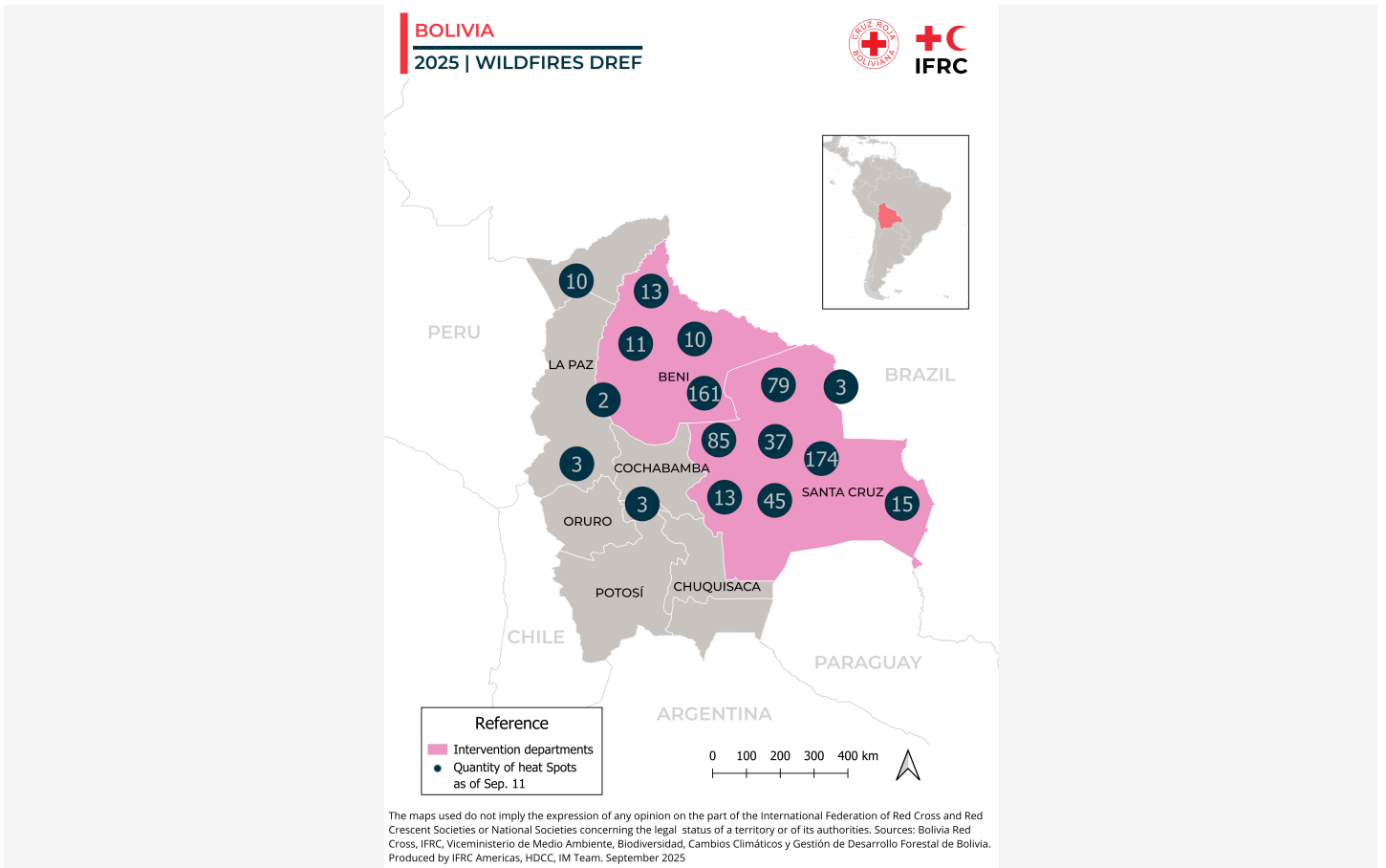




Forest fires in Beni. August 2025. Source: BRC

Appeal: MDRBO019	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 259,300	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Fire
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 14,000 people	People Targeted: 2,150 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 02-09-2025	New Operational End Date: 31-03-2026	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 02-09-2025		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 15-02-2026	
Additional Allocation Requested: 0		Targeted Regions: Beni, Santa Cruz	

Description of the Event



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

Date of event

25-08-2025

What happened, where and when?

Bolivia entered its seasonal dry period between June and September, a stage characterized by a sustained increase in wildfire risk, particularly in the Amazonian and eastern regions. This risk is exacerbated by slash and burn agricultural practices used to prepare soils for planting, which, under conditions of high temperatures, lack of rainfall, strong winds, and extremely dry soils, often become uncontrolled and lead to large scale fires. Within this context, and under Supreme Decree No. 5447, the national government declared a state of emergency on 20 August 2025, identifying the departments of Santa Cruz and Beni as the most affected. Days later, on 25 August, the government convened representatives of the diplomatic corps and international organizations to request support for the response, including equipment, humanitarian assistance, and technical capacity strengthening.

As of 31 August, three alerts remained active—two orange alerts and one wind alert—covering more than 160 municipalities, while 855 heat sources were reported, mainly in Santa Cruz (661) and Beni (111). Among the most severe events were the fire recorded in Noel Kempff Mercado National Park (Santa Cruz) and a large scale fire in Carrasco National Park (Cochabamba), which was brought under control after five days of coordinated operations between firefighters and local communities. This scenario unfolded in parallel with the country's presidential electoral process, in its runoff phase, adding institutional complexity to decision making and operational coordination.

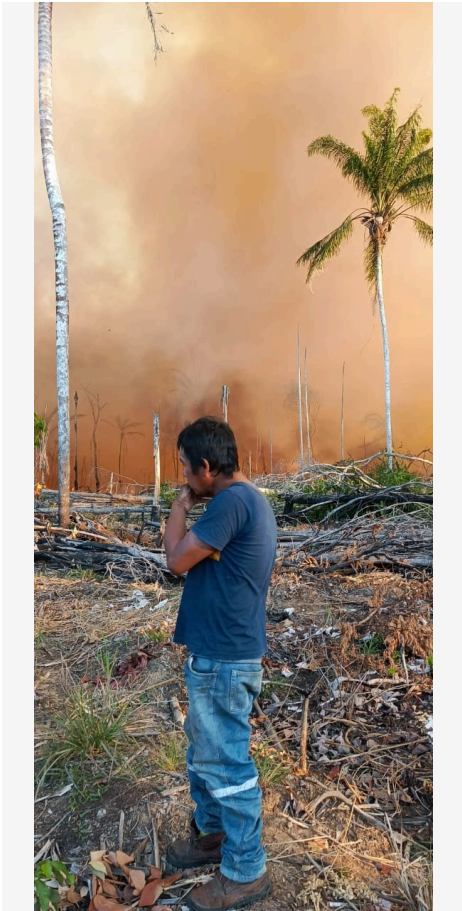
By 25 September 2025, according to GWIS, Bolivia had registered 3,713 wildfires and 1,759,931 hectares affected, 30% of which corresponded to protected forest areas. Santa Cruz and Beni continued to be the most impacted departments. During September, Santa Cruz declared a departmental emergency due to the combined effects of strong winds, drought, and wildfires, which affected communities, livelihoods, and ecosystems; the declaration will remain in effect until 31 December. Between 10 and 27 September, municipal COEMs were activated, red alerts were issued for 18 municipalities, and extreme temperatures of up to 44°C were recorded. By



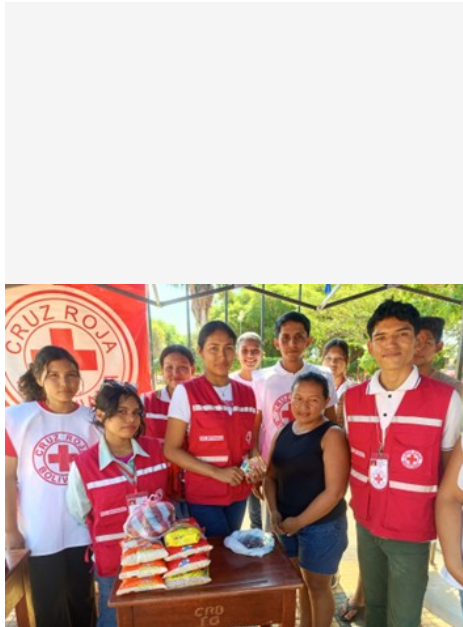
that date, Santa Cruz reported 22 active fires and more than 127,000 hectares affected, particularly in the Noel Kempff area. Between 500 and 600 firefighters were deployed across the department, most of them trained volunteers from the Governor's Office and allied organizations.

Meanwhile, in Guayaramerín and across the department of Beni, the national declaration sought to activate mechanisms to strengthen departmental and municipal systems. However, unlike Santa Cruz, no local declarations were issued, despite requests for assistance from communities affected by both fires and the cumulative effects of drought. Between September 2025 and February 2026, Bolivia faced a prolonged drought that worsened the situation, generating critical water shortages, contamination of water sources by ash and sediments, increases in diseases such as malaria and gastrointestinal conditions, significant losses of crops and pasturelands, fuel shortages, and logistical difficulties in accessing remote communities. These conditions, confirmed by SENAMHI and the Drought Monitor, significantly increased the social, economic, and health vulnerability of rural and Indigenous families.

Within the framework of the DREF, the initial operation focused exclusively on the wildfires included in the national declaration. Between August and September, the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC), with support from the IFRC Rapid Response Operations Manager deployed to Bolivia, carried out field assessments alongside its branches in Santa Cruz, Concepción, San Ignacio de Velasco, and Guayaramerín. For the 18 February update, after completing PTM and Health activities, the operation identified drought as the predominant emerging hazard. Teams carried out visits and community dialogues in the most affected areas of the Chiquitanía—including Santa Cruz, Concepción, and San Ignacio—and in multiple rural communities of Guayaramerín, such as 18 de Junio, 2 de Octubre, Cachuela Mamoré, 27 de Noviembre, Santa Fe, 14 de Septiembre, and San Francisco. Following the presidential runoff election, assessments continued in other communities among the 19 most affected, confirming the severity of drought related impacts and the persistence of humanitarian needs.



Wildfires in Guayaramerín. Aug 2025. Source: BRC



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



Meeting with representatives of the agricultural union in Guayaramerín. Sep 2025



Wildfires in Guayaramerin. Aug 2025.

Source: BRC

Scope and Scale

On 20 August 2025, the national government declared a state of emergency through Supreme Decree No. 5447 in response to the intensification of wildfires, identifying Santa Cruz and Beni as the most affected departments. On 25 August, the authorities convened the diplomatic corps and international organizations to request support in equipment, humanitarian assistance, and technical strengthening. By 26 August, the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI) reported 2,814 affected families, approximately 14,000 people, and 23,508 hectares burned; however, the absence of subsequent official reports limited access to consolidated information. By late August, three active alerts remained in place covering more than 160 municipalities, and 855 heat points had been registered, including 661 in Santa Cruz and 111 in Beni. SENAMHI warned of highly favorable conditions for wildfire spread, with temperatures ranging from 25°C to 37°C, relative humidity between 30% and 60%, no rainfall, and wind gusts reaching up to 90 km/h.

By 25 September 2025, according to GWIS, Bolivia had accumulated 3,713 fires and nearly 1.76 million hectares affected, 30% of which were in protected areas, with Santa Cruz and Beni as the most impacted departments. In Santa Cruz, a departmental emergency was declared on 10 September due to the combination of drought, strong winds, and wildfires, affecting communities, biodiversity, and livelihoods. Between 10 and 27 September, municipal COEMs were activated, red alerts were issued in 18 municipalities, and temperatures reached up to 44°C. By that date, the department reported 22 active fires and more than 127,000 hectares affected, particularly in the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, where volunteer firefighting brigades faced shortages of medical supplies, hydration, basic protective equipment, and food. It is estimated that 500 to 600 firefighters, most of them volunteers, participated in the suppression efforts.

In contrast, in Guayaramerín and the department of Beni, the national declaration aimed to activate mechanisms for institutional strengthening; however, no local declarations were issued despite requests for assistance from communities affected by wildfires and drought. During the 2025 season, 19 communities were affected by fires and nearly all faced severe drought. In four visited communities, the impact on 70 families was verified, confirmed by the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) and by local risk management units. Between September 2025 and February 2026, the prolonged drought led to critical water shortages, contamination of water sources by ash, increased incidence of diseases such as malaria and gastrointestinal illnesses, losses of crops and pastures, logistical difficulties due to the fuel crisis, and a widespread deterioration of food security. According to SENAMHI and the Drought Monitor, these conditions significantly increased the social, economic, and health vulnerability of rural, peasant, and Indigenous families.

At the municipal level, Concepción (Santa Cruz), with 43 communities and 30,118 inhabitants, continued to face recurrent impacts from wildfires and drought, despite efforts by producer organizations and public entities to establish resilience mechanisms, which remained inaccessible to many rural families. In San Ignacio de Velasco, with between 65,000 and 67,000 inhabitants across 156 communities, the Risk Management Unit reported impacts in 33 communities, affecting 974 families (4,870 people), while volunteer brigades fought fires in Noel Kempff Park with insufficient medical and logistical resources. The local BRC branch completed the rehabilitation of its facilities to strengthen its operational capacity.

In Guayaramerín (Beni), with 39 peasant communities and one Indigenous community, 19 communities were affected by fires and nearly all by drought. In communities such as San Agustín, Santa Emilia, San Pedro, San Miguel, and "2 de Octubre," fires advanced over agricultural areas and water sources. In several communities, the impact on 70 families was confirmed. Focus groups identified recurring damages: lack of water for crops and livestock, partial or total loss of production, increased diseases transmitted by vectors and contaminated water, poisoning and burns linked to contact with ash, deterioration of air quality, and heightened food insecurity. Rural peasant families were the most affected due to their direct dependence on small-scale agriculture or extensive livestock farming. Single-parent households, elderly people living alone, pregnant women, families with young children, and households with persons with disabilities faced greater challenges. Several communities are located more than 3.5 hours from urban centers, which, combined with the fuel crisis, limited access to water, food, medicines, and means to restore their livelihoods. Social cohesion varied among communities: some were able to organize collective transport to urban centers or undertake joint livestock activities, while others showed reduced organizational capacity.



Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. 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
2. Wildfires Advance in Bolivia: Alert Activated in 66 Municipalities (MONGABAY)	https://es.mongabay.com/2025/08/incendios-forestales-bolivia-alerta-municipios
3. Wildfires: International Aid Mobilized (EL POTOSÍ)	https://elpotosi.net/nacional/20250826_incendios-gestionan-ayuda-internacional.html
4. Wildfire Risk Monitoring and Early Warning System (SATRIFO)	https://incendios.fan-bo.org/Satrifo/plataforma
5. Ministry of Environment and Water – Fire Hotspot Monitoring	https://simb.siarh.gob.bo/simb/
6. Establishment of the COEM in Concepción, Santa Cruz	https://eldeber.com.bo/santa-cruz/incendios-concepcion-conforma-el-coem-y-despliega-bomberos-en-la-reserva-rio-blanco-y-negro_529899/
7. Red alert remains in effect in Santa Cruz, September 27	https://www.reduno.com.bo/noticias/santa-cruz-registra-22-incendios-activos-y-el-parque-noel-kempff-arde-desde-hace-dos-meses-2025927192017
8. ACAPS Bolivia: Impact of the 2025 Wildfires, September 23, 2025	https://www.acaps.org/fileadmin/Data_Product/Main_media/20250923_ACAPS_Bolvia_-_Impact_of_wildfires_.pdf

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	No
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
Are you requesting an additional allocation?	No



Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Based on the continuous monitoring of the context and the assessments carried out between September 2025 and February 2026, needs were progressively identified that required adjustments to the operational strategy in order to adequately respond to the changing conditions in the prioritized municipalities. While the initial assessments conducted in October 2025 guided the early planning of the operation, the subsequent evolution of the drought, the increase in forest fires, and the variations in water availability and quality observed over the following months confirmed the need to adapt specific intervention lines and procurements. Based on this sequence of events and the accumulated analysis throughout the monitoring period, the following modifications are introduced:

1. Household water filters

Between November 2025 and January 2026, field monitoring revealed a sustained decrease in river and stream flow in Guayaramerín, Concepción, and San Ignacio de Velasco. This situation, aggravated by forest fires, led to a significant increase in ash, sediment, and other contaminants in the water sources used by households.

At one point, the provision of water purification tablet kits was considered; however, it was concluded that their limited duration could be inefficient given the evolving conditions. Therefore, and noting that household filters have an estimated lifespan of 6 to 8 months, their distribution was incorporated as a more suitable measure to ensure minimum and safer access to drinking water. This decision is further supported by the fact that, in the face of scarcity, communities tend to rely on alternative sources such as untreated tanks, springs, and waterways originally intended for irrigation.

WASH activities will be implemented through reallocations from various program lines, including Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (28,000 Bs); Multi-Purpose Cash (22,000 Bs); Health Services in Emergencies (66,000 Bs); Community Engagement and Accountability (5,000 Bs); National Society Development (29,000 Bs); and Volunteer Development (4,000 Bs). The consolidation of these resources enabled the continuity and adaptation of WASH interventions in line with changing contextual needs.

2. Restoring Family Links (RFL)

Both the initial assessment of October 2025 and the follow-up conducted during the first months of 2026 confirmed the absence of needs related to Restoring Family Links in the targeted municipalities. Consequently, this component is removed from the active strategy. Nevertheless, operational readiness is maintained for its activation should the context change during the remainder of the operation.

3. Volunteer equipment – Guayaramerín

The increase in forest fires recorded between December 2025 and February 2026 highlighted the need to strengthen the protection of volunteers deployed to affected areas. Based on field observations, the equipment line was adjusted to include fire-resistant gear. This modification also responds to the gap identified in the Guayaramerín branch, which has only 12 semi-complete sets available for 25 to 40 active volunteers, who make up the municipality's sole local first-response firefighting team.

4. DREF team staffing

During the operational review conducted between January and February 2026, the need to adjust the contract durations of the DREF team was identified to align them with the closure timeline of the floods operation. This adjustment seeks to optimize human and financial resources, avoiding overlaps and ensuring an orderly transition between the two operations.

5. Vehicle rental: The budget for vehicle rental was increased through reallocations from other budget lines, given that the Santa Cruz and Guayaramerín branches do not have their own fleet and mobility remains essential to reach dispersed rural communities. This increase—equivalent to approximately 85% of the initial allocation—was made possible by incorporating resources from the fuel line, corresponding to two branches that require full external mobility support, as well as from the project coordination line, whose remaining balance (71% of the remaining funds in this line) became available after the strategic decision for the Floods DREF Coordinator to also lead the Wildfires DREF. These reallocations strengthened the case for increasing the budget allocated to vehicle rentals, thereby ensuring the necessary transportation capacity for program implementation.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for the Andean Countries, based in Lima, covers Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru, and maintains close and ongoing coordination with the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC). Regular communication is ensured across the different levels of the Federation, enabling timely technical and operational support to the National Society as needed. Throughout this emergency, the IFRC Secretariat has provided continuous assistance to the BRC in key areas such as finance, reporting, logistics, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), thereby strengthening



	<p>the National Society's response capacity.</p> <p>Through ongoing DREF operations—among them the 2025 Floods operation—the IFRC continues to help mitigate climate related impacts affecting Bolivia, supporting the National Society in addressing the humanitarian consequences of increasingly recurrent adverse events.</p> <p>In September, the IFRC deployed a Rapid Response System Operations Manager for a period of one month to support coordination, operational planning, and the initial implementation of activities under this emergency response. This deployment enhanced the BRC's capacity to manage the operation and ensured alignment with IFRC standards and procedures.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The Swiss Red Cross continues to support the National Society by strengthening its response structure, including the development and/or revision of institutional policies in Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Health, and contributing to the opportunity analysis for the Institutional and Operational Strengthening Plan. At the territorial level, this support is operationalized through the implementation of the Expanded Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA) methodology and the development of community Contingency Plans in the Guayaramerín and Concepción branches.</p> <p>In parallel, the Norwegian Red Cross provides technical cooperation focused on the strengthening and development of the Bolivian Red Cross' financial system.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>The ICRC continues to support the National Society in institutional capacity strengthening, the application of the Safer Access (SAF) framework, and Restoring Family Links (RFL), thereby safeguarding humanitarian action in complex operational environments and enhancing the continuity of essential services to communities.</p> <p>At the territorial level, the ICRC is working with four branches—Chuquisaca, Oruro, La Paz, and Cochabamba—through community-based risk management projects, including targeted interventions in the outskirts of Quillacollo, where water purifiers have been implemented to improve safe access to drinking water and reduce associated health risks.</p> <p>The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) advanced the participatory update of its Operational Security Manual together with its branches, with ICRC technical support for content review aligned with progress under PER (Preparedness for Effective Response). With the support of the Swiss Red Cross, validation of the Security Manual was planned for November 2025, thereby strengthening institutional standards and procedures for the safe management of operations.</p>

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	<p>In the department of Santa Cruz, the departmental government, through the COED, delivered humanitarian assistance across several municipalities—including Roboré, San Ignacio de Velasco, San Matías, San Rafael, and Guarayos—consisting of water, food, household supplies, forestry tools, and equipment to reinforce the work of community volunteer firefighters responding to the wildfires. In Concepción, a monitoring room was established to track active heat points in the area. In Roboré, firefighters from the departmental government, together with other institutions, activated the Incident Command System (ICS) in the community of Palmarito in response to a fire that had been active for more than two weeks. Drone flights were also conducted to support assessment and surveillance efforts. Additionally, personnel from the Wildlife Management Team provided assistance to rescued animals. In San Ignacio de Velasco,</p>



containment efforts continued in the Noel Kempff Mercado National Park, particularly in the community of Florida, where the fire had remained active for over 50 days. Despite some localized rainfall, conditions were insufficient to control the fire, and the affected area exceeded 84,000 hectares.

In Guayaramerín, in the department of Beni, there was no operational presence of VIDECI, as the institution only maintains a regional office in Riberalta. The Municipal Risk Management Unit (UGR) received lists of families and communities affected by wildfires and drought; however, it was unable to conduct field evaluations due to limited resources—including the lack of a vehicle—which prevented the issuance of formal reports, emergency declarations, or alerts. The Early Warning System was out of service due to a lack of funding and maintenance.

Given these constraints, the UGR of Guayaramerín requested support from the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) branch to intervene in response actions submitted to the unit. The UGR also coordinated with BRC to conduct training sessions for search-and-rescue brigades, the Armed Forces, and members of campesino communities on wildfire response, first aid, and the Incident Command System, with the aim of strengthening local capacities to manage adverse events.

UN or other actors

The United Nations system, in coordination with national authorities and humanitarian partners, initiated the planning of a multi sectoral response to support populations affected by the wildfire and drought emergency. Proposed actions include cash and in kind assistance to help households meet essential needs; distribution of school kits to ensure continuity of learning; provision of personal hygiene and protection kits for women in shelters; and the donation of medicines and tactical health kits to the Ministry of Health to reinforce the national health system's response capacity. The first meeting of the Humanitarian Country Team (EHP) dedicated to this emergency was scheduled for 2 September 2025 to coordinate and align humanitarian interventions.

Although no UN agencies are present in the municipalities of Concepción, San Ignacio de Velasco (SIV), or Guayaramerín, several civil society organizations, foundations, and NGOs focused on forest conservation and the protection of campesino and Indigenous communities are operating in the affected areas. In Concepción and San Ignacio de Velasco, these include: the Centro de Investigación y Promoción del Campesinado (CIPCA); the Fundación para la Conservación del Bosque Seco Chiquitano (FBSC); Helvetas Bolivia; WWF; Fundación PROINPA; the Bolivian Institute for Forest Research; ChildFund Bolivia; Fundación Natura; Hidrotierra Bolivia; Apoyo para el Campesino Indígena Boliviano (APCOB); Jóvenes Chiquitanos Unidos por el Medio Ambiente (JUMA); the Bolivian Red Cross; and the Centro de Educación Permanente Usaka Aibu Nuipiaka.

In the department of Beni, active organizations include Pastoral Social Cáritas Beni; CIPCA; APCOB; and World Vision in Riberalta. However, in Guayaramerín, no national or international institution has been reported as present or engaged in response activities related to drought or wildfires since the start of the dry season in late June.



Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), led by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), was composed of United Nations agencies—including UNICEF, WFP, and UNFPA—as well as non governmental organizations such as World Vision and Save the Children—CAHB, among others. This coordination platform facilitated information exchange and collaboration among humanitarian actors to support the development of a coordinated emergency response. The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) co led this mechanism together with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), strengthening operational and technical coordination across the humanitarian system.

At the local level, the BRC, through its branches, participated in the Municipal Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Committee (COMURADE), whose purpose is to provide analytical guidance and recommendations on risk reduction and disaster response in coordination with the main municipal authorities of Guayaramerín (Beni). In the department of Santa Cruz, the departmental branch of the BRC actively participated in the Departmental Emergency Operations Center (COED), where fundraising initiatives were also implemented to help cover the costs associated with the emergency response.

In Guayaramerín, no formal coordination mechanism was in place. The Corregimiento, acting as the local representative of the departmental government, functioned as the municipal authority; however, the COMURADE was not convened, and therefore no alerts or emergency declarations were issued. In the absence of a formal coordination structure, the BRC worked directly with the Municipal Risk Management Unit, with the Bolivian Police—who, lacking an operational firefighting unit, requested support from the BRC—as well as with the Central Campesina, which represents the 39 rural communities of the municipality and the Indigenous population in the southern area, and with the Central of Indigenous Communities, which brings together four Indigenous communities.

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.



Multi purpose cash grants

During the field assessment, the team confirmed the need for a flexible and agile tool to support families affected by the adverse impacts of drought and wildfires. The needs identified were diverse, reflecting the predominant livelihoods in these communities, which depend on small scale agriculture—using different crop varieties depending on the area—and various types of livestock.

Some families lost small wooden structures used for livestock management, which now require repair. Others requested support in the form of heavy machinery hours to expand livestock watering points, deepen wells, or improve hand dug wells in order to secure access to water. Crop losses also varied widely: in some cases, seeds did not germinate, even after a second round of planting; in others, plants grew very slowly or never reached the fruiting stage. In several communities, crops that were already producing were scorched by intense sunlight, extreme temperatures, or direct fire.

Additionally, several families expressed the need to purchase medicines or obtain food with higher nutritional value due to the deterioration of their household economy, which prevents them from restoring their crops or buying water and feed for their animals. The combination of environmental impacts, livelihood losses, and economic constraints significantly increased the overall vulnerability of



the households assessed.

In this context, the project will enable families to restore their livelihoods and cover their basic needs through a flexible assistance tool designed to meet the priorities of affected communities in the departments of Beni and Santa Cruz. The amount of 2,400 Bs was calculated based on the Bolivian basic food basket and agreed upon in coordination with other organizations implementing humanitarian assistance through Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) in the country. This value was validated during the Cash Working Group of the Humanitarian Country Team, held in La Paz on 29 September, with the participation of the IFRC Regional Cash Coordinator, who reaffirmed the BRC's commitment in this area.

Health

During the 2025 dry season, Bolivia faced a significant wildfire emergency that primarily affected the departments of Santa Cruz and Beni. Although not as severe as the 2024 crisis, the current situation resulted in the destruction of homes, the displacement of families, and a marked deterioration in air quality due to smoke and particulate matter. These conditions emerged in parallel with limited access to basic health services and safe water, particularly in rural and Indigenous communities, where vulnerable groups—such as children, older adults, pregnant women, and individuals with chronic conditions—were especially exposed to respiratory and ocular complications.

Preliminary observations indicated that the health system, especially in Santa Cruz, was at risk of becoming overstretched, not only due to the rise in wildfire-related health conditions but also because of a concurrent measles outbreak. By late August 2025, Bolivia had reported 181 confirmed measles cases, with 151 concentrated in Santa Cruz, making it the epicenter of the outbreak. In response, the government intensified vaccination efforts through mobile brigades and the distribution of 600,000 vaccine doses donated by Brazil, targeting children and adolescents between 1 and 14 years of age.

Across affected communities, the most frequently reported symptoms during this drought period included cough, diarrhea, vomiting, fever, stomach pain, and headaches linked to dehydration and exposure to extreme temperatures, compounded by the consumption of contaminated water. As a direct consequence of the wildfires, communities reported widespread cases of persistent coughing, eye irritation, skin irritation (including rashes), burns, and respiratory tract infections.

The prolonged drought also increased the incidence of multiple diseases. Limited access to safe drinking water and contamination of surface water accelerated outbreaks of gastrointestinal illnesses such as diarrhea and cholera. Dust, smoke, and poor air quality exacerbated respiratory infections, including asthma and bronchitis. Changes in mosquito habitats heightened the risk of malaria transmission, and when sporadic rains created standing water, the likelihood of dengue and chikungunya increased. Reduced agricultural production contributed to rising levels of malnutrition among vulnerable households, while extreme temperatures led to heat-related illnesses. Furthermore, the economic and social pressures associated with the drought increased the prevalence of mental health conditions, including anxiety and depression.

Key health-related gaps identified during the response included:

- Insufficient availability of medical supplies for respiratory and eye conditions;
- Strained capacity of rural and peri-urban health posts to manage increased caseloads;
- The need to reinforce first aid services for affected families and frontline responders; and
- A growing demand for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), particularly among displaced families, children, and volunteers supporting fire suppression efforts.

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Preliminary observations in areas affected by wildfires showed that access to safe water and adequate sanitation had been significantly compromised, particularly in communities that rely on natural sources such as rivers, wells, and reservoirs. Several of these sources were contaminated or damaged by the fires, while seasonal interruptions in piped water supply further aggravated water scarcity. The deterioration of sanitation infrastructure increased the risk of waterborne diseases and limited the ability to maintain basic hygiene practices.

During the first months of the operation, the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) did not implement WASH interventions due to the limited availability of technical information and certain operational constraints. Consequently, it was deemed necessary to conduct additional field assessments to determine the feasibility, scope, and most appropriate modalities for potential WASH actions, in coordination with local authorities and community structures.

Between November and December, assessments in Concepción and San Ignacio de Velasco identified that most communities had food-grade water storage tanks and wells; however, the available water was not suitable for human consumption. When wells dried up, families resorted to nearby rivers. The lack of maintenance of community water tanks was a recurring issue reported by residents.

In January, it was observed in Guayaramerín that only some communities had communal tanks located near populated centers, while

more dispersed households depended on water from rivers, streams, shallow wells, or hand-dug wells, where maintenance deficiencies were also identified. In at least one community, repeated theft of water pumps and solar panels caused further disruptions in water supply systems.

When asked about household water treatment practices during periods of scarcity, several communities indicated that they merely exposed water to the sun with a cloth placed over the container—an insufficient method to ensure safe drinking water. For this reason, raising awareness on safe water handling and hygiene practices was identified as a priority need.

Overall, river water was found to be at high risk of contamination due to the widespread use of chemical fertilizers, mining activities, and inadequate solid-waste management in municipalities of the Santa Cruz department. During wildfire periods, the presence of ash added an additional contaminant: after a short time in contact with the water, it can potentially increase alkalinity (producing a “lye effect”), posing a risk of skin burns and intoxication. As water availability decreased, many families prioritized its use for livestock hydration and irrigation of productive crops over domestic consumption. Only households with greater resources were able to purchase bottled water, costing approximately 25 Bs for 20 liters. When livestock watering points dried up, farmers had to transport water by motorcycle to provide for their animals or irrigate priority crops.

In Guayaramerín, an unusually high incidence of malaria for that time of year was also reported. Those who were able to travel sought treatment at the city’s health center. Communities reported being familiar with insecticide-treated mosquito nets but noted skin irritation when using them and mentioned washing them to reduce discomfort, which reduced their effectiveness. Ensuring the quality of vector-control supplies was therefore considered essential for the response.

Based on the needs identified during the assessments conducted between November, December and January, as well as information gathered through operational activities, it was determined that the distribution of water filtration systems would be incorporated into the final phase of the intervention.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In Guayaramerín, a border town with Brazil, population movements initially created the need to consider activating Restoring Family Links (RFL) services to support family reunification. At the same time, the Departmental Health Services (SEDES) and the Ministry of Health deployed mobile brigades to provide medical and psychological care, while civil society organizations—such as Ayuda en Acción and World Vision Bolivia—launched violence prevention campaigns. Despite these efforts, significant gaps persisted, particularly in strengthening protection mechanisms for children and adolescents, expanding psychological support services for affected populations and responders, and improving inter institutional coordination to avoid duplication and ensure comprehensive coverage of needs.

The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) planned to conduct damage and needs assessments through its branches in the most affected areas of Beni and Santa Cruz, in coordination with the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) during the first week of September. However, as of 18 February 2026, no community displacement caused by the wildfires had been reported in either Santa Cruz or Beni, and in the municipalities visited, there was no identified need to establish Restoring Family Links (RFL) service points. Consequently, the activities that had initially been planned—specifically the implementation of RFL messages and the installation of two mobile charging stations—were not carried out. Should this need arise during the course of the operation, the BRC retains the capacity to activate an RFL response through the Guayaramerín branch or with coordinated support from the National Office.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

In the municipalities of the department of Santa Cruz, data collection was carried out differently depending on local capacities. In Concepción, community data gathering was conducted by leveraging activities previously organized by the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) and the IFRC under the Amazon Alliance initiative, which coincided territorially with this municipality. The presence of organizations in Concepción was significant, mainly focused on training volunteer firefighter groups—both community-based and institutional—as well as on environmental protection efforts.

In San Ignacio de Velasco, no direct community visits were conducted; however, meetings were held with the Sub-Governor’s Office, the Municipal Mayor’s Secretariat, Military Command R.10, the Forestry and Environment Unit of the departmental government, the Risk Management Unit technician, and a representative from the Foundation for the Conservation of the Chiquitano Dry Forest (FBSC). Communication with these entities was maintained throughout the process, and all supporting information and documentation were reviewed and stored in the corresponding repository. In both Concepción and San Ignacio, important gaps were identified in the health and water and sanitation sectors, as municipal institutions were unable to meet needs related to drinking water access, respiratory conditions, and other impacts.

In Guayaramerín (Beni), the team was able to focus on direct field visits due to the near absence of an institutional structure at the municipal level. The municipality had extremely limited resources: it lacked an operational fire truck, ambulances, water tankers, or basic equipment for wildfire response or support to rural communities. In emergencies, authorities requested assistance from the BRC, which provided transportation for volunteers across urban and peri urban areas. Owing to these limitations, the BRC branch in Guayaramerín was the only institution capable of addressing certain social and emergency needs, maintaining trusted, respectful, and legitimate access to rural campesino and Indigenous communities.



Operational Challenges in the Municipalities of Santa Cruz

- The municipal branches of San Ignacio and Concepción did not have operational volunteers, requiring all support to be mobilized from the departmental branch in Santa Cruz, located more than 6 hours from Concepción and 8.5 hours from San Ignacio—significantly limiting the agility of the response.
- This distance also affected the rotation of first aid brigades, whose members work or study in Santa Cruz and had to rotate every 5–7 days, spending up to two days solely on travel.

Operational Challenges in Guayaramerín

- The availability of rental vehicles with insurance was extremely limited, requiring vehicles to be brought from other departments, substantially increasing mobility costs.
- Participation in formal coordination mechanisms, such as the COEM, was minimal due to the absence of other institutions in the municipality.
- The local banking system is limited, hindering the implementation of Cash Transfer Programming (CTP), making a new financial agreement or an alternative mechanism necessary.
- Several communities are far from the urban center; dirt roads become difficult to access when it rains, and families rely solely on motorcycles for transportation.
- Mobile and internet connectivity outside the urban center is very restricted or nonexistent. The branch has four handheld radios, some in need of repair.
- The branch organizes activities to generate financial resources and replenish supplies, but during the wildfire and drought season, due to the high number of deployments and equipment deterioration, it has been unable to replace essential materials such as manometers, nebulizers, and first aid supplies.
- The branch does not have its own vehicle and relies exclusively on volunteers' motorcycles for transportation.

Additional Considerations

- Uncovered needs: There is insufficient capacity to provide first aid brigades to volunteer firefighters operating on the front lines.
- Fuel price adjustment: On 17 December, the Bolivian government issued a decree adjusting fuel prices, increasing logistical costs.
- Additional operational challenges: The National Office implemented measures to plan activities following the highest safety and efficiency standards to optimize costs.
- Vulnerable groups: Some Indigenous communities with nomadic lifestyles present communication and risk perception challenges, as they interpret preventive information differently from other communities.

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 the immediate risks associated with exposure to wildfires, particularly respiratory and ocular conditions. The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) will distribute respiratory protection and hygiene kits to 400 families and 150 first responders,



including BRC volunteers. Each kit will include a fabric bag, hand sanitizer, PM2.5 (N95) filtered masks, wet wipes, and protective goggles, along with information on the health risks associated with smoke exposure and recommended self protection measures—such as staying indoors with windows closed, using masks properly, avoiding outdoor physical activity whenever possible, and recognizing early warning signs requiring medical attention. Additionally, two relief points will be established to support first response teams, equipped with tents, furniture, and essential supplies to ensure operational continuity in the field.

Community health promotion activities, targeting 400 people, will focus on the prevention of respiratory infections and waterborne diseases. These activities will include the implementation of neighbor monitoring mechanisms—particularly for older adults—to facilitate the early identification of individuals requiring care and their timely referral to appropriate services. Referral pathways will be planned in advance to ensure an adequate and timely response.

Initially, the operation contemplated equipping five BRC emergency response brigades with fully stocked first aid kits, including stretchers, immobilizers, and splints. However, during implementation, although the DREF considered the inclusion of psychological first aid (PFA), field monitoring and the technical assessment conducted by the Head of the Relief and Disaster Unit identified no specific demand for this service. Consequently, and in order to optimize resources and align the operation with the actual needs identified within the communities, this programmatic line was canceled, prioritizing interventions with greater operational relevance in the evaluated context.

C) Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

In this line of action, the dissemination of key messages on Restoring Family Links (RFL) had been planned, as well as the installation of two mobile charging stations in the affected areas to facilitate family communication during the emergency. However, based on the needs analysis conducted in the field and the technical assessment of the Head of the Relief and Disaster Unit, it was concluded that there was no demonstrated demand for these services in the operational context, and as a result, the planned activities were not implemented.

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.

E) WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

Based on the needs analysis conducted in the field, the relevance of distributing water filters to households in Guayaramerín, San Ignacio de Velasco, and Concepción was identified. The provision will be carried out through portable household filters designed for use during the dry season, when communities rely on the river as their primary source of water. This measure aims to reduce health risks associated with the consumption of unsafe water and to strengthen self protection practices among prioritized households.

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.

The operation will also prioritize first responders working directly with affected families and communities, as well as firefighters engaged in frontline wildfire suppression. This prioritization is consistent with the institutional strategy of the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC), which aims to strengthen and complement the response capacities of local and national authorities, ensuring that frontline teams have the necessary resources and protective equipment to carry out their duties safely and effectively during the emergency.

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
<p>Potential increase in operational costs due to fuel shortages in Bolivia: Nationwide fuel shortages may increase operational expenses and cause delays in activity implementation, particularly in branches that rely heavily on road transport.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct periodic reviews of branch activity plans to identify delays and adjust implementation as needed. • Maintain a flexible operational plan that allows for rescheduling without compromising overall objectives.
<p>Risk of political misuse of the humanitarian response during the electoral process in the third quarter: The electoral environment may create opportunities for attempts to politicize humanitarian action, potentially affecting the neutrality and public perception of the Red Cross.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure clear identification of the Red Cross in all response activities. • Train volunteers and staff on neutrality and institutional conduct during sensitive periods. • Monitor and address any attempt to misuse the operation for political purposes. • Promote the humanitarian mandate, Fundamental Principles, and emblem protection through communication materials and key messages. • Disseminate institutional communication products that strengthen public understanding of the Red Cross auxiliary role.
<p>Impact of vector borne diseases and extreme weather conditions on response teams: Response teams may be exposed to vector borne diseases, heavy rainfall, heat stress, and extreme temperature fluctuations, potentially affecting their safety and operational capacity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) based on the specific risks of each area. • Ensure all deployed staff and volunteers are vaccinated as required for the intervention zones. • Maintain trained first aid personnel and guarantee access to emergency medical support.
<p>Social and political instability: Protests, road blockages and strikes may disrupt access to communities, delay distributions, and increase risks of theft or looting of humanitarian supplies. Personnel and volunteers may be exposed to violence in certain areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain close coordination with local authorities and security forces. • Conduct regular security assessments and adapt operational plans accordingly. • Ensure that staff and volunteers receive security training and follow established protocols. • Use clearly marked Red Cross vehicles, vests, and uniforms to support recognition and protection. • Develop and disseminate a contingency plan for potential unrest, with technical support from the ICRC.
<p>Limited access to communities due to damaged infrastructure and climatic events: Landslides, damaged roads, and limited infrastructure may hinder access to remote communities and pose risks to response teams.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and establish alternative transportation routes. • Coordinate with local authorities and private transport providers for updated information and logistical support.



Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

Throughout the implementation period, the security context in Bolivia was marked by factors that directly affected the protection of communities and humanitarian personnel. Persistent concerns included the presence of criminal groups in border areas, institutional gaps in citizen security, and manifestations of social violence, with an alarming increase in femicides reported across several departments. These dynamics were compounded by political tensions and social demands, which led to episodes of unrest in both urban and rural settings. In this context, the operation systematically factored in risks related to gender-based violence and community insecurity, adopting additional protection measures, operational adjustments, and close coordination with local authorities to safeguard staff, ensure minimum safe access conditions, and implement interventions in line with institutional security standards.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 127,682
Targeted Persons: 2,000
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of families assisted through MPCA	400	392
Number of feasibility and market monitoring studies conducted	1	2
Percentage of households participating in post-distribution survey	80	0

Progress Towards Outcome

During the implementation of the operation, a total of 392 families were reached, receiving assistance through the RedRose platform. Although the original strategy envisioned conducting one feasibility study, two studies were ultimately carried out, which strengthened the contextual analysis and ensured the relevance of the response implemented. The post-distribution survey is planned for March.



Health

Budget: CHF 29,423
Targeted Persons: 2,150
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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Number of families receiving respiratory protection and hygiene kits	400	400
Number of first responders receiving support kits	150	0
Number of individuals reached through health promotion activities	400	400

Progress Towards Outcome

A total of 400 respiratory protection and hygiene kits were distributed, each containing hand sanitizer, face masks, wet wipes, and protective goggles, all packed in a tocuayo fabric bag. Of the total distributed, 234 kits were delivered in the department of Santa Cruz and 166 kits in Beni.

A total of 400 people participated in health promotion activities related to the prevention of Acute Respiratory Infections (ARIs) and Acute Diarrheal Diseases (ADDs). Of these participants, 234 were reached in Santa Cruz and 166 in Beni; by sex, 242 were women and 158 men. The workshops were conducted in the municipalities of San Ignacio and Concepción (Santa Cruz) and Guayaramerín (Beni), where preventive recommendations and self care practices were addressed in response to the increase in respiratory and diarrheal diseases associated with drought and wildfires.

Regarding the distribution of the kits, they have been procured; however, their delivery remains pending.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 18,630

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of families receiving water purification filters.	400	0
Number of people receiving training in water purification using filters	400	0

Progress Towards Outcome

For this sector, the strategy includes the distribution of portable household water filters intended for dispersed households in Guayaramerín, San Ignacio de Velasco, and Concepción. This provision will be implemented through mobile and transportable kits that families can use during the dry season, a period in which communities rely primarily on the river as their main source of water for consumption. Additionally, community workshops will be conducted at the time of distribution to provide training on the proper use of the filters, with the aim of optimizing implementation time and ensuring the correct and sustained use of the devices by beneficiary households.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 6,083

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Percentage of surveyed individuals reporting receipt of useful and applicable health information	60	34
Number of community meetings held for planning and accountability	12	8

Progress Towards Outcome

The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) integrated the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach throughout the operation, beginning with coordination meetings with local leaders and authorities to align the strategy and identify priority areas and cases. A corporate WhatsApp hotline was set up to receive real-time feedback and inquiries, complemented by other mechanisms announced during community meetings. CEA actions were culturally validated with support from the IFRC regional team; key messages were translated (particularly into Guaraní), and a CEA focal point was designated at the National Headquarters. The management of sensitive information (GBV/SEA) followed IFRC protocols (including the Integrity Line), and referral pathways were mapped with public institutions, with continuous support from the PGI team. Message dissemination was carried out through printed and digital materials, institutional social media, banners in high-traffic areas, and suggestion boxes; in addition, information materials accompanied multipurpose cash transfers, providing guidance on the distribution process and appropriate use of funds.

During the implementation period, eight meetings for planning, coordination, and accountability were held with affected communities. The activity remains ongoing, as coordination will continue for the execution of the remaining actions and a community accountability session will be conducted at the close of operational activities. To date, meetings have been held with local authorities and community leaders in the municipalities of San Ignacio and Concepción (department of Santa Cruz) and Guayaramerín (department of Beni), with the objective of aligning the intervention strategy, validating priorities, and ensuring the informed participation of the population at each phase of the response.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 29,603
Targeted Persons: 0
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of monitoring visits conducted	6	4
Number of rapid response personnel deployed	1	1

Progress Towards Outcome

Carmen Ferrer from the IFRC was deployed as Operations Manager. During the operational deployment, Carmen Ferrer—together with the Head of the Relief and Disaster Unit—held information meetings with the departmental branch in Santa Cruz, and carried out coordination and logistics actions to ensure timely communication to communities about the project. In addition, meetings were held with the municipal branch and technical accompaniment was provided to launch project activities and conduct a needs assessment in communities of the municipality of Guayaramerín (Beni), ensuring alignment of the intervention with local priorities and the appropriate planning of resources.





Budget: CHF 47,880

Targeted Persons: 40

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	0
Number of monitoring and technical support visits to branches by National Society staff	6	4
Number of volunteers trained in operational safety and safeguarding	40	56
Number of volunteers trained in technical operational priorities (MHPSS and/or CVA)	40	56

Progress Towards Outcome

In person and virtual trainings were delivered on Safer Access (SA) and Basic Institutional Training (BIT) with the objective of strengthening the competencies of volunteers engaged in the operation’s field implementation, logistics, and planning. In parallel, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) sessions were conducted for volunteers. Following a mapping of facilitators within the National Society, support was requested from Lic. Óscar Mamani, Psychologist, National Manager of the Research and Development Unit (RDU), to ensure the technical quality of the content and appropriate staff care. An additional MHPSS session has been planned at the close of the operation to reinforce self care and emotional debriefing for the team. Finally, a Lessons Learned workshop is envisaged to consolidate feedback from stakeholders, capture good practices, and enhance response capacity for future emergencies.

About Support Services

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

During the implementation of the operation, DREF personnel were hired with specific profiles and time allocations to ensure technical, logistical, and administrative management in line with operational requirements. The team consisted of: a National DREF Coordinator based in La Paz (2 months); a Logistics/Finance Coordinator based in La Paz (2 months); a PMER Officer based in La Paz (2 months); a Field Technician with logistics and operational support functions based in Santa Cruz (5 months); a Communications Intern (5 months); and a Finance Intern (3 months).

The operation was carried out in the departments of Beni and Santa Cruz, with activities in the municipalities of Concepción and San Ignacio de Velasco (SIV) in Santa Cruz, and Guayaramerín in Beni. The Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) branches involved in the response were the departmental branch of Santa Cruz, which provided support to Concepción and SIV—municipalities that did not have an operational volunteer base at the outset—and the municipal branch of Guayaramerín.

The BRC Santa Cruz (departmental) branch has approximately 60 volunteers across six units (Relief and Disasters, Volunteering, Research and Development, Health, Youth, and Communications) and allocated 10 to 15 volunteers to this operation, depending on the nature and urgency of each activity; this branch has prior experience in three projects using Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA/PTM). The BRC Guayaramerín (municipal) branch has over 70 active volunteers, 20 of whom were assigned to the operation, and it has experience in three previous CVA/PTM interventions.

To support the planned activities in a timely manner, the DREF team was mobilized to the intervention areas, prioritizing field presence for coordination with local actors, technical support to branches, and the direct implementation of actions in target communities.



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? Please provide the role profile needed.

During September, Carmen Ferrer was deployed as Operations Manager to support field assessments.

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 is being continuously supervised by the National Office of the Bolivian Red Cross, through the Disaster Risk Management Unit, in order to ensure effective implementation in accordance with established operational standards. All personnel and volunteers involved will receive training on the National Society's emergency response procedures, aligned with IFRC guidelines, thereby ensuring the proper application of protocols and technical coherence throughout the intervention. The Disaster Risk Management Unit will coordinate periodic field visits to the intervention areas to monitor activity progress, verify compliance with operational objectives, and provide direct technical support to teams on the ground.

Additionally, the IFRC Andean Countries Delegation supports the National Society in administrative and financial matters, facilitating fund transfers, budget monitoring, and the provision of technical assistance—both in person and remotely—during the phases of needs assessment, coordination, monitoring, and reporting associated with the operation.

Furthermore, the National Headquarters developed a standardized monitoring tool for the registration and tracking of implemented actions. This instrument was shared with the Santa Cruz and Guayaramerín branches for its use, with the aim of strengthening internal control mechanisms and ensuring the systematic consolidation of operational information.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The National Society has specialized staff in Communications and Marketing, responsible for producing and disseminating audiovisual materials that describe the emergency situation and the response actions implemented by the Bolivian Red Cross. Additionally, this unit will develop, in coordination with the BRC Health Unit, two health campaigns aimed at strengthening community awareness and promoting self care practices aligned with the needs identified in the field. All materials will be disseminated through the institution's official website and social media channels, with the objective of increasing the visibility of the operation and reinforcing public understanding of the National Society's auxiliary role to the authorities. To support these activities, the BRC engaged a Communications intern and an Administration and Finance intern at the National Office, contributing to the operational and administrative strengthening of the response.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRBO019 - Bolivian Red Cross
Bolivia: Incendios 2025

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	181,817
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	127,682
Health	29,423
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	18,630
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	6,083
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	77,483
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	29,603
National Society Strengthening	47,880
TOTAL BUDGET	259,301

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](#)

