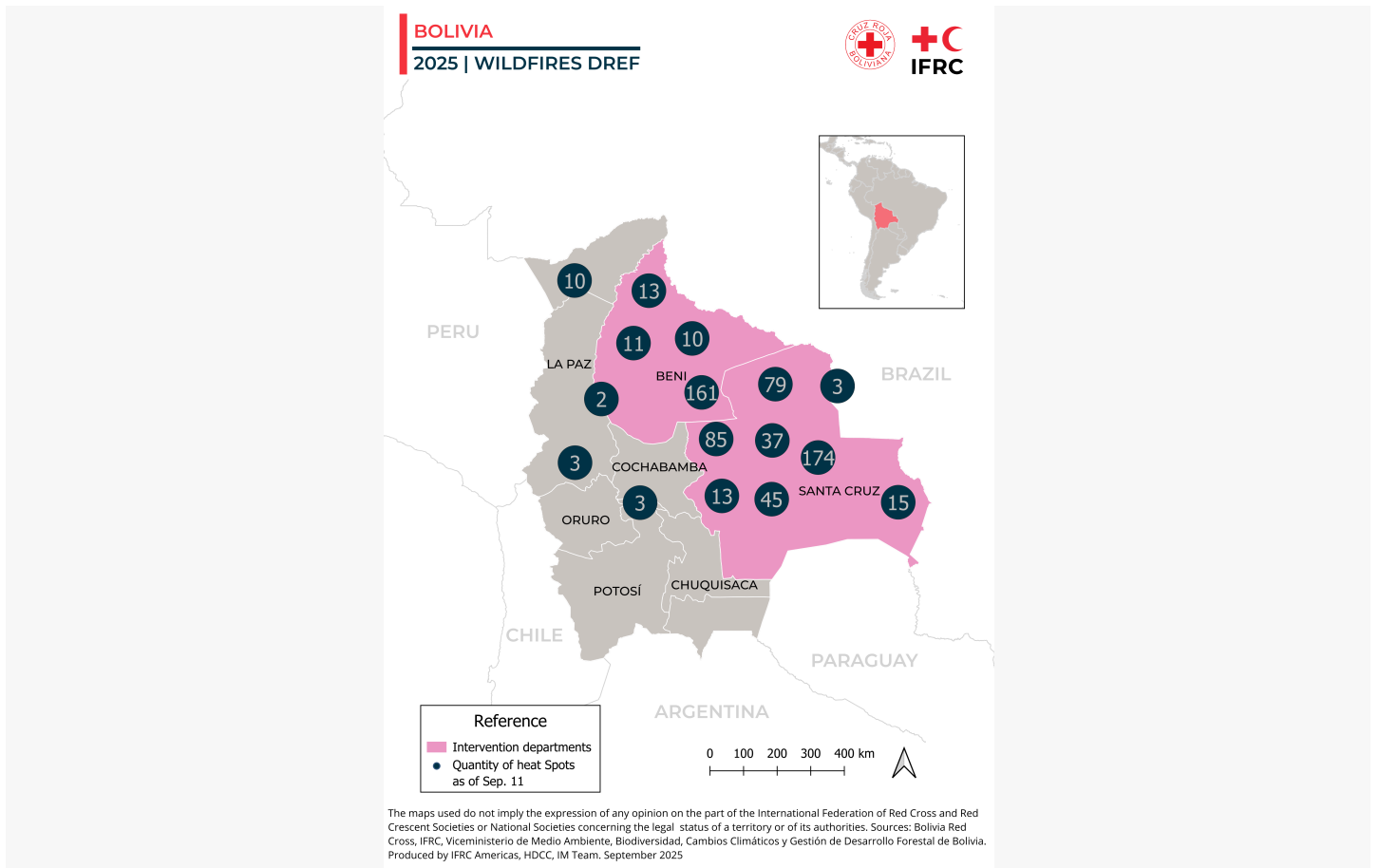
Wildfires in Guyamarin Municipality. August 2025. Source: BRC

Appeal: MDRBO019	Country: Bolivia	Hazard: Fire	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 259,300	
Glide Number: -	People at Risk: 14,000 people	People Targeted: 2,150 people	
Operation Start Date: 02-09-2025	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 31-03-2026	DREF Published: 12-09-2025
Targeted Regions: Beni, Santa Cruz			

Description of the Event

Date of event

25-08-2025



Active fire hotspots in Bolivia. August 2025. Source: SIMB, Environment Ministry

What happened, where and when?

Bolivia entered its seasonal dry period (June to September), a period marked by heightened wildfire risk, particularly in the eastern and Amazonian regions. This risk is exacerbated by slash-and-burn agricultural practices ("chaqueo"), which often become uncontrolled and lead to large-scale fires.

On 25 August, the Bolivian government convened a meeting with the diplomatic corps and international organizations to request support for wildfire response. The discussions included needs for equipment, humanitarian aid, and technical assistance to strengthen the national response.

On 20 August 2025, the Bolivian government declared a national emergency through Supreme Decree No. 5447 in response to the escalating wildfire crisis. Santa Cruz and Beni have been identified as the most affected departments.

As of 31 August, three active alerts were in place: one orange alert covering 31 municipalities in Santa Cruz, Tarija, and Beni; a second orange alert affecting 82 municipalities across seven departments; and a wind alert impacting 163 municipalities in Potosí, Oruro, La Paz, Santa Cruz, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, and Tarija.

On the same date, 855 heat sources were reported, with the highest concentration in Santa Cruz (661), followed by Beni (111), Pando (54), Cochabamba (18), La Paz (13), and Potosí (8).

The most intense fire was reported in Parque Nacional Noel Kempff Mercado, located in the department of Santa Cruz. Also, In Parque Nacional Carrasco (Cochabamba), a major fire was brought under control after five days of coordinated efforts by firefighters and local communities.



This emergency is unfolding in the context of Bolivia's presidential electoral process, currently in its runoff phase. This political transition introduces additional complexity to institutional coordination and operational continuity, reinforcing the importance of maintaining robust and agile mechanisms for humanitarian response.



Firefighters Responding to Wildfires.
Guayaramerin, Beni, Aug 2025. Source:
BRC



Volunteers Distributing Food Supplies,
Guayaramerin, Aug 2025. Source: BRC



Volunteer in Fire-Affected Areas, Aug
2025. Source: BRC



Wildfires in Guayaramerin, Aug 2025.
Source: BRC

Scope and Scale

The wildfire emergency in Bolivia is developing rapidly, with early impacts already affecting multiple departments. According to internal reports from the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI), as of 26 August 2025, a total of 2,814 families—estimated at approximately 14,000 people—have been affected, and 23,508 hectares of land have been burned. As of the time of writing, no further official reports have been published by government authorities.

Santa Cruz and Beni are currently among the most affected departments, both in terms of fire intensity and the number of municipalities under alert. By mid-August, 66 municipalities across six departments had been placed under alert due to wildfire risk. Of these, 18 municipalities were under red alert, indicating extreme risk, while 48 were under orange alert, reflecting a high probability of fire

outbreaks. According to government statements, only 26 municipalities had initiated or completed official Damage and Needs Assessments (DANA), which limits the availability of comprehensive data at this stage.

Meteorological forecasts from SENAMHI indicate highly favorable conditions for fire propagation, including temperatures ranging from 25°C to 37°C, low relative humidity (30–60%), moderate to strong winds (10–30 km/h, with alerts up to 90 km/h), and no significant precipitation. Departments such as Beni, Santa Cruz, Pando, Tarija, and Chuquisaca are classified as “prone” or “highly prone” to wildfires. The Norte Integrado region of Santa Cruz and the Chaco region of Chuquisaca are particularly vulnerable.

The fires are already impacting biodiversity, forest cover, and local economies. Communities dependent on forest resources for agriculture, hunting, and gathering are facing early losses. The destruction of ecosystems threatens wildlife, disrupts water cycles, and increases soil erosion, with potential long-term consequences for food security and environmental health.

Air quality has also begun to deteriorate in affected areas, posing health risks, particularly for children, older adults, and individuals with chronic conditions. These risks are compounded by limited access to health services in rural and indigenous communities.

While the emergency is still in its early stages compared to the 2024 wildfire season, the government’s decision to declare a national emergency 40 days earlier than the previous year reflects a strategic shift toward early action. This approach is informed by lessons learned from past emergencies, where delayed declarations contributed to worsening conditions.

The current wildfire emergency is also unfolding in the context of a national economic downturn, marked by inflationary pressures, fiscal deficits, and a reduction in public investment. These conditions increase the vulnerability of affected populations and may limit the capacity of local authorities to respond effectively.

Source Name	Source Link
1. Wildfires Advance in Bolivia: Alert Activated in 66 Municipalities (MONGABAY)	https://es.mongabay.com/2025/08/incendios-forestales-bolivia-alerta-municipios
2. Wildfires: International Aid Mobilized (EL POTOSÍ)	https://elpotosi.net/nacional/20250826_incendios-gestionan-ayuda-internacional.html
3. Wildfire Risk Monitoring and Early Warning System (SATRIFO)	https://incendios.fan-bo.org/Satrifo/plataforma
4. Ministry of Environment and Water – Fire Hotspot Monitoring	https://simb.siarh.gob.bo/simb/
5. Bolivian Government Declares National Emergency Due to Wildfires (SWISSINFO.CH)	https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/el-gobierno-de-bolivia-declara-%22emergencia-nacional%22-por-tres-incendios-forestales/89867841
6. Bolivia Registers 706 Heat Sources (ABI)	https://abi.bo/index.php/component/content/article/38-notas/noticias/seguridad/67331-bolivia-registra-706-focos-de-calor-la-mayoria-se-concentra-en-santa-cruz
7. VIDECI weekly update on wildfires and heat sources in Bolivia	https://www.mindef.gob.bo/node/1549

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	No
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:



Lessons learned:

The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC), drawing on its operational experience from previous wildfire responses—including the 2024 and 2025 emergencies—has identified key lessons that inform the current intervention and strengthen institutional learning:

(1) Coordination and Local Engagement: Early and structured coordination with national, departmental, and municipal authorities, as well as community actors, is essential to optimize resource allocation, avoid duplication of efforts, and ensure inclusive humanitarian coverage. Introductory meetings and project briefings with local stakeholders have proven effective in building trust and facilitating operational acceptance.

(2) Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA): Transparent and culturally appropriate communication strengthens community trust and improves response effectiveness. For this operation, the use of localized WhatsApp lines and standardized engagement materials has enhanced two-way communication and supported emotional recovery. These tools have proven especially valuable in reinforcing community participation and responsiveness.

(3) Health and Psychosocial Support: The prioritization of medical and psychosocial services based on community feedback has been critical. The scale of trauma observed in affected areas emphasized the need for professional mental health referrals and reinforced the importance of supporting staff and volunteers through structured emotional care and resilience-building mechanisms.

(4) Cash and Logistics: Multi-purpose cash interventions require advance verification of liquidity in financial institutions and consideration of transportation and meal costs for recipients, particularly those from remote communities. Offline tools for monitoring and data collection remain indispensable due to limited connectivity in many intervention areas.

(5) Protection and Inclusion: Vulnerable groups—including women, children, older adults, and persons with disabilities—require differentiated approaches to ensure equitable access to assistance and reduce protection risks. The BRC has strengthened its targeting strategies and protection mainstreaming to better address the specific needs of these groups.

(6) Adaptability and Data-Driven Response: Wildfire emergencies demand flexible planning and continuous assessment. Mobile teams and real-time data collection in remote areas have proven vital for adjusting interventions and prioritizing resources effectively.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?

Yes

What was the risk level for Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis?:

High- Although the operation does not include activities specifically targeting children, certain components may involve their indirect participation. This presents potential safeguarding risks, particularly given that the National Society is currently in the process of developing its child protection policy and strengthening internal coordination mechanisms related to protection.

To mitigate these risks, the operation will incorporate specific safeguarding measures, developed in consultation with the IFRC Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) regional focal point. These measures will aim to ensure that any interaction with children is safe, respectful, and aligned with RCRC safeguarding standards, while also contributing to the institutional strengthening of the National Society's protection systems.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

16-08-2025

Health

In Santa Cruz, volunteers were deployed to the municipality of Concepción to deliver first aid training to municipal response personnel and volunteer firefighters. In



	Guayaramerín, a Basic First Aid (BFA) point was established to support first responders, alongside the activation of a psychosocial support brigade to address emotional needs in the field.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	To strengthen volunteer capacity, virtual WASH trainings have been conducted. This component has been integrated across the operation to promote safe hygiene practices and reduce health risks in affected communities.
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	The BRC has reactivated its Restoring Family Links (RFL) team to ensure readiness in case of family separation. The Protection and Safety Officer continues to update institutional protocols and manuals, reinforcing the National Society's preparedness and alignment with PGI standards.
Coordination	The departmental and municipal branches of Beni and Santa Cruz have actively participated in Emergency Operations Committees (COEs) convened by local authorities. The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) maintains direct coordination with community leaders, particularly through the Guayaramerín Municipal Branch, which has facilitated rapid information gathering from affected areas. At the national level, the BRC coordinates efforts across branches and engages with the Humanitarian Country Team to align its response with national strategies. The Santa Cruz branch is also involved in monitoring and preparing relief materials.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Delegation for the Andean Countries, based in Lima and covering Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru, maintains close coordination with the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC). The Delegation provides regular technical support to the National Society in areas such as finance, logistics, reporting, and institutional development, as part of its ongoing cooperation.</p> <p>In the context of the current wildfire emergency, the IFRC Secretariat is supporting the BRC through the deployment of an Operations Manager to assist during the initial phase of the response. Alongside this, the IFRC continues to work with the Bolivian Red Cross on an active operation focused on addressing the humanitarian impacts of the floods that occurred during the first quarter of 2025. These efforts are complementary and coordinated to ensure effective support across both emergency contexts.</p>
Participating National Societies	The Swiss Red Cross is actively supporting the BRC in strengthening its disaster response capacity. This includes technical assistance in the development of disaster risk management and health policies, as well as contributions to institutional and operational capacity-building through the formulation of a comprehensive strengthening plan.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC supports the Bolivian Red Cross in strengthening its institutional capacity through initiatives focused on Safer Access, Restoring Family Links (RFL), and broader organizational development strategies. While the National Society is not currently working with the ICRC in the direct response to this emergency, the ICRC is contributing to micro-projects that enhance operational readiness. These include the integration of Safer Access principles as a cross-cutting approach within ongoing activities, thereby reinforcing the safety and effectiveness of humanitarian interventions.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
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<p>National authorities</p>	<p>The Government of Bolivia has activated a multi-level response to the wildfire emergency, including the formal declaration of a national emergency and the mobilization of resources across institutions. As of late August, the national response plan has successfully extinguished 69 wildfires, deploying 1,338 forest firefighters and personnel from the Joint Command for Adverse Events of the Armed Forces.</p> <p>Operational efforts have included 82 reconnaissance and intervention missions—airborne, terrestrial, and riverine—utilizing Hercules C-130 aircraft, Cessna planes, Eco Charlie helicopters equipped with Bambi Buckets, drones, and fire trucks. These actions were publicly communicated by the President of the Plurinational State of Bolivia via official social media channels.</p> <p>On August 25, 2025, the government convened a meeting with the diplomatic corps and international organizations to mobilize support for the wildfire response. The meeting aimed to present the current situation and outline priority needs for international assistance.</p>
<p>UN or other actors</p>	<p>The United Nations system, in coordination with national authorities and humanitarian partners, is planning a multi-sectoral response to support affected populations. Proposed actions include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Cash and in-kind assistance: Distribution of basic supplies and cash transfers to help families meet essential needs. (2) Education: Provision of school kits to ensure continuity of learning for children. (3) Protection and dignity: Distribution of personal hygiene and protection kits for women in shelters. (4) Health: Donation of medicines and tactical health kits to the Ministry of Health to reinforce the national health system's response capacity. <p>The first meeting of the Humanitarian Country Team (Equipo Humanitario País - EHP) focused on this emergency is scheduled for September 2, 2025, to coordinate and align the interventions of humanitarian actors.</p>

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

National Level – Humanitarian Country Team (EHP): Led by OCHA, the EHP includes UN agencies such as UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA, as well as NGOs including World Vision and Save the Children-CAHB. The EHP facilitates coordination, information sharing, and the development of a coherent and effective emergency response.

Local Level – COMURADE: The Bolivian Red Cross actively participates through its Guayaramerín branch in the Municipal Committee for Risk Reduction and Disaster Management (COMURADE), providing technical advice, risk analysis, and recommendations in coordination with municipal authorities.

Municipal Governments: Local authorities have activated emergency protocols, allocated resources and personnel, and are overseeing wildfire monitoring and early warning systems in vulnerable areas. They are also involved in planning and implementing fire prevention and control measures.

Intergovernmental Coordination: Coordination mechanisms have been established between national, departmental, and municipal governments to ensure a unified response, reinforce the ban on uncontrolled burning, and implement wildfire prevention and mitigation plans.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The wildfires have disrupted livelihoods across multiple regions, but the full extent and magnitude of the impact remain unclear due to the absence of formal assessments. Preliminary reports indicate damage to agricultural and grazing lands, particularly in Chiquitania, which may affect food production and economic stability in rural communities.



In the Bolivian Amazon, the destruction of ecosystems poses a threat to the food security of indigenous populations who rely on forest resources for subsistence. The Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, located in the department of Santa Cruz, has suffered extensive damage, resulting in biodiversity loss and degradation of natural resources.

According to the national wildfire report, the most affected departments in terms of hectares burned are: Santa Cruz (23,508.49 ha), Tarija (2,392 ha), and Beni (344 ha).

Given the lack of detailed impact data, there is a need to:

- * Monitor and assess the evolving situation to inform targeted livelihood recovery interventions.
- * Support basic needs of displaced and affected families in the interim.
- * Begin planning for longer-term recovery strategies, particularly for indigenous communities dependent on forest-based livelihoods.

Health

During the 2025 dry season, Bolivia has experienced a significant wildfire emergency, particularly affecting the departments of Santa Cruz and Beni. While not the most severe in recent history—surpassed by the 2024 crisis—the current situation has nonetheless led to the destruction of homes, displacement of families, and deterioration of air quality due to smoke and particulate matter.

The health risks associated with this emergency are compounded by limited access to basic health services and safe water in rural and indigenous communities. Vulnerable groups such as children, older adults, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic conditions are particularly exposed to respiratory and ocular complications.

Although comprehensive data is still lacking, preliminary observations suggest that the healthcare system, especially in Santa Cruz, is at risk of being overwhelmed. This is due not only to the increased demand from wildfire-related health issues but also to a concurrent measles outbreak. As of late August 2025, Bolivia has reported 181 confirmed measles cases, with 151 concentrated in Santa Cruz, making it the epicenter of the outbreak. Government vaccination efforts have been intensified, including the deployment of mobile brigades and the distribution of 600,000 vaccine doses donated by Brazil, targeting children and adolescents aged 1 to 14.

Key health-related gaps include:

- * Limited availability of medical supplies for treating respiratory and eye conditions.
- * Strained capacity of rural and peri-urban health centers to respond to increased demand.
- * Need to reinforce first aid services for affected populations and first responders.
- * Growing demand for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), particularly among displaced families, children, and volunteers.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Preliminary observations in wildfire-affected areas suggest that access to safe water and adequate sanitation has been compromised, particularly in communities relying on natural sources such as rivers, wells, and reservoirs. These sources have been contaminated or damaged by the fires, and seasonal interruptions in piped water supply further exacerbate water scarcity. Damage to sanitation infrastructure also increases the risk of waterborne diseases and limits basic hygiene practices.

Despite these identified needs, the Bolivian Red Cross is not currently prioritizing WASH interventions under this operation due to limited available data and operational constraints. Further field assessments will be required to determine the feasibility and scope of potential WASH-related actions in coordination with local authorities and community structures.

Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In Guayaramerín, a border town with Brazil, the displacement of people has created a need to activate Restoring Family Links (RFL) services to support family reunification.

While departmental health services (SEDES) and the Ministry of Health have deployed mobile brigades for medical and psychological care, and civil society organizations such as Ayuda en Acción and World Vision Bolivia are promoting violence prevention campaigns, significant gaps remain.

The Bolivian Red Cross plans to conduct damage and needs assessments through its branches in the most affected areas of Beni and



Santa Cruz, in coordination with the Emergency Health Partners (EHP) during the first week of September.

Remaining gaps include:

- * Strengthening protection mechanisms for children and adolescents.
- * Expanding psychological support services for affected populations and responders.
- * Enhancing coordination to avoid duplication and ensure comprehensive coverage of needs.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

As of the time of reporting, comprehensive data on the humanitarian impact of the wildfires remains limited. In line with typical wildfire emergencies, initial efforts have rightly prioritized containment and mitigation, which can delay the availability of detailed sectoral assessments. While preliminary observations suggest health, livelihoods, and protection concerns—particularly in departments such as Santa Cruz and Beni—the full extent of needs is yet to be determined. The concurrent measles outbreak in Santa Cruz adds complexity to the health landscape, and ongoing vaccination campaigns are helping to mitigate additional risks. The Bolivian Red Cross, in coordination with Emergency Health Partners, is planning targeted assessments in early September to help close existing information gaps and guide a more tailored response.

Operational and coordination challenges are being progressively addressed. While access to remote areas and availability of personnel and resources remain areas for improvement, ongoing efforts aim to strengthen coverage and ensure that the needs of vulnerable groups—such as displaced families, older adults, children, and indigenous populations—are adequately considered. Planned assessments will support a more comprehensive understanding of the situation and help guide a coordinated and inclusive response.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF allocation, the Bolivian Red Cross will support 2,150 individuals, including 2,000 people from affected communities and 150 first responders, through the provision of first aid, multi-purpose cash assistance, and restoring family links (RFL) services.

Operation strategy rationale

The operational strategy is designed to deliver a timely, community-centered, and multi-sectoral response, leveraging the Bolivian Red Cross's existing capacities and lessons learned from previous wildfire emergencies. The strategy includes:

A) Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA)

The operation will provide cash assistance to 400 affected families through a Multi-purpose Cash Assistance modality. Each family will receive Bs 2,400 (approx. CHF 339), based on market price monitoring conducted by rapid response personnel during the Bolivia Floods 2025 operation. This amount reflects the estimated monthly cost of a basic family basket.

Cash transfers will be facilitated via RedRose and MoneyGram, with technical support from the IFRC Americas Regional Office (ARO) and the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for the Andean Countries. Field implementation will be led by BRC to strengthen institutional capacity. BRC volunteers trained in cash and voucher assistance (CVA) will support beneficiary registration, logistics, and monitoring activities.

Community sensitization sessions will precede the distribution to ensure clarity on the modality and entitlements. Post-distribution monitoring will be conducted to assess effectiveness and inform future programming.

B) Health

The health component will address immediate risks associated with wildfire exposure, particularly respiratory and ocular conditions. The BRC will distribute respiratory protection and hygiene kits to 400 families and 150 first responders (including BRC volunteers). Each kit will include cloth bags, hand sanitizer, face masks with PM2.5 filters (N95), wet wipes, and protective goggles. Additionally, kits will contain information on the risks of smoke exposure and protective measures for families, such as staying indoors with windows closed, using masks correctly, avoiding outdoor physical activity when possible, and recognizing warning signs that require medical attention.

Two relief points will be established to support first responders, equipped with tents, furniture, and essential consumables to ensure operational continuity in the field.

Five BRC emergency response brigades will be equipped with comprehensive first aid kits, including stretchers, immobilizers, and splints.



Community health promotion activities will target 400 individuals, focusing on the prevention of respiratory infections and waterborne diseases. These activities will include peer-to-peer “check on your (elderly) neighbor” systems, designed to identify and refer individuals in need of care. Referral pathways will be mapped in advance to ensure timely and appropriate support.

Psychological First Aid (PFA) kits will be deployed to each branch to support the emotional recovery of affected individuals and responders.

C) Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

The PGI approach will ensure that vulnerable groups are protected and included throughout the response. BRC will disseminate key messages on Restoring Family Links (RFL) to 500 individuals, focusing on family reunification, child protection, and access to services. Coordination will be maintained with institutions such as the Ombudsman’s Office, IOM, and Caritas.

To support connectivity and communication, two mobile energy charging stations will be deployed in affected areas. These will be integrated into RFL service points established at two BRC branches, enabling safe and confidential communication in line with emergency protocols.

All volunteers involved in the operation will receive virtual training on emergency safety protocols, safeguarding, and the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), ensuring adherence to IFRC protection standards.

D) Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

CEA will be integrated across all sectors to promote transparency, inclusion, and community ownership. Initial coordination meetings will be held with local leaders to present the intervention strategy, identify priority needs, and facilitate access to communities.

A dedicated WhatsApp line will be established to receive feedback, inquiries, and complaints. This channel will be managed by trained BRC personnel and promoted through community meetings, printed materials, and QR codes placed on distributed items.

All communication materials will be culturally validated and translated into local languages, including Guaraní, with support from bilingual volunteers. Key messages will be disseminated through printed and digital formats, banners, audiovisual content, and suggestion boxes.

Sensitive feedback, including reports of gender-based violence or SEA, will be managed according to IFRC protocols, with referral pathways mapped in coordination with public institutions such as the Ombudsman’s Office.

At the end of the operation, BRC will conduct focus group discussions and community meetings to gather feedback and inform the final Lessons Learned workshop, contributing to institutional learning and future preparedness.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation will target 2,150 individuals, including 2,000 people from wildfire-affected communities and 150 first responders in the departments of Santa Cruz and Beni. The intervention will focus on populations exposed to direct health and protection risks associated with wildfires, as well as frontline personnel actively engaged in emergency response activities.

The municipalities of San Ignacio de Velasco (Santa Cruz) and Guayaramerín (Beni) have been prioritized by the Bolivian Red Cross based on preliminary assessments conducted by departmental branches. San Ignacio de Velasco has officially declared a disaster due to wildfires (<https://www.mindef.gob.bo/node/1549>), while Guayaramerín has reported significant operational constraints, including suspended flights due to smoke and fire risk. However, no formal declaration has been issued for Guayaramerín. Given the limited availability of detailed impact data nationwide, rapid field assessments will be conducted in Guayaramerín and other municipalities in both departments during the first month of implementation, in response to requests from BRC branches.

While this operation focuses on wildfire response, it is important to note that the Bolivian Red Cross is concurrently responding to flood-related emergencies in Santa Cruz department. The flood response has prioritized interventions in Cuatro Cañadas, Pailón, Warnes, Okinawa Uno, and Puerto Paila. The current wildfire operation targets different municipalities, primarily San Ignacio de Velasco, ensuring no duplication of support across the two emergency responses.

Community-level support will include the provision of basic health services such as first aid for burns, trauma, and smoke inhalation, alongside health promotion and hygiene activities aimed at reducing respiratory and dehydration risks. First responders—including volunteer firefighters and municipal emergency personnel—will receive targeted health and protection support to sustain their operational capacity and safeguard their wellbeing.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection of beneficiaries will prioritize individuals and households with heightened protection and health-related vulnerabilities, including:

- * Pregnant women
- * Single-parent households
- * Families with children under five
- * Older adults
- * Persons with disabilities
- * Migrants with protection concerns
- * Individuals with chronic respiratory or cardiovascular conditions, given their increased risk during periods of acute air pollution

The Bolivian Red Cross will leverage its community-level presence and established relationships to identify the most vulnerable individuals, particularly those with limited access to government assistance. Branch-level teams will apply context-specific criteria to ensure that targeting reflects local realities and unmet needs.

First responders will be selected based on their active involvement in wildfire response operations and direct engagement with affected communities. This approach aligns with the National Society's strategy to support local and national authorities in managing the emergency and ensuring continuity of response efforts.

Total Targeted Population

Women	731	Rural	50%
Girls (under 18)	355	Urban	50%
Men	710	People with disabilities (estimated)	6%
Boys (under 18)	354		
Total targeted population	2,150		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	No
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	No
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	No
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	No
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	No

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
Exposure of response teams to vector-borne diseases and extreme weather conditions	Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to all deployed personnel. Ensure vaccination coverage according to the



	intervention area. Maintain access to trained first aid personnel and emergency medical support.
Social and political instability affecting aid delivery	Maintain close coordination with local authorities, security forces, and community leaders to assess safety conditions prior to distributions and community activities. Conduct regular security assessments and adapt operational plans accordingly. Train personnel on safety protocols. Use clearly marked Red Cross vehicles and uniforms. Develop and share contingency plans with branches to address potential unrest, with technical support from ICRC.
Limited access to affected communities due to damaged infrastructure	Identify and establish alternative transport routes. Coordinate with local authorities and private transport providers for accurate information and logistical support.
Smoke inhalation/intoxication	(1) Provide particle filter masks (N95) for staff and volunteers. (2) Screen volunteers for respiratory and cardiovascular disease. (3) Limit time working in high smoke density environments, especially when doing physically demanding work
Increase in operational costs due to fuel shortages in Bolivia	Conduct regular activity reviews at branch level to identify delays. Develop a flexible operational plan to ensure continuity and achievement of objectives.
Political use of humanitarian response during the electoral period	Reinforce neutrality through internal and external communication. Ensure clear visibility of Red Cross identification in all response activities. Train volunteers on neutrality principles during sensitive periods. Monitor and address any misuse of humanitarian aid for political purposes. Disseminate key messages and materials on humanitarian principles, the Red Cross mandate, and emblem protection.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The presidential runoff scheduled for October 2025 introduces a politically sensitive context that may influence the humanitarian operating environment in Bolivia. While current conditions in Santa Cruz and Beni allow for relatively stable access and coordination, electoral periods are inherently unpredictable and may lead to localized unrest, demonstrations, or roadblocks—particularly in areas with historical social tensions or diverse political affiliations.

To anticipate and mitigate potential risks, the Bolivian Red Cross has developed and approved a contingency plan for civil unrest, with technical support from the ICRC and the IFRC. This plan outlines the National Society's response protocols in case of increased social tension or violence in the prioritized areas of intervention. If activated, it will guide the adaptation of field activities to ensure that humanitarian assistance can continue to reach affected communities in a safe and principled manner.

The operation will apply the Safer Access Framework (AmS) to inform planning and field-level decision-making. Coordination with community leaders will be essential to assess safety conditions prior to any deployment or distribution. This localized engagement complements broader coordination with municipal authorities and security actors.

Security measures include:

- * Pre-deployment briefings and safety inductions for all personnel and volunteers.
- * Use of clearly marked Red Cross vehicles, uniforms, and visibility materials.
- * Continuous monitoring of the socio-political environment and activation of early warning systems.
- * Strict adherence to IFRC security protocols and operational risk assessments.
- * Reinforcement of the Movement's principles of neutrality, impartiality, and independence in all communications and field interactions.

These measures aim to reduce exposure to potential threats and support safe implementation of the response. However, given the evolving nature of the political context, the Bolivian Red Cross will remain alert and prepared to adjust its approach as needed to protect its teams and the communities it serves.



Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 130,322

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families assisted through MPCA	400
Number of feasibility and market monitoring studies conducted	1
Percentage of households participating in post-distribution survey	80

Priority Actions

- Conduct a feasibility study and market price monitoring to validate transfer values and delivery mechanisms.
- Manage financial transfers through RedRose and MoneyGram, with support from IFRC.
- Conduct community sensitization sessions prior to distribution.
- Implement a post-distribution survey to assess satisfaction and impact.



Health

Budget: CHF 37,441

Targeted Persons: 2,150

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families receiving respiratory protection and hygiene kits	400
Number of first responders receiving support kits	150
Number of individuals reached through health promotion activities	400
Number of individuals receiving physical first aid services	100
Number of individuals reached through MHPSS activities	100

Priority Actions

- Procurement, assembly, and distribution of 600 respiratory protection and hygiene kits.
- Implementation of health education sessions on IRAs/EDAs prevention in 12 communities.
- Deployment of Psychological First Aid kits to branches.
- Production of 6 digital health education materials including content on emotional well-being.
- Coordination with municipal health networks to integrate volunteers into community surveillance efforts.



- Provision of physical first aid services to affected communities and first responders.
- Implementation of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities aligned with RCRC emergency response standards, including Psychological First Aid, emotional support sessions, and referral mechanisms.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 3,387

Targeted Persons: 30

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of individuals accessing Restoring Family Links (RFL) services	30
Number of RFL service points activated	2
Number of mobile charging stations deployed	2
Number of people reached in safe spaces for emotional support.	100

Priority Actions

- Implement the RFL program in prioritized communities.
- Establish and adapt safe spaces for emotional support and expression.
- Deploy and integrate mobile charging stations into RFL service points.
- Print and distribute SGBV awareness materials as part of MHPSS and PFA interventions.
- Map and disseminate SGBV referral pathways through printed materials and community engagement activities.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 6,654

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Percentage of surveyed individuals reporting receipt of useful and applicable health information	60
Number of community meetings held for planning and accountability	12

Priority Actions

- Produce and install banners with key messages in strategic locations.
- Establish a dedicated WhatsApp line for community feedback.
- Organize planning, coordination, and accountability meetings with affected communities.
- Conduct rapid community surveys to evaluate understanding and usefulness of shared information.
- Translate and culturally validate communication materials, including into Guaraní.
- Distribute QR codes and printed materials to promote feedback channels.





Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 29,603

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of monitoring visits conducted	6
Number of rapid response personnel deployed	1

Priority Actions

- Deploy one Operations Manager to support implementation.
- Conduct technical support visits by IFRC regional and CCD teams.
- Carry out monitoring visits by the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 51,893

Targeted Persons: 40

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of lessons learned workshops conducted	1
Number of monitoring and technical support visits to branches by National Society staff	6
Number of volunteers trained in operational safety and safeguarding	40
Number of volunteers trained in technical operational priorities (MHPSS and/or CVA)	40

Priority Actions

- Deliver training to operational volunteers involved in the response.
- Procure and distribute personal protective equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staff.
- Deliver virtual training on safety protocols and safeguarding.
- Facilitate a final lessons learned workshop to consolidate feedback and improve future emergency response capacity.
- Train volunteers in CVA implementation and monitoring.
- Train volunteers in MHPSS and community-based surveillance.



About Support Services

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

The Bolivian Red Cross will deploy key staff and trained volunteers to ensure effective implementation of the operation in prioritized areas.

Contracted Staff:

* Project Coordinator / PMER / CVA (100%) – Santa Cruz: Leads overall planning, coordination with stakeholders, CVA implementation, volunteer management, and monitoring under the CEA approach.

* Local Coordinator – Logistics/Finance (100%) – Santa Cruz: Manages logistics and financial processes, ensuring compliance with IFRC and NS standards.

* Local Coordinator – Logistics/Finance (100%) – Guayaramerín (Beni): Ensures field-level implementation and volunteer support, adapted to the local context.

Volunteers:

* Trained volunteers will be deployed in Santa Cruz and Beni to deliver first aid, distribute relief items, implement CVA, and support protection and community monitoring activities.

* All volunteers will be insured under IFRC coverage, with additional coverage arranged by the National Society if needed, especially during the 2025–2026 transition.

Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

The Bolivian Red Cross will deploy a team of staff and volunteers to implement the operation, ensuring gender balance in team composition. Roles will be distributed across technical and field functions, with emphasis on inclusive participation and equitable representation.

Will surge personnel be deployed? If yes, please provide the role profile needed.

Yes

To strengthen strategic coordination and operational oversight, one Rapid Response Personnel will be deployed:

(1) Operations Manager (1 month): Responsible for updating territorial security plans, ensuring alignment of response actions with international standards, developing work plans, and defining roles and responsibilities across technical teams and volunteers.

No SURGE support is required for CVA implementation. The Bolivian Red Cross has trained CVA focal volunteers in its branches. The CVA component will be led by the Project Coordinator / PMER / CVA (100%), hired specifically for this operation.

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 IFRC procedures, except for the cash transfer program, which will be implemented through agreements with RedRose and MoneyGram, serving as information management and financial service providers, respectively.

How will this operation be monitored?

The operation will be continuously supervised by the Bolivian Red Cross Headquarters through its Disaster Risk Management Unit to ensure effective implementation. All staff and volunteers will receive training in the National Society's emergency response procedures,



aligned with IFRC guidelines. The Disaster Risk Management Unit will conduct regular field visits to monitor activities and provide technical support. In addition, the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for the Andean Countries will support the National Society with administrative processes, fund transfers, and financial oversight, and will carry out both remote and in-person support during needs assessments, coordination, monitoring, and reporting phases, including field visits to intervention areas.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The National Society has trained personnel in communication and marketing. For this operation, a communications intern will be hired to support content production and dissemination, including field deployment to capture real-time updates. Audiovisual materials will be developed to highlight the emergency situation and the National Society's response efforts. These materials will be shared through the Bolivian Red Cross website and social media channels to raise public awareness of its auxiliary role. In compliance with the new DREF communications guidelines, a press release will be published, and the communications intern will support visibility efforts in the field.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

- Bolivian Red Cross
Bolivia: Wildfires

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	177,804
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	130,322
Health	37,441
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	3,387
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	6,654
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	81,496
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	29,603
National Society Strengthening	51,893
TOTAL BUDGET	259,300

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal

9/1/2025

#V2022.01

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



Contact Information

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

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IFRC Project Manager: Julian Perez, Coordinator, Program and Operations, julian.perez@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Julian Perez, Coordinator, Program and Operations, julian.perez@ifrc.org

National Societies' Integrity Focal Point:

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[Click here for the reference](#)

