



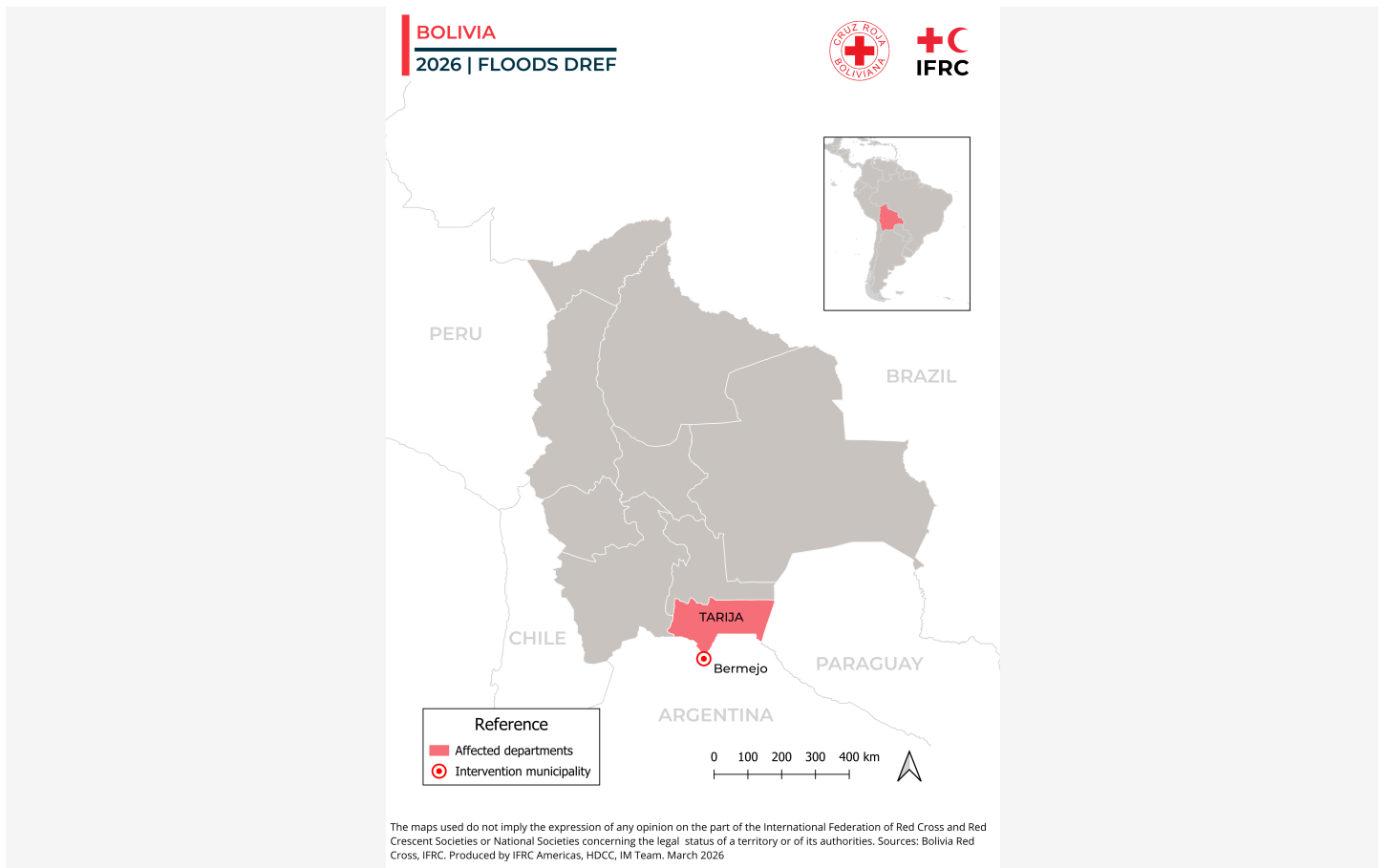
Search for missing persons, Tarija, Bolivia, Mar 2026. Source: El País.

Appeal: MDRBO021	Hazard: Pluvial/Flash Flood	Country: Bolivia	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 139,463	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 18,000 people	People Targeted: 1,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 01-04-2026	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 30-09-2026	DREF Published: 03-04-2026
Targeted Regions: Tarija			

Description of the Event

Date of event

17-03-2026



Intervention Areas

What happened, where and when?

Between January and March 2026, the municipality of Bermejo and several other areas of the department of Tarija experienced a severe hydrometeorological emergency driven by persistent, high-intensity rainfall across the binational Bermejo River basin shared by Bolivia and Argentina. The extraordinary rise of the Bermejo River exceeded historical thresholds, causing overflow, widespread flooding, and the isolation of multiple riverside and urban communities. Critical transit routes, including the chalana crossing between Bermejo and Aguas Blancas, were suspended due to unsafe river conditions, leaving border populations without mobility or access to essential services.

The situation escalated sharply on 24 January 2026, when authorities reported more than 600 people isolated due to road closures and the suspension of river transport. The impacts continued to expand throughout February and early March, with flash floods, river surges and landslides affecting broader areas of Tarija. These events prompted the Departmental Government of Tarija to declare a Departmental Disaster on 17 March 2026, recognizing the severity of impacts across the municipalities of Bermejo, Entre Ríos, El Puente, Yunchará and Uriondo. The decree specifies that intense rainfall, floods, river overflows and related phenomena were ongoing, real, and imminent, posing serious risks to life, health, agricultural production and food security across the department.

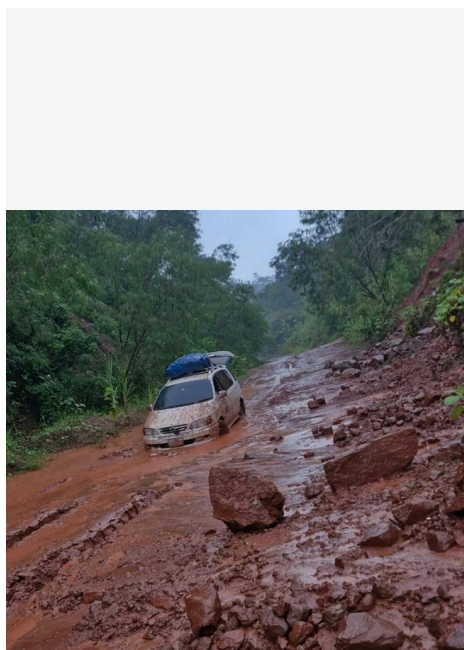
Parallel to the departmental declaration, the Municipal Government of Entre Ríos (Prov. O'Connor) also declared a Municipal Disaster on 13 March 2026, following an official technical assessment documenting extensive losses, including impacts to water systems, agricultural production, roads, housing, and community infrastructure. The decree reports 76 affected communities and 1,797 families, with damages surpassing the municipality's response capacity and confirming the need for departmental and national support.

Across all affected municipalities, authorities and local media report an estimated 18,000 people affected by the cumulative impacts of the



floods, river overflow, landslides and infrastructure disruption. This figure aligns with the combined scope of the departmental disaster declaration, which identifies multiple municipalities under severe hydrometeorological stress, and municipal-level data such as the extensive community-level impacts documented in Entre Ríos.

In Bermejo specifically, the overflow of the Bermejo River generated acute disruptions along the border corridor, affecting mobility, livelihoods and access to services. The flooding of riverside communities and urban sectors formed part of the broader pattern of damages across Tarija. Together, Bermejo, Yunchará, Uriondo, Entre Ríos and El Puente were officially identified as the hardest hit municipalities during this emergency period, with cumulative impacts contributing to the department's total estimate of 18,000 people affected.



Bermejo–Caraparí road affected by heavy rains, Tarija, March 2026



Household interior flooded after heavy rains, Bermejo, March 2026. Source: BRC



Livestock trapped by rising river waters, Tarija, March 2026. Source: BRC

Scope and Scale

The floods in Bermejo during March 2026 have generated extensive impacts on the population, livelihoods and basic services. Persistent heavy rainfall caused sustained rises in the Bermejo River, forcing SENAMHI to issue Hydrological Alert No. 07/26 for 7–9 March 2026, warning of progressive ascents and possible overflows specifically affecting Bermejo, Emborozú, Sidras, Salado Norte, Naranjo Agrío, Los Pozos and surrounding rural communities.

By 11 March, SENAMHI confirmed that the Bermejo River had already reached four meters, prompting an official alert due to continued intense precipitation throughout Tarija.

These conditions have resulted in significant damage within Bermejo. Heavy rains damaged water systems, collapsed sections of the San Telmo intake, and left entire neighborhoods without potable water for weeks, affecting households in both the upper and municipal zones of the city. Reports from local authorities and media confirm that the water crisis has forced several public services to shut down, including bathrooms at the Central Market, and families have resorted to collecting rainwater for basic consumption needs, evidencing widespread service disruption across the municipality.

The Departmental Government reports 4,539 families affected across Tarija, with Bermejo listed among the five most severely impacted municipalities under the official disaster declaration (17 March 2026). Local estimates and situational reports indicate that a significant share of these families are in Bermejo, concentrated primarily in riverside zones and peripheral neighborhoods where housing, agricultural plots and livelihoods are directly exposed to flooding and to interruptions in water and transport systems.

Livelihood losses are substantial. In Bermejo's rural and peri-urban areas, families depending on agriculture, small-scale livestock and daily wage labor have experienced partial or total losses of crops, erosion of cultivated land and the inability to access markets or workplaces due to road disruptions. The temporary suspension of the chalana crossing toward Aguas Blancas further restricted

economic mobility, interrupting cross-border commerce and access to essential services.

SENAMHI Bolivia maintains March 2026 hydrological alerts for the department of Tarija, indicating that rivers such as the Bermejo, Guadalquivir, San Telmo and Pilcomayo continue under rising-trend conditions due to recent intense rainfall, with Alert Naranja No. 07/26 warning of progressive ascents and possible overflows in multiple basins including the Bermejo during 7-9 March, and a follow-up alert on 11 March confirming ongoing heavy precipitation and elevated flows with the Bermejo River reaching four meters; although these alerts were issued earlier in the month, the combination of saturated soils, already swollen rivers and continued rainfall reported across Tarija suggests that hydrological risk is expected to remain elevated into the coming weeks, especially in provinces such as O'Connor, Arce and Cercado where SENAMHI noted sustained river-level increases and the likelihood of further crecidas during mid-March.

Current response gaps in Bermejo are significant. The municipal water company is overwhelmed and unable to restore full service in the short term, leaving thousands of people without reliable drinking water. Distribution of water by cisterns has been insufficient, communication about emergency schedules is limited, and many neighborhoods remain underserved. In rural areas, damaged roads and eroded agricultural land require urgent rehabilitation. Cross-border mobility remains partially restricted, limiting access to markets and services for families whose livelihoods depend on daily movement.

Source Name	Source Link
1. El Pais Tarija. Bermejo has not overcome the water crisis, and citizen pressure is growing.	https://elpais.bo/tarija/20260322_bermejo-no-supera-la-crisis-del-agua-crece-presion-ciudadana.html
2. Media Monitor. Tarija declares a departmental disaster due to rains and flooding.	https://jms.com.bo/mediamonitor/2026/03/18/tarija-se-declara-en-desastre-departamental-por-lluvias-e-inundaciones/

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	Yes
Did the National Society respond?	No
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) has implemented several DREF Operations in recent years to respond to recurrent emergencies such as floods, droughts, and wildfires. Over the past years, the BRC has carried out two emergency flood response operations, including the most recent one in December 2025 (MDRBO020). These operations have strengthened the National Society's technical capacities to support affected communities through Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).

Building on the operational experience gained, key lessons and procedural improvements have been integrated into the development of this DREF request to enhance response efficiency and address challenges identified in previous interventions:

* Clarification of the Red Cross Auxiliary Role: Community communication efforts will be increased to ensure a clear understanding of the BRC's impartial humanitarian mandate, reducing the risk of confusion between Red Cross operations and political activities.

* Enhanced CEA mechanisms: Affected communities will receive timely and accessible information on the intervention strategy. Clear and effective feedback channels will be established to enable continuous adaptation of activities based on community input.

* Strategic use of visual materials in high-traffic community areas: Large-format posters will be installed to disseminate key messages on health, safety, and operational guidance. This approach proved highly effective during the BRC's COVID-19 response, increasing public awareness and engagement.

By incorporating these lessons, the Bolivian Red Cross aims to strengthen the effectiveness, inclusiveness, and timeliness of its flood response operations, ensuring that assistance reaches the people and communities most in need.

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

No

Current National Society Actions

Coordination

The Bolivian Red Cross National Response Coordinator is maintaining close coordination with the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defense to ensure alignment of assessments, response actions and information flows at the national level. At the territorial level, the departmental and municipal Branches of the Bolivian Red Cross actively participate in the Risk Reduction and Disaster Response Committees, as well as in the Emergency Operations Committees (COE), contributing to local coordination, operational decision-making and the implementation of immediate response measures.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for the Andean Countries, based in Lima and covering Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru, maintains close coordination with the Bolivian Red Cross. The CCD ensures ongoing communication with all relevant IFRC levels, and has placed technical support at the disposal of the National Society for planning, implementation and reporting processes, as required.

Participating National Societies

The Swiss Red Cross maintains a permanent presence in the country, providing ongoing support to the Bolivian Red Cross in strengthening institutional capacities and implementing Disaster Risk Management and Health programmes. While no specific actions are currently planned by the Swiss Red Cross for this response operation, both institutions will continue to assess the situation jointly and explore the possibility of second-phase or early recovery interventions as the context evolves.



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supports the National Society in strengthening its institutional capacity, promoting Safe Access and facilitating the Restoring Family Links programme, particularly in border regions. In light of the current emergency, coordination will be maintained to ensure timely support as needed.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>At the municipal level, the local authorities have activated the Emergency Operations Committee (COE), where the main concern is the critical water shortage affecting Bermejo. According to municipal reports, 25 of the city's 28 neighbourhoods currently lack access to potable water, making the restoration of water supply an immediate priority.</p> <p>At the departmental level, the Government of Tarija has completed the necessary assessments to declare a departmental disaster and has formally submitted identified needs to the Departmental VIDECI. However, the subnational elections held on 22 March 2026 have resulted in new authorities at both municipal and departmental levels, which has contributed to limited attention and slower decision-making related to the emergency.</p> <p>At the national level, following the floods and hailstorms that affected the department of Tarija in March 2026, the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defense received humanitarian assistance requests from several municipalities, including Uriondo (165 families), Yunchará (855 families) and Entre Ríos (1,797 families). These requests covered food supplies, agricultural inputs (seeds, fertilizers, fungicides), and heavy machinery support for road and production recovery. Although the requests were submitted to VIDECI, some were returned to the municipalities for further clarification. This process highlights that Bermejo, despite being among the most affected areas, has not yet received adequate national-level attention.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>The United Nations system is currently monitoring the emergency in Tarija; however, no concrete field actions have been announced at this stage. Coordination and information exchange with national and local authorities are ongoing as the situation evolves.</p>

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), led by OCHA and composed of UN agencies such as UNICEF, WFP and UNFPA, together with NGOs including World Vision, Save the Children-CAHB and Practical Solution, promotes coordination and information-sharing among humanitarian actors to support a coherent response to the emergency. The Bolivian Red Cross serves as co-lead of this coordination space alongside WFP. At the local level, the Bolivian Red Cross participates in departmental and municipal Risk Reduction and Disaster Response Committees, playing an active role in coordinating emergency actions, conducting damage assessments and supporting mitigation measures for communities affected by the floods.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The 2026 floods in Bermejo caused severe damage to the livelihoods of rural households. Preliminary reports from local authorities and community leaders estimate the loss of at least 70 hectares of crops, primarily sugarcane—the main economic driver of the municipality. These losses directly affected six rural communities: La Talita, Porcelana, Campo Grande, Isla Horizonte, Isla El Porvenir and Naranjitos, where approximately 500 families rely on small-scale agriculture and seasonal labour linked to sugarcane cultivation and processing as their primary source of income.

Beyond the destruction of cultivated areas, the floods damaged irrigation systems, secondary canals, community roads and small productive facilities, including storage sheds, agricultural tools and collection points. In several sectors, fields were left covered by thick layers of mud, sediment and debris, delaying recovery and preventing farmers from resuming agricultural activities. In areas affected by mudflows and the dragging of mineral sediments, soil compaction and contamination may compromise soil fertility for upcoming planting seasons.

These impacts place rural households in a situation of high economic vulnerability. The loss of harvests directly affects household income, food availability and the ability to restart agricultural cycles. As a result, families are expected to resort to negative coping strategies such as taking on debt, selling productive assets, migrating temporarily or relying on prolonged external assistance. Community members express deep concern about losing their primary means of subsistence and the long recovery period required to rehabilitate farmland and restore productive capacity.



Health

The floods in Bermejo, Tarija, generated urgent and complex health needs throughout 2026. In the initial phase, the priority was the care of injured people, trauma cases and individuals rescued after being swept away by the river. This response was hindered by partial damage to local health centers and the difficulty of accessing several affected communities. Standing water, mud and debris quickly increased public health risks, making it essential to strengthen local capacities in first aid, patient stabilization and safe referral.

At the same time, significant epidemiological threats emerged. The interruption of the drinking-water system and the use of unsafe sources raised the risk of waterborne diseases such as acute diarrhoeal disease, cholera and hepatitis A. Contaminated wells and overloaded sanitation systems further exacerbated these risks. Prolonged flooding also created favourable conditions for mosquito proliferation, increasing the likelihood of dengue, zika and chikungunya transmission, especially in peripheral areas with limited vector-control coverage. This required the deployment of health brigades, source-reduction activities, targeted fumigation and reinforced entomological surveillance.

Flood-related stressors also produced substantial psychosocial impacts. Families faced displacement, loss of homes and belongings and heightened uncertainty, which contributed to acute stress and anxiety. Psychological First Aid (PFA), safe community spaces and emotional support for both affected households and frontline responders became immediate needs. Overall, the situation highlighted critical gaps in epidemiological surveillance, WASH service continuity, medical supplies and inter-institutional coordination, underscoring the need for a comprehensive public-health response to prevent outbreaks and reduce risks in the weeks following the floods.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The 2026 floods in Bermejo caused a near-total collapse of access to safe water. The rupture of the San Telmo intake system, structural damage to primary pipelines and failures in the main pumping systems left 25 of the city's 28 neighbourhoods without regular supply. Families were forced to rely on rivers, surface wells and irrigation canals, all of which were heavily contaminated. Health facilities were also affected by the lack of pressure in the system, having to operate using stored water or emergency containers.

Sanitation conditions deteriorated rapidly. Floodwaters dragged mud, sediment and solid waste into residential sectors, clogging drains and causing the accumulation of garbage. Several latrines and septic tanks overflowed, contaminating soil and nearby water bodies. Peripheral areas such as Campo Grande, Porcelana and Isla Horizonte experienced prolonged isolation; families spent days without access to functioning sanitation facilities and resorted to open defecation, increasing the risk of epidemic outbreaks.

Environmental degradation also triggered a rise in vector-related hazards. Stagnant water created ideal breeding conditions for mosquitoes, heightening the risk of dengue, zika and chikungunya transmission, particularly in sectors where municipal waste collection and fumigation services were interrupted. Rodent populations increased in areas where homes and food-storage structures collapsed,



adding further risk of leptospirosis.

These impacts underscore how the simultaneous disruption of water supply, sanitation systems and waste management can rapidly escalate a public-health emergency. As a result, WASH interventions became critical to reducing epidemiological risks, protecting public health and restoring minimum levels of safety and dignity for affected households.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Information from the affected communities in Bermejo and the surrounding rural areas remains limited and fragmented due to the reduced institutional presence on the ground and the lack of systematic assessments by local and departmental authorities. Several communities have not yet been reached by municipal or national response teams, and the absence of updated figures on damage to households, livelihoods and basic services has created significant gaps in situational analysis.

Given these constraints, the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) has planned to conduct a rapid assessment during the first month of the operation. This assessment will run in parallel with the immediate assistance activities and will allow the National Society to refine the operational strategy, update targeting criteria and adjust the scale of response based on verified data directly collected from the most affected communities.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF allocation, the Bolivian Red Cross aims to support 200 families (around 1,000 people) affected by the severe floods in six rural communities—La Talita, Porcelana, Campo Grande, Isla Horizonte, Isla El Porvenir and Naranjitos—in the municipality of Bermejo, Department of Tarija. The operation will provide integrated assistance across Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health, and Livelihoods/Basic Needs through Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA), complemented by Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) actions. Together, these interventions will ensure that affected households receive timely, relevant and accountable support during the initial phase of the response.

Operation strategy rationale

The purpose of this DREF operation is to provide essential assistance to families affected by the floods in six communities of the municipality of Bermejo. The operation aims to alleviate suffering and support recovery through multipurpose cash assistance (tools), health and WASH interventions to prevent disease outbreaks, livelihood recovery support to restore income-generating activities, and community engagement and protection actions to ensure a people-centred response.

A) Cash Assistance

The operation will support 100 families (around 500 people) through unrestricted cash assistance to help households meet their immediate basic needs and initiate early livelihood recovery according to their own priorities. This approach reflects the initial analysis conducted by the Bermejo Branch, which indicates that affected families are likely to prioritize essential household items, food, medicines, transportation for recovery activities, and the replacement of agricultural tools lost during the floods.

CVA activities will also provide an opportunity to share brief health and safety messages, including guidance on rodent-borne disease prevention and the safe use of agricultural inputs, to complement early livelihood recovery.

Targeting will be guided by a needs assessment using KoBoCollect and will prioritize households with higher levels of impact and vulnerability, including pregnant women, children under five, older adults, persons with disabilities, single-parent families, and households experiencing severe housing damage, loss of livelihoods, or disruption of essential services.

A provisional transfer value of CHF 268.56 per household has been included in the budget. This amount is based on recent BRC findings from MPC feasibility studies conducted in other departments, reflecting typical expenditure patterns for families facing similar flood-related impacts. This value will enable households to address urgent needs and support early recovery without restricting decision-making.

The transfer value and the scale of assistance will be validated during the compulsory feasibility study and rapid market assessment planned during the first month of implementation. These assessments—conducted by the National Society with IFRC support—will confirm market functionality, operational feasibility, and appropriateness of the transfer value. Should updated data indicate greater needs or justify adjustments to the transfer amount or the number of households reached, the National Society may request an Operational Update to expand or top-up the intervention.



The Bolivian Red Cross has a trained and experienced team specialized in cash assistance, covering needs assessments, beneficiary registration, distribution logistics, and post-distribution monitoring. This ensures a transparent, efficient, and accountable process aligned with IFRC cash standards and responsive to the preferences and recovery strategies of the affected population.

B) Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

The operation will support 200 families (1,000 people) through the distribution of family cleaning kits, women's hygiene kits, household water-treatment supplies to purify up to 400 litres, and domestic water-storage containers.

Additionally, one 5,000-litre community water tank will be installed in each of the six targeted communities. These actions will be complemented by community workshops focusing on safe water use, hygiene and the prevention of waterborne diseases.

The water tanks will be installed in coordination with community leaders, while the Major Office will be responsible for supplying the water and supporting the management of their use throughout the operation

The final composition of the hygiene kits will be defined through field assessments and community consultations to ensure that the items are culturally acceptable and aligned with the specific needs of the affected population. A differential analysis will also be carried out to address the distinct needs of children, men and women. Following Sphere standards, each hygiene kit will include, at minimum:

- * 10 bars of soap (50 g per person per month)
- * 2 tubes of toothpaste (75 g per person)
- * 3 toothbrushes (one per person)
- * Sanitary pads (10 per woman per month)
- * 2 bottles of shampoo (1 L each)

Additional items—such as wet wipes, diapers or other essential supplies—may be incorporated depending on needs identified during the assessment.

A single, harmonized WASH package will be provided to the same targeted households, meaning that each selected family will receive the household water filter, jerrycans, and water-purification tablets as complementary items. This approach ensures that all supported families have a complete set of tools to safely treat, store, and consume water during the early recovery phase.

In addition to distributions, the operation will include community training sessions on:

- * Safe water handling and storage
- * Key hygiene practices
- * Prevention of waterborne diseases
- * Emergency sanitation and waste-management practices

These interventions aim to reduce immediate health risks, reinforce community resilience and restore minimum WASH standards during the early recovery phase.

C) Health

The operation will support 200 families (1,000 people) in Bermejo through the distribution of cleaning and disinfection supplies, community clean-up campaigns, and health workshops focused on disease prevention and environmental health. The initiative will provide materials needed for household cleaning and support coordinated community actions to remove debris and eliminate potential vector-breeding sites in flooded areas.

The Bolivian Red Cross will also conduct community health sessions covering:

- * Elimination of stagnant water and proper covering of water containers to prevent Aedes mosquito breeding.
- * Safe food-storage practices to reduce the risk of contamination.
- * Methods to prevent infections linked to contaminated water and measures to reduce rodent proliferation.
- * Basic community-based surveillance to help volunteers identify and report signs of priority water- and vector-borne diseases through local health channels.

Health actions will focus on diseases known to circulate historically in the region and that frequently increase following flooding, including Aedes-borne diseases (dengue and chikungunya), rodent-borne diseases such as leptospirosis and hantavirus, and common diarrhoeal diseases. All activities are aligned with the National Government's vector-control plan and entomological surveillance efforts to reduce the incidence of water- and vector-borne diseases in affected communities.

To strengthen sectoral integration, community workshops will also incorporate broader Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) topics relevant to anticipated post-flood health risks. These will include essential prevention messages on mosquito-borne, rodent-borne and water-borne diseases, basic respiratory infection prevention, and simple self-care actions for households, including considerations for pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses and people with disabilities. These messages will be delivered in accessible formats and adapted to different groups as needed. In addition, RCCE messaging will be reinforced during CVA



activities, particularly with households engaged in early livelihood recovery.

In addition, the operation will include basic community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) activities. These will consist of short supportive group sessions and psychosocial awareness messages aimed at helping families manage stress related to the floods, promote positive coping strategies, and strengthen community well-being.

D) Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

To ensure a transparent, inclusive and community-centred response, the Bolivian Red Cross will implement a Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) strategy throughout the operation. Prior to the start of activities, meetings will be held with community leaders and local authorities to:

- * Introduce Red Cross staff and volunteers, building trust and facilitating access to communities.
- * Present the intervention strategy and align it with locally identified needs.
- * Identify the most affected areas and determine cases requiring prioritized assistance.
- * Integrate protection-related needs assessments into community surveys to ensure that vulnerable groups receive adequate support.

A WhatsApp hotline managed by the Bolivian Red Cross headquarters will remain active throughout the response, allowing affected populations to:

- * Share concerns and suggestions in real time.
- * Receive clarifications and updates on the response.
- * Provide direct feedback on the assistance received.

Following cash assistance distributions, a post-distribution survey will be conducted to assess the effectiveness of the support and gather recommendations to improve future interventions.

To strengthen community participation and preparedness, key messages will be disseminated through multiple channels, including:

- * Printed and digital materials with essential health and safety messages, shared via institutional social-media platforms and distributed directly to affected households.
- * Printed guidance for households receiving cash assistance, outlining the distribution process and providing practical information on effective use of the support.
- * Large banners displaying key health and safety messages, placed in high-traffic community areas in coordination with public institutions.
- * Suggestion boxes available at every meeting or workshop, enabling community members to submit anonymous feedback.

Targeting Strategy

[Targeting Strategy Supporting Document](#)

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The targeted communities are located in the municipality of Bermejo, Department of Tarija, where departmental authorities have issued a formal disaster declaration. This operation aims to assist 200 families (1,000 people) affected by the floods across at least six communities of the municipality. Beneficiary selection will be guided by a comprehensive needs assessment, prioritizing households facing significant challenges in meeting basic needs and those experiencing barriers in accessing humanitarian assistance from public authorities.

To ensure an equitable and well-directed response, selection criteria will be based on two key indicators: vulnerability and level of impact. Vulnerability criteria will consider households with pregnant women, young children, older adults, single-parent families and persons with disabilities. The impact criteria will assess the extent of damage to housing, loss of livelihoods and disruption of essential services.

This approach will support a fair and efficient allocation of resources, ensuring that the most at-risk households receive timely and appropriate assistance to facilitate their recovery.

The 200 families targeted by the operation will receive Health and WASH support, and within this group, 100 households will be further prioritized for Multipurpose Cash Assistance based on higher levels of impact and vulnerability. This includes households with pregnant women, young children, older adults, persons with disabilities, single-parent families, and those facing severe housing damage, loss of livelihoods, or disruptions to essential services. The prioritization will be carried out in close coordination with community leaders and supported by CEA tools to ensure a transparent and community-endorsed selection process.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection of 200 families in Bermejo is based on the severity of damage, level of exposure and vulnerability observed after the floods. The Bolivian Red Cross headquarters, working closely with the Bermejo Branch, will identify the households facing the greatest barriers to recovery, especially those unable to access assistance from public authorities. Priority will be given to families with high protection needs, including pregnant women, households with young children, older adults, persons with disabilities, single-parent families, migrants, refugees and displaced populations, as well as those with severe housing damage or loss of livelihoods

Limiting the first phase to 200 families allows the National Society to provide a rapid and feasible response within its current operational and financial capacity, in a context where local resources are scarce and national or international support has been limited. This initial target forms the first phase of a scalable response, enabling immediate assistance while additional resources are mobilized to expand coverage. This approach ensures that support reaches those most at risk in an efficient and responsible manner.

Total Targeted Population

Women	349	Rural	85%
Girls (under 18)	166	Urban	15%
Men	315	People with disabilities (estimated)	10%
Boys (under 18)	170		
Total targeted population	1,000		

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
Logistical and Access Constraints: Flooded roads, landslides and damaged infrastructure may limit access to affected communities and pose safety risks for Bolivian	*Identify and establish alternative transportation routes. * Ensure vehicles are well maintained and clearly marked. * Pre-position relief supplies in strategic locations when possible.



<p>Red Cross teams. Remote communities may be particularly difficult to reach due to poor road conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Coordinate with local authorities and private transport providers for updated information and logistical support.
<p>Health Risks to Response Teams:_ Bolivian Red Cross personnel may face risks related to vector-borne diseases (e.g., dengue, malaria) and exposure to extreme weather conditions such as heavy rain, heat stress or low temperatures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) and required vaccinations to all response teams. * Implement hygiene promotion and disease-prevention measures. * Ensure the availability of first-aid personnel and access to emergency medical support.
<p>Protection and Safeguarding Risks: Flooding can elevate protection concerns, especially for women, children, older adults, people with disabilities and migrants. These risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Increased exposure to exploitation, neglect or unsafe coping mechanisms. * Risks during collection of water, assistance or movement along damaged paths. 	<p>Integration of PGI considerations in all distributions, safe feedback channels, referral pathways.</p>
<p>Market Instability Risks (for Cash Assistance)</p> <p>Local markets might:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Experience supply shortages due to road closures. * Present inflated prices for essential items (e.g., tools, food, hygiene items). <p>Face disruptions that reduce the effectiveness of cash transfers.</p>	<p>Rapid market monitoring before and during implementation, contingency plan to shift to in-kind if markets collapse.</p>
<p>Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:</p> <p>The security environment for a flood response operation in Bolivia presents several critical factors that may affect operational effectiveness. Extreme and unpredictable weather, combined with the country's complex geography, can trigger sudden events such as continued flooding, landslides, and infrastructure collapse. These hazards can restrict mobility, interrupt supply chains, and increase operational risks for response teams, including exposure to contaminated water sources, unstable terrain, and structurally compromised buildings.</p> <p>Flood conditions also heighten public-health risks, including outbreaks of dengue and leptospirosis, and may contaminate potable-water systems, further complicating response efforts. In some areas, overstretched public services and limited assistance can lead to frustration within communities, increasing the likelihood of social tension, protests, or localized conflict—factors that may affect safe access for personnel. Theft or damage to vehicles, equipment, or relief items also remains a concern in stressed environments.</p> <p>To address the potential for localized social tension or civil unrest in affected areas, the BRC will activate its institutional contingency plan for situations of public disturbance, developed with ICRC support. This plan provides structured guidance for safe decision-making and includes measures such as continuous context monitoring through branch teams, close coordination with local authorities, and strong Red Cross visibility during field activities. These elements help maintain safe access and allow the operation to adjust promptly if the security environment becomes more sensitive.</p> <p>In addition, the Bolivian Red Cross will implement contingency measures specific to this DREF operation. These include protocols for managing delays in the delivery of supplies, safety procedures for field teams, and clear guidelines for staff movement, communication, and incident reporting. Together, this preparedness framework aims to safeguard personnel and assets while ensuring continuity of humanitarian activities in a challenging and dynamic operational context.</p>	
<p>Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?</p>	<p>Yes</p>



Planned Intervention



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 34,241

Targeted Persons: 500

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of cash-feasibility assessments conducted	1
Number of families receiving cash assistance	100
Number of community CVA sessions conducted	6
Percentage of households participating in post-distribution monitoring	80
Percentage of households reporting satisfaction with the assistance received	80
Number of rapid assessments completed during the first month of implementation	1

Priority Actions

- Conduct a feasibility assessment to validate the relevance, appropriateness and operational viability of cash assistance in the targeted communities.
- Conduct a detailed market assessment to analyze supply chains, price stability and vendor capacity in Bermejo and surrounding areas.
- Implement unrestricted cash assistance for targeted households to support immediate basic needs and early recovery priorities. (RedRose /Moneygram modality)
- Carry out a post-distribution monitoring (PDM) survey to evaluate the effectiveness, use and community perception of the assistance.
- Conduct a rapid field assessment during the first month of implementation and share the results with government authorities.



Health

Budget: CHF 15,373

Targeted Persons: 1,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families receiving cleaning kits	200
Number of people receiving MHPSS services	30
Number of community workshops on vector-borne disease prevention conducted	6



Number of people reached with health messages

200

Priority Actions

- Procurement of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) kits
- Procurement of cleaning kits
- Emotional support sessions for responders
- Community health and hygiene trainings
- Community-based vector-control training
- Deliver key RCCE health messages during community sessions and other engagement activities.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 41,377

Targeted Persons: 1,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families receiving the family hygiene kit	200
Number of people receiving the women's hygiene kit	100
Number of hygiene-promotion workshops conducted	6
Number of families receiving water filters	200
Number of families receiving WASH kits (purification tablets + jerrycans)	200
Number of communities receiving a community water tank	6

Priority Actions

- Distribution of household water-treatment supplies (purification tablets)
- Provision of safe-water storage containers (jerrycans)
- Distribution of hygiene kits
- Community handwashing and hygiene-promotion sessions



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 3,814

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of community meetings held for engagement and feedback	6



Number of suggestion boxes installed and used	6
---	---

Priority Actions

- Dissemination of Red Cross auxiliary role messages
- Community engagement meetings
- Activation of community-based feedback and participation mechanisms
- Accountability and operation-closure meetings with communities



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 15,874

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of monitoring and/or technical support visits	2

Priority Actions

- WASH technical support visit from IFRC ARO to the National Society
- Operational monitoring visit by the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD)



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 28,785

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers trained in vector-borne disease prevention	15
Number of volunteers trained in WASH (water treatment, filter use, hygiene):	15
Number of volunteers oriented on CEA approaches	15

Priority Actions

- Training of volunteers in vector-borne disease prevention, WASH and CEA
- Monitoring visits to the operation (HQ)
- Provision of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) such as rubber boots, gloves and hand disinfectant will be provided to volunteers participating in clean-up activities to reduce exposure to flood-water related risks, including leptospirosis and hantavirus.
- Lessons-learned workshop



About Support Services

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

The Bolivian Red Cross has limited personnel available to support the intervention. To ensure effective implementation, the following staff will be fully dedicated to the operation:

- Project Coordinator – 100% (4 months):

Responsible for operational planning and implementation, coordination with local authorities, liaison with humanitarian actors, community engagement, volunteer management, CVA activity coordination, facilitation of volunteer training processes, and collection of information for assessments and CEA-related activities.

- Logistics/Finance Technician – 100% (3 months):

Responsible for developing and implementing the procurement and contracting plan, ensuring compliance with IFRC procedures, and preparing periodic financial reports.

Total contracted personnel: 2

1 Project Coordinator

1 Logistics/Finance Technician

Bolivian Red Cross volunteers involved: 15

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?

BRC volunteer team reflects the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the communities we serve. The NS prioritize inclusive recruitment to ensure representation of women, men, youth, and individuals from different cultural backgrounds. This approach helps us deliver culturally appropriate and gender-sensitive assistance.

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

The National Society will carry out all procurement processes in compliance with IFRC procedures. Local suppliers will be prioritized for all items intended for distribution. In case of replenishment, the Regional Office will be duly informed. Current tender timelines depend on the procurement amount and range from 3 to 15 days, in line with IFRC standards.

For cash assistance, implementation will be through agreements with RedRose (information management services) and MoneyGram (financial service provider). The affected areas have access to MoneyGram financial services at medium distances and within the municipal capital, ensuring feasibility of cash transfers.

How will this operation be monitored?

The operation will be continuously monitored by the Bolivian Red Cross Headquarters through the Disaster Risk Management Unit, which will employ institutional supervision systems and conduct regular field visits to intervention areas to verify activities and results, while providing technical support to teams.

Progress tracking will be under the direct responsibility of this Unit, complemented by training for staff and volunteers on National Society response procedures aligned with IFRC guidelines. The success of the operation will be evaluated based on indicators related to the completion of planned activities, quality of assistance provided, and progress in coordination and reporting.

Additionally, technical support by the IFRC Andean Countries Delegation are planned, both in-person and remotely, particularly during the phases of needs assessment, initial coordination, progress review, and report validation, ensuring comprehensive technical and administrative support.



Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The National Society has trained personnel in Communications and Marketing. Through its Communications Unit, it will manage internal and external communication throughout the operation using an integrated system that combines digital channels, in-person interactions, and institutional coordination.

Internal Communication: Secure messaging platforms, email, and regular meetings will be used to ensure timely information flow between operational and management teams.

External Communication: The Communications and Marketing Unit will produce and disseminate audiovisual materials and information bulletins reflecting the emergency situation and response actions, ensuring transparency and credibility with affected communities, key stakeholders, and strategic partners. The media strategy includes press releases, regular updates on the institutional website, and posts on official social media channels of the Bolivian Red Cross — Facebook, LinkedIn, and TikTok — to strengthen visibility of the National Society's auxiliary role and foster public trust.

Additionally, the National Society maintains ongoing coordination with the IFRC Communications team to standardize institutional messaging and ensure consistency of information.

Official Channels:

* Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/1D9GEu3AKk/>

* LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cruz-roja-boliviana-oficial/>

* TikTok: https://www.tiktok.com/@cruz_roja_boliviana?_t=ZM-907OJSZOZ3L&_r=1



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

- Bolivian Red Cross Tarija Pluvial/Flash Floods 2026

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	94,805
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	34,241
Health	15,373
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	41,377
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	3,814
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	44,659
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	15,874
National Society Strengthening	28,785
TOTAL BUDGET	139,463

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Edgar J. Butron Ledezma, Executive Director- Bolivian Red Cross, edgar.butron@cruzroja.bo, +591 67007300

IFRC Appeal Manager: Melker Mabeck, Head of Delegation, melker.mabeck@ifrc.org, +57 322 8307097

IFRC Project Manager: Julian Perez Reyes, Programs and Operations Coordinator, julian.perez@ifrc.org, +51 940679662

[Click here for the reference](#)

