



Communities in Beni affected by flooding. Source: El Deber Press. March 2025

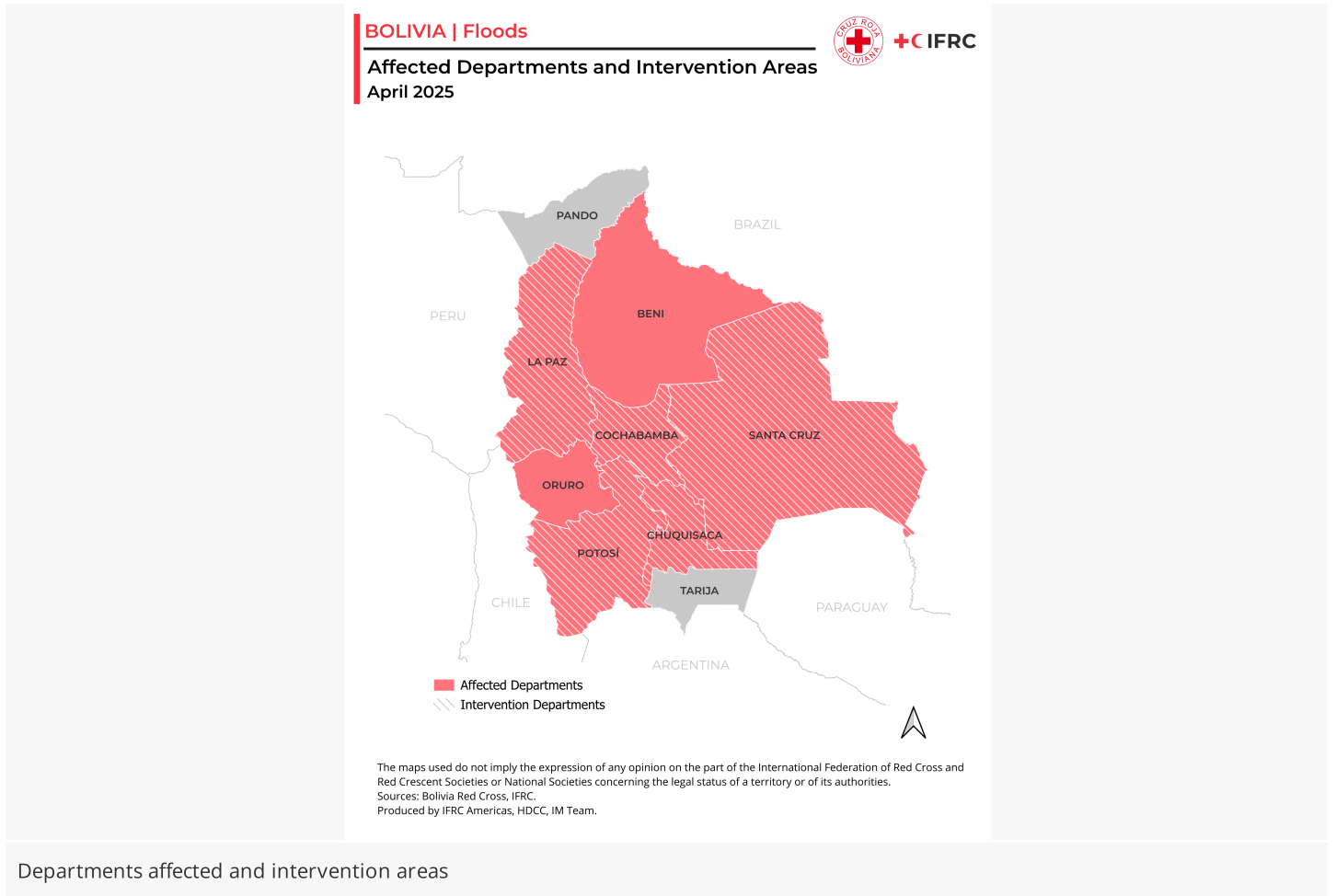
Appeal: MDRBO018	Country: Bolivia	Hazard: Flood	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Orange	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 495,243	
Glide Number: FL-2025-000038-BOL	People Affected: 2,965,115 people	People Targeted: 10,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 19-04-2025	Operation Timeframe: 9 months	Operation End Date: 31-01-2026	DREF Published: 25-04-2025

Targeted Areas: **Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, La Paz, Potosi, Santa Cruz**

Description of the Event

Date of event

01-04-2025



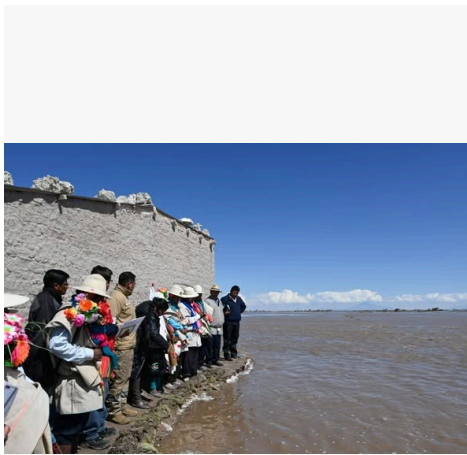
What happened, where and when?

On 1 April 2025, the Government of Bolivia formally requested international assistance from the diplomatic corps accredited in the country to address the national emergency caused by the ongoing rainy season. This weather crisis has resulted in over 55 deaths and affected 593,023 families. In La Paz, the Bolivian Foreign Minister met with ambassadors and diplomatic representatives to brief them on the complex situation and request their cooperation.

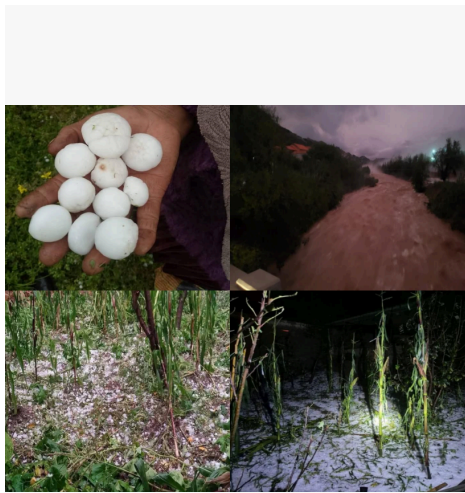
Since November 2024, continuous rainfall has triggered severe flooding, landslides, and widespread devastation across Bolivia. The situation worsened in early 2025, culminating in a major crisis in March, when 31 municipalities declared states of emergency and 109 declared disaster zones. On 26 March, the government issued Supreme Decree No. 5358, declaring a National Emergency.

During the initial months of the rainy season (November–December 2024), rainfall remained near normal in the Amazon and lowland savannah regions. However, in Q1 2025, rainfall exceeded normal levels across most of the country, causing over 404 weather-related events—such as floods, flash floods, waterlogging, landslides, and hailstorms—impacting regions including the Altiplano, Amazon, Chaco, Chiquitanía, low savannah, and Valles. The eastern Amazonian plains have been particularly affected, partly due to the residual effects of widespread forest fires in Q4 2024.





Overflow of the Lauca River isolated the Uru Chipaya Nation, March 2025, Oruro. Source: La Razón



Hailstorm impact in Zudañez Municipality, Chuquisaca, March 2025. Source: BRC - Chuquisaca Branch.



Destroyed housing and collapsed public infrastructure in Nuevo Amanecer, Cochabamba, March 2025. Source: Los Tiempos



Overflow of El Kenko Lagoon in Catavi District, Llallagua Municipality, Potosí, March 2025. Source: Erbol.

Scope and Scale

As of 7 April 2025, the rainy season in Bolivia has affected 593,023 families (nearly 2.97 million individuals) across 6,175 communities in 98 provinces spanning all nine departments. Of these, 171,639 families (around 858,195 individuals) have been classified as disaster-stricken. The emergency has resulted in 55 fatalities, 8 missing persons, and the evacuation of 104 families, mainly from high-risk flood and landslide areas.*

The crisis has escalated rapidly. In January, 10,800 families were affected; by the end of the month, this number had risen to 34,000, representing a 215% increase. By February, 82,600 families were reported affected, and by early April, the total had surged to 593,023, showing an increase of over 1,630% since January.

Material Damage and Agricultural Impact

The floods and landslides have damaged 4,760 homes, with 1,208 completely destroyed. The most severely affected departments are La Paz, Cochabamba, and Potosí. In agriculture, 301,193 hectares of crops have been affected, with 141,240 hectares lost entirely. Key crops, such as maize, potatoes, quinoa, and cocoa, have been severely impacted, threatening food security in rural communities. Additionally,

1.15 million heads of livestock have been affected, with 48,161 reported deaths, compounding economic losses for livestock-reliant communities.

Departmental overview**

- La Paz: 267,134 families affected (67,383 disaster-stricken); 1,676 homes affected (600 destroyed); 146,748 hectares of crops impacted (47,180 lost); 352,895 livestock affected (10,056 dead); 12 fatalities, 4 missing; 68 families evacuated.
- Cochabamba: 72,142 families affected (25,614 disaster-stricken); 648 homes affected (102 destroyed); 21,183 hectares impacted (11,266 lost); 143,815 livestock affected (220 dead); 22 fatalities, 2 missing.
- Potosí: 66,482 families affected (21,229 disaster-stricken); 189 homes affected (111 destroyed); 27,161 hectares impacted (14,516 lost); 57,265 livestock affected (744 dead); 8 fatalities; 9 families evacuated.
- Santa Cruz: 25,998 families affected (8,506 displaced); 329 homes affected (55 destroyed); 58,000 hectares impacted (32,236 lost); 12,220 livestock affected (150 dead); 2 fatalities; 15 families evacuated.
- Oruro: 21,275 families affected (7,431 disaster-stricken); 624 homes affected (47 destroyed); 7,141 hectares impacted (2,801 lost); 186,191 livestock affected (4,635 dead); 1 fatality.
- Beni: 13,636 families affected (5,589 disaster-stricken); 1,058 homes affected (220 destroyed); 5,076 hectares impacted (7,552 lost); 265,520 livestock affected (15,852 dead); 1 fatality; 12 families evacuated.
- Tarija: 416 families affected (13 disaster-stricken); 77 homes affected (none destroyed); 126 hectares of crop losses; 4 fatalities.
- Pando: 22 families affected.

Hydrological Alerts and Climate Outlook

Hydrological warnings have been issued for multiple river basins. An orange alert (No. 20/25) forecasts rising water levels between 3–12 April. The El Niño phenomenon is expected to influence rainfall and river levels, particularly in the Pilcomayo, Grande, Parapetí, and Ichilo basins, increasing the risk of further flooding.

*Technical Note:

According to Law No. 602 on Risk Management and the protocols of the Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI), the population impacted by a natural disaster is classified as follows:

- Affected population: Individuals whose living conditions are negatively impacted by an adverse event, either directly or indirectly. This includes disruptions such as limited access to essential services, partial damage to housing or infrastructure, or temporary displacement when it does not involve the destruction or permanent loss of housing or livelihoods. Although they do not suffer severe losses, the event affects their well-being and daily functioning.
- Disaster-stricken population (damnificados, in Spanish): Individuals who have suffered personal or material damage as a direct result of the disaster. This group includes people who have lost their homes or sources of income, those who have sustained physical injuries, and those who have been forcibly displaced due to the destruction or inaccessibility of their dwellings.

**For reporting purposes, VIDEI often groups both categories under the broader term “affected population” to reflect the overall impact of the event. However, disaggregating the number of disaster-stricken individuals is essential to determine the severity of the disaster and to guide the scope and type of humanitarian assistance required.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Impact Report on Rainfall Damage in Bolivia up to 7 April, 2025. Source: Vice Ministry of Civil Defense (VIDECI).	https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:b/s/IFRCSharing/VRN1ix8En5Msx4eR90itAoB3FdxedFbS1SYvA1WmDXmg?e=3FPfP7



2. The Bolivian government asks for international aid in the face of rainfall emergencies	https://www.swissinfo.ch/spa/el-gobierno-de-bolivia-pide-ayuda-internacional-ante-las-emergencias-debido-a-las-lluvias/89099762
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Previous Operations

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

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

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Lessons learned:

In the past five years, the only operation launched by the Bolivian Red Cross in response to floods was in March 2024 (MDRBO016). This operation enabled the National Society to develop specific competencies to support affected communities—reaching 1,500 people—through Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), Health, and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) interventions. Alongside other recent DREF operations implemented by the National Society in response to droughts and forest fires, this experience has generated valuable lessons learned and good practices. These have been taken into account in the design of the current operation, including:

- Improving Coordination for Cash Transfer Programs: With the support of the IFRC Regional Office and rapid response staff, the BRC has strengthened collaboration with social organizations to conduct market assessments and feasibility studies for multi-purpose cash transfer programs.
- Strengthening Community Participation and Feedback Mechanisms: Ensuring that affected populations are well informed about the intervention strategy, actively socializing the scope of the operation and establishing clear and effective feedback channels for ongoing adjustments.
- Expansion of Out-of-shelter Assistance Coverage: Considering that more than 70% of people affected during the emergency did not seek shelter in shelters established by the authorities, response efforts will prioritize reaching vulnerable populations outside these shelters to ensure comprehensive distribution of assistance.

By applying these lessons, the BRC seeks to improve the effectiveness, inclusiveness and responsiveness of its flood emergency operations, ensuring timely assistance tailored to the needs of each territorial context.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

01-03-2025

Health	In response to requests from the affected municipalities, teams of volunteers were deployed to carry out evacuation and rescue tasks, as well as to provide health care. The Cochabamba branch, at the request of the Municipality of Quillacollo, deployed a team of volunteers to assist in the evacuation of the Nueva Esperanza Territorial Base Organisation. With the support of a motor pump, the water was drained from the houses. A total of 90 people were evacuated and rescued, and 5 people received first aid
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	treatment. The Oruro Branch deployed volunteers to support the evacuation of families trapped by the overflow of the Desaguadero River in the municipality of Toledo. This action was carried out at the request of the Risk Management Unit of the Municipality and was supported by a boat provided by the Governor's Office. A total of 215 people were evacuated and rescued, and 4 people received first aid treatment. Finally, the branches in Trinidad, San Borja, Reyes, Guayaramerín and Riberalta in the department of Beni participated in first aid, providing assistance to a total of 14 people.
Coordination	Departmental branches conducted continuous monitoring in response to various alerts. In La Paz, contact was established with the Association of Municipal Governments of the Department to identify the most affected areas, in coordination with municipal officials. In Beni, the branches in Trinidad, San Borja, Reyes, Guayaramerín and Riberalta participated in meetings convened by local authorities to coordinate actions and support the evacuation of families. The Santa Cruz branch carried out monitoring in the municipalities of Warnes, El Pailón, Puerto Pila, Cuatro Cañadas and nearby municipalities, establishing communications with the Governor's Office to obtain data on the impact. Finally, the Potosí branch established communication with the municipality of Llallagua in order to coordinate assessment and response efforts to the disaster caused by a mudslide in the town of Andavillque.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for the Andean Countries, based in Lima, covers Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. The CCD maintains a close relationship and coordination with the Bolivian Red Cross. In addition, permanent communication is maintained with the different levels of the IFRC, who have made their technical support available to the Bolivian Red Cross for planning, implementation of activities and reports, if necessary.
Participating National Societies	The Swiss Red Cross maintains a permanent presence in the country, actively supporting the Bolivian Red Cross in strengthening its institutional capacities and implementing Disaster Risk Management and Health programmes. Although no specific actions are currently being planned by the Swiss Red Cross for this response operation, the development of early recovery will be jointly assessed as the situation evolves.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) maintains an office in Bolivia, supporting the National Society in institutional strengthening, promotion of Safe Access and the Restoring Family Links programme, especially in border areas. Given the current emergency, the National Society, with technical support from the ICRC, will develop a contingency plan for La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz, Oruro and Potosí, aimed at being prepared to respond effectively to humanitarian needs arising from possible protests related to the crisis and the electoral processes scheduled for the third quarter of the year.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

National authorities	The General Directorate of Prevention and Reconstruction of the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defence (VIDECI) has provided assistance in 37 municipalities of which 9 are in Cochabamba, 11 in La Paz, 1 in Oruro, 1 in Santa Cruz, 1 in Sucre and 5 in Tarija, reaching a total of 13,213 families with 201 tons of aid, including mattresses, blankets and food. The Armed Forces Joint Commands have deployed 3,581 troops from 76 military units to assist in evacuation and rescue operations. The Ministry of Health and Sports, through its Emergency and Disaster Risk Management
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	Unit, is providing medical interventions in several municipalities in the departments of Beni, Santa Cruz, Tarija, Cochabamba and Pando. In addition, efforts are underway to secure donations of medicines, supplies and mosquito nets to address public health concerns in flood-affected areas. The Bolivian Road Administration of the Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing is working to repair and restore damaged road sections and establish alternative routes in response to landslides and infrastructure collapses in Cochabamba and La Paz. In addition, heavy machinery is being deployed to channel and dredge rivers to mitigate future flood risks. To date, the State Treasury has allocated 2.5 million Bolivianos to send humanitarian aid. The Ministry of Defence has assisted 13,213 families, while the Ministry of the Presidency, through the Social Action Unit, has assisted 6,366 families. 3,800 hours of machinery have been contracted for the affected municipalities, including support with gabions, dump trucks, backhoes and the transfer of sacks of earth. However, the Minister of Defence pointed out that this is not enough and stressed the importance of the Legislative Assembly approving a pending IDB loan for US\$350 million, which will be used for the reconstruction of the affected regions.
UN or other actors	Within the framework of humanitarian actions, the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) has maintained communication with organizations of the humanitarian team in the country, with the objective of complementing the actions carried out and maximizing the reach to those affected according to the established lines of action. The humanitarian country team, of which the CRB is a member, plans eight sectors of action in collaboration with twelve other organisations. This team has planned humanitarian activities in 22 municipalities in five departments, with the aim of reaching at least 28,000 people. In addition, the organisations have developed databases to exchange information and avoid duplication of efforts in the same areas. Actions implemented in response to the floods in Bolivia until 3 April 2025 include the distribution of food and non-food aid. For example, the World Food Programme has made cash transfers to cover needs in San Borja, while Ayuda en Acción has delivered items in Riberalta and San Ignacio de Moxos. Hygiene and health kits have also been provided, with UNICEF procuring water filters and Save the Children supporting health centres with medical supplies in San Buenaventura and Rurrenabaque. In addition, protection and prevention activities have been carried out, such as Ayuda en Acción's campaigns to prevent violence against children. UNDP is supporting municipal governments in risk management, while PAHO/WHO has strengthened health response capacity through donations. FAO and the Bolivian Red Cross are monitoring damage and evacuation conditions to ensure adequate assistance to affected families. Pastoral Caritas Bolivia will begin assessments in Caquiaviri, Luribay and Quime to determine urgent needs. Based on the findings, they will provide immediate support through multipurpose cash grants and implement livelihood recovery programmes for 275 families.
Are there major coordination mechanism in place?	
On 21 March, the government activated the National Emergency Operations Centre (COE), establishing technical committees to deal with emergencies in the country. On 31 March, the President of the State, Luis Arce, called on subnational authorities to evaluate the adverse natural events affecting various regions of the national territory. The call was addressed to governors' offices and associations of municipalities in each department. In this context, several working tables were activated. The Bolivian Red Cross is currently participating in the Risk Management Roundtable, convened by the Ministry of Education. Likewise, in response to a call from the Ministry of Health, the Bolivian Red Cross joined the Technical Committee on Health and Nutrition, together with actors such as the National Meteorology and Hydrology Service (Senamhi), the Vice-Ministry of Civil Defence and Ministry of Health programmes deployed in the affected areas. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) has made progress in sharing information and activating coordination tables during the crisis.	

Led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the HCT is composed of UN agencies such as UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), as well as non-governmental organisations such as World Vision, Save the Children-CAHB and Practical Solutions. This team promotes coordination and information sharing among humanitarian organisations to develop a coordinated response to the emergency. Within this coordination framework, the BRC co-leads the Cash Transfer Working Group alongside the World Food Programme.

At the local level, the CRB actively participates in the Departmental and Municipal Risk Reduction and Disaster Response Committees, coordinating emergency efforts, assessing damage and implementing mitigation measures to support affected communities and address the ongoing impacts of flooding.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The floods and landslides have caused a severe emergency, resulting in widespread damage to housing and related infrastructure. A total of 4,760 homes have been reported as affected across the country, of which 1,208 have been completely destroyed. The most critical damage has been recorded in the departments of La Paz, Cochabamba, and Potosí.

- La Paz: 1,676 homes affected, 600 destroyed.
- Cochabamba: 648 homes affected, 102 destroyed.
- Potosí: 189 homes affected, 111 destroyed.
- Oruro: 624 homes affected, 47 destroyed.
- Beni: 1,058 homes affected, 220 destroyed.
- Santa Cruz: 329 homes affected, 55 destroyed.
- Tarija: 77 homes affected, none destroyed.
- Pando: 22 homes affected.

According to local media and data from Bolivian Red Cross branches, several municipalities have established temporary shelters. In La Paz, 120 people are currently sheltered. Puerto Pailas is also hosting 120 people, and Riberalta has accommodated 33 families. In Cochabamba, temporary shelters have been set up. In Trinidad, six shelters are operational and nearing full capacity. In San Borja, only one shelter has been established with space for 50 people, despite a reported need for shelter for 150 people as of 25 March.

In the highland departments of La Paz, Oruro, and Potosí, where temperatures can drop to -5°C at night, shelter management teams have reported an urgent need for blankets and personal mattresses. The low temperatures increase the risk of respiratory illnesses associated with hypothermia, especially among people staying in temporary shelters.

In addition to basic needs, several key humanitarian needs have been identified in temporary shelters and among displaced populations. These include access to clear information on rights and available services; educational and recreational activities for children and youth; psychosocial support; and legal assistance for recovering documents. Furthermore, it is important to promote initiatives that strengthen social cohesion and facilitate the reintegration and sustainable recovery of displaced people.

So far, no formal requests for support related to shelter and essential non-food items have been submitted to the Bolivian Red Cross by departmental authorities. Although response and repair efforts are currently being led by the Government, under the operational strategy of the Bolivian Red Cross, complementary actions could be considered for people currently staying in collective centers.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

According to preliminary Damage and Needs Assessments (DANA) conducted by municipal, provincial, and district authorities, and data gathered by local branches through coordination with relevant local officials, the following effects have been recorded:

In La Paz, the floods have caused significant losses in potato and maize crops, affecting between 40% and 60% of cultivated areas in some communities. Livestock, especially herds of sheep and llamas, have suffered losses of 20-30%. In addition, the destruction of rural roads has made access to markets difficult, with 30% of the road network damaged, which has also interrupted fuel transport, affecting supply in rural areas.

In Cochabamba, the floods have caused losses of 50% in fruit and vegetable crops, especially in the High Valley. Livestock, including cattle

and pigs, have suffered losses of 15 to 25 per cent. In addition, 25% of the roads connecting productive areas have been damaged.

In Oruro, the floods have caused losses of 30 to 40 per cent in barley and quinoa crops, while livestock, especially sheep, have suffered losses of 10 to 15 per cent. In addition, 20 per cent of the interprovincial road infrastructure has been damaged, affecting transport.

In Beni, floods have caused losses of 50 to 60 per cent in rice and cassava crops, and dairy and beef cattle have suffered losses of 25 to 30 per cent due to the flooding of pastures. In addition, 50 per cent of roads have been flooded, making access difficult. Fuel supplies have faced severe disruptions, affecting mobility and access to basic commodities.

In Potosí, the floods have caused losses of 40 per cent in potato and maize crops, while livestock, mainly camelid cattle, have suffered losses of 15 per cent. In addition, 30 per cent of the road infrastructure has been affected, making access to markets difficult.

In Santa Cruz, the floods have caused losses of 60 to 70 per cent in soybean and maize crops, and meat and milk production has suffered losses of 20 to 30 per cent.



The Departmental Health Service (SEDES) has reported a significant increase in vector-related diseases, mainly in the departments of Beni and Santa Cruz. Public health experts stress the need for immediate and coordinated intervention to control this proliferation. Although local authorities are implementing vector control measures, active community collaboration is required to eliminate breeding sites and use repellents, which are essential to mitigate the risk of outbreaks.

In addition to vector-related illnesses, outbreaks of other infectious diseases have also disrupted essential services. In La Paz, five schools have been affected by smallpox outbreaks, while in Cochabamba, one school reported cases of COVID-19. These health-related issues have contributed to the disruption of educational activities in the affected areas.

In Beni, floods have increased epidemiological risks and affected health infrastructure, exceeding local and departmental response capacity. The overflowing rivers and formation of stagnant water areas have led to an increase in vector-borne diseases and hindered access to health services. Up to epidemiological week 16, 2,480 cases of dengue have been reported in Beni, an increase of 35% over the previous year. Malaria cases have reached 850, mainly in coastal municipalities, 28% above the historical average for the same period.

At least 10 rural health centers have been affected, with four operating with limitations due to the loss of basic diagnostic materials and essential medicines. The Mamoré Health Network reported power and drinking water interruptions in 60% of health centers, hindering continuous care and the conservation of medicines that require refrigeration. Sixty percent of communities in Santa Ana del Yacuma face road connection problems, delaying the arrival of response brigades and patient transfers. It is estimated that at least 8,000 people have restricted access to medical services due to roadblocks and flooding.

The lack of safe water and sanitation conditions has led to a 25% increase in cases of diarrhea, mostly in children under five. Adverse weather conditions favor the spread of rodents and insects, increasing the risk of leptospirosis and other zoonotic infections. Health personnel are overburdened due to high demand for care and decreasing resources, increasing the possibility of gaps in epidemiological control. Additionally, 2 out of 7 basic diagnostic laboratories are inoperative, making early detection of outbreaks and timely treatment difficult.

The Departmental Health Services (SEDES) of Beni, Santa Cruz, and Cochabamba are responsible for mosquito spraying. So far, only the SEDES of Santa Cruz has mobilized its staff to carry out community fumigation in some municipalities. In contrast, Beni has seen a significant increase in insects, and SEDES has not socialized a plan of action, despite requests for fumigation from some communities.

Despite efforts to implement the Unified Health System (SUS) to provide universal and free care, challenges persist in effective coverage and quality of services. Health spending is dominated by the public sector, accounting for 63.8% of total spending. However, out-of-pocket spending remains significant, at 82.8% of private spending, indicating a considerable financial burden on families. There are marked differences in health indicators between departments and municipalities, reflecting inequities in access and quality of services. Approximately 75% of Bolivian territory is malaria-endemic.



The floods have caused extensive damage to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems, as reported by Bolivian Red Cross branches in coordination with communities, local authorities, and community leaders.



In several affected areas, reliable water sources have been compromised due to river overflows, resulting in a noticeable increase in gastrointestinal illnesses. Community reservoirs, rivers, and other water bodies are contaminated with septic waste, animal remains, debris, and other hazardous materials, significantly elevating public health risks.

The presence of stagnant water in flooded zones continues to create favorable conditions for the proliferation of harmful microorganisms, maintaining a high risk of disease outbreaks. In many locations, water and sanitation infrastructure has been damaged or rendered inoperable, leaving the population without access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation services.

Numerous communities remain isolated or have been rendered uninhabitable. The absence of adequate sanitation, hygiene supplies, and waste management has further exacerbated vulnerability, particularly among displaced families. In temporary shelters, limited access to clean water, handwashing stations, and latrines continues to undermine health and safety conditions.



Education

The ongoing emergency caused by heavy rains and flooding has significantly impacted the education sector in Bolivia. In mid-March, the number of affected schools reached 1,000, but through coordinated efforts by education authorities and communities, this figure has steadily decreased. Measures such as implementing semi-presential classes in some cases have helped maintain educational continuity despite the challenges.

As of April 9, 2025, 32 educational units across six departments are conducting classes under semi-presential and distance learning modalities. According to the Ministry of Education, 27 schools have been affected by flooding, while five schools have suspended in-person classes due to a smallpox outbreak.

The number of impacted schools has risen from 17 to 32 in three days. Beni remains the most affected department, with 15 schools in San Andrés-Loreto suspending in-person classes entirely due to flooding. In La Paz, 10 schools are affected, with five impacted by smallpox outbreaks. Cochabamba has three schools affected by flooding and one by COVID-19 cases.

Pando reports two schools operating in a semi-presential format due to rainfall, while Santa Cruz and Tarija each have one affected school caused by adverse weather conditions.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

According to data from the National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (SENAMHI), over 30 years of monitoring indicate that climate change is gradually increasing temperatures across several regions in Bolivia. In response, communities have sought climate-resistant raw materials, such as adaptive seed varieties, yet every five-year cycle demands additional resources to reinforce agricultural productivity.

The situation nationwide is dire, with extensive crop and livestock losses leaving communities facing immediate challenges to secure food supplies and rebuild livelihoods. Resources are urgently needed to address the damage, including financial support, raw materials, and technical assistance to stabilize agricultural activities and mitigate further risks.

In northern Potosí, a landslide displaced massive amounts of mud from a hillside, burying homes and farmlands in the municipality of Andavillque. This has rendered the affected areas unfit for cultivation, as mineral residues in the debris pose a serious environmental challenge. This localized crisis reflects broader issues throughout the country, underscoring the critical need for national-level interventions to prevent further harm and support recovery efforts.



Community Engagement And Accountability

During the emergency, families faced uncertainty about their well-being and the future of their communities, as not only their homes were affected, but also public facilities such as medical centres and schools. The intervention of state entities and humanitarian organisations required the collaboration of local leaders, who acted as trusted representatives to strategically and transparently coordinate assistance to those most affected.

Currently, there is turnover in shelters due to the variety of events and weather behaviour in the affected regions, with some communities leaving the shelters to stay with family members, others just migrating internally to other regions because prolonged exposure of their homes to water has caused structural damage.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Flooding made access to certain areas difficult, limiting the ability of assessment teams from mayors' offices and humanitarian organisations to conduct data collection. In several departments, damaged infrastructure and adverse weather conditions have prevented timely movement of assessors, affecting the collection of detailed information on health and temporary shelter needs.

In the department of Chuquisaca, these challenges have been exacerbated by the geographic dispersion of communities and limited telecommunications infrastructure, making it difficult to conduct timely needs assessments. The lack of adequate technological and human resources has been a significant obstacle to obtaining a comprehensive picture of health needs in this region.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF operation, the Bolivian Red Cross seeks to assist 2,000 families (approximately 10,000 people) affected by the floods in the departments of Potosí, Santa Cruz, La Paz, Chuquisaca and Cochabamba, through the implementation of activities in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Health, Multipurpose Cash Transfers, Livelihoods and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) sectors.

Operation strategy rationale

Taking into account the needs identified, as well as the Bolivian Red Cross installed capacity for a timely response, the following sectors of intervention have been prioritized:

A) MULTI-PURPOSE CASH:

The intervention aims to assist 2,000 families affected by the emergency (approximately 10,000 individuals). This initiative encompasses both a CVA Livelihoods program and a CVA Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) program. The identification of families to be assisted will be conducted through a comprehensive needs assessment. One modality will be implemented for this emergency:

(1) CVA Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA): Under the MPCA program, the 2,000 affected families will each receive Bs 671 (approximately CHF 81) to address their essential needs, including food and other necessities. This amount was established considering the distribution amounts provided by other organizations during the emergency response.

This analysis is grounded in the concept of the vulnerability gap developed by the World Food Program in Bolivia, which assesses the extent to which vulnerable households can cover the Minimum Guaranteed Consumption (CGM) and identifies the shortfall.

Cash distribution will be facilitated through RedRose and MoneyGram, which will serve as financial and data management service providers. To build in-country capacity, the process will be managed directly by the Bolivian Red Cross, with support from an IFRC CVA Coordinator deployed in-country, the Americas Regional Office (ARO), and the Country Cluster Delegation. If RedRose is confirmed as the most feasible modality, the ARO CVA team will conduct refresher sessions for staff and volunteers on how to manage the platform.

Community workshops will be organized to inform and sensitize communities about the cash transfer program. At the end of the distribution, a post-distribution survey will be conducted to assess the effectiveness and impact of the process.

The Bolivian Red Cross has trained volunteers specializing in cash transfers, who will assist members from other branches in assessing needs, registering beneficiaries, managing distribution logistics, and monitoring post-distribution activities. To ensure effective operations, all volunteers will receive training on emergency safety protocols, safeguarding measures, and the Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, ensuring that vulnerable groups are protected from harm during the process. Additionally, IFRC rapid response staff specialized in cash transfers will be deployed for the first three months of the operation to support the design and implementation of the program.

B) WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE: 2,000 families will be assisted through the delivery of family hygiene kits, water purification tablets and jerry cans for safe water storage. In addition, community awareness-raising workshops on water care, hygiene and prevention of associated diseases will be carried out.

The composition of hygiene kits will be defined through field assessments and community consultations, ensuring that the items are culturally appropriate and meet the specific needs of the affected population. A differential analysis will also be conducted to address the particular needs of children, men and women. Each hygiene kit will include, but not be limited to, the following essential items:

- Soap - 250 grams per person per month
- Toothpaste - 75 grams per person
- Toothbrush - 1 unit per person
- Sanitary towels - 12 per person per month
- Hand sanitizer
- Drinking vessel

In addition, other products such as wet wipes, mosquito repellent and nappies may be included, depending on the specific needs identified during the initial assessment.

The intervention will also include the distribution of water purification tablets to treat up to 5,000 litres of water. To ensure proper storage of treated water, two jerry cans per family will be provided, facilitating safe storage.

As part of the awareness-raising strategy, community sessions will be organized focusing on hygiene promotion, covering topics such as safe water handling and storage, hand washing, good hygiene practices and prevention of associated diseases.

D) HEALTH: Assistance will be provided to 1,400 families (nearly 7,000 people) in the departments of Santa Cruz and Cochabamba for vector prevention. Activities will include the delivery of cleaning and disinfection kits, distribution of vector control supplies, community clean-up campaigns, health workshops focused on disease prevention, as well as psychosocial care for both the community and those involved.

Each family will receive a cleaning kit that will include a personalized bucket, 2 kg of detergent, 2 litres of sodium hypochlorite, a sponge, a broom, a rag, a floor cloth, a pair of rubber gloves and a pair of black bags (90 x 110 cm). In addition, covers for water tanks will be provided to prevent the spread of mosquitoes that transmit diseases such as dengue, Zika and Chikungunya.

Community clean-up campaigns will be carried out to eliminate mosquito breeding sites, and workshops on physical vector control will be organized. These workshops will address the following topics:

- Repairing and sealing cracks in walls, windows and ceilings to prevent mosquitoes from entering.
- Use of insecticide-treated mosquito nets on doors and windows.
- Elimination of stagnant water and proper covering of water containers.
- Safe storage of food to prevent contamination.
- Measures to prevent diseases caused by contaminated water and to avoid the proliferation of rodents.

Psychological First Aid will also be provided in homes and shelters, emotional ventilation sessions for responders and first aid to affected persons when necessary.

These activities are aligned with the government's national vector control plan and entomological surveys, with the aim of reducing vector-borne disease transmission and protecting the health of communities.

E) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA)

To ensure a transparent, inclusive, and community-centred response, the Bolivian Red Cross (BRC) will integrate the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach throughout the operation.

Community Entry and Coordination with Local Leadership

Before implementation begins, meetings will be held with community leaders and local authorities to:

- Introduce Red Cross staff and volunteers, build trust, and facilitate community entry,
- Present the intervention strategy and align it with local needs,
- Identify the most affected areas and determine priority cases requiring urgent support.

Establishment and Management of the WhatsApp Hotline

A corporate WhatsApp hotline will be established specifically for community feedback and inquiries. It will be managed exclusively by designated personnel of the National Society, following lessons learned from feedback mechanisms applied by the CCD Andean Countries in Peru. These personnel will receive appropriate training to ensure the responsible handling of information and the protection of personal data.

The WhatsApp hotline will:

- Allow individuals to share concerns and suggestions in real-time,
- Provide updates on the response,

- Enable feedback on the assistance received.

The hotline will include automated responses and a system for generating a database that captures first-hand information on community concerns and recurring questions. This data will be processed and analyzed on a monthly basis by the responsible personnel, who will then share the results with the operational team to make necessary adjustments that address the needs expressed by the community, in accordance with data protection protocols.

Communication and Dissemination of Feedback Channels

The existence of the WhatsApp hotline and other feedback mechanisms will be announced during community meetings and through local leaders, in line with the country's community leadership-based communication system. With the leaders' consent, mass messaging may be considered, and printed QR codes will be placed in strategic locations to facilitate access. Additionally, stickers displaying the hotline's QR code will be attached to items distributed during the response, enabling individuals to report misuse, ask questions, or provide suggestions.

Cultural Adaptation and Language Inclusion

CEA activities will be culturally validated during the early stages of the operation, with technical guidance provided by the IFRC regional CEA team to ensure contextual appropriateness.

Given the work with various Indigenous communities, key messages will be translated into native languages, particularly Quechua and Aymara. Volunteers from BRC branches who speak local languages will support communication efforts during activities and assist with the translation and review of messages. These initiatives will be carried out in coordination with the team at the National Headquarters, which encompasses a social communicator serving concurrently as the CEA focal point. This process ensures that messages are adapted to the cultural and linguistic diversity of the people assisted.

Sensitive Information and Referral Pathways

If sensitive information, such as reports of gender-based violence (GBV) or sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), is received through the WhatsApp hotline or other channels, the team will follow established IFRC protocols, including the use of the Integrity Line. Staff will be trained to handle such reports appropriately. During the first month of the operation, stakeholders will be mapped, and possible referral pathways will be identified in coordination with public institutions, such as the Defensoría de la Niñez (Office of the Children's Ombudsman), for cases requiring specialized protection services. Ongoing support will be provided by the IFRC Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) team.

Key Message Dissemination

To ensure clear and timely communication, key messages will be disseminated through various channels, including:

- Printed and digital materials containing health, water, and hygiene messages, to be shared through institutional social media and directly with the population.
- Printed materials accompanying multi-purpose cash distributions, providing guidance on the distribution process and appropriate use of the funds.
- Banners with health and safety messages placed in high-traffic areas in collaboration with public institutions.
- Audio-visual materials with key messages to be shared through the WhatsApp hotline, social media, and local media outlets.
- Suggestion boxes available at meetings and workshops to collect anonymous feedback.

Post-Operation Feedback and Learning

At the conclusion of the operation, focus group discussions and community meetings will be conducted to collect feedback on the assistance provided. These spaces, implemented in previous BRC operations, support reflection during the final Lessons Learned Workshop and provide recommendations for future responses. The trust built with community leaders will be essential for ensuring long-term collaboration beyond the scope of the operation, through other sources of funding.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation aims to assist 2,000 families (approximately 10,000 people) affected by the floods in 14 municipalities of the departments of Potosí, Cochabamba, La Paz, Santa Cruz and Chuquisaca. The departments and areas prioritized for response were selected based on the current impact of floods, the density of their population, the accessibility of resources and personnel, and the presence of volunteer networks and active community leaders. These characteristics ensure that the intervention will have a significant impact on risk reduction



and life protection, as well as an effective and participatory community response.

The families will be selected based on a comprehensive needs assessment, prioritizing those with the greatest barriers to access humanitarian aid from other organizations.

The communities to be prioritized are located in the following municipalities, selected by the Bolivian Red Cross branches, considering their level of affectation, as well as the operational capacity of the branch (volunteers, equipment and experience in previous interventions):

- La Paz: Laja, Guaqui and San Andres de Machaca
- Cochabamba: Aiquile and Mizque
- Potosí: Llallagua
- Santa Cruz: Cuatro Cañadas, Pailón, Warnes, Okinawa Uno, Puerto Paila
- Chuquisaca: Poroma, Pojpo y Sapse

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection of the families to be assisted will take into account the criteria of vulnerability and impact, with the objective of prioritizing those households most at risk and with significant difficulties in recovering their livelihoods.

In the first place, priority will be given to households with the most vulnerable members, such as:

- Pregnant women.
- Children under five years of age.
- Older adults.
- Single-parent families.
- People with disabilities.
- Migrants, refugees and displaced persons.

In addition, the impact of the floods will be assessed in terms of the damage caused and its effect on the ability of households to restore their well-being. The impact criteria will include:

- Damage to housing infrastructure.
- Loss of livelihoods (such as crops, livestock or sources of income).
- Disruption of essential services, such as access to clean water, health care and other basic services.

To carry out this process, the Bolivian Red Cross will work closely with its local branches and community leaders, ensuring accurate and efficient identification of affected families.

Total Targeted Population

Women	4,080	Rural	49%
Girls (under 18)	1,020	Urban	51%
Men	3,920	People with disabilities (estimated)	3%
Boys (under 18)	980		
Total targeted population	10,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
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Possible increase in operating costs due to fuel shortages in Bolivia.	- Seek an approach with the National Hydrocarbon Agency to manage the prioritisation of Bolivian Red Cross vehicles that fulfil a humanitarian function and are in operation. - Periodic review of activities in subsidiaries to identify possible delays. - Develop a contingency plan per departmental branch for fuel shortages.
Humanitarian response being politically used during the electoral processes scheduled for the third quarter of the year	- Emphasize neutrality through internal and external communication. - Ensure clear Red Cross branding in all response activities. - Train volunteers on neutrality during sensitive periods. - Monitor and address any political misuse of the response. - Promote the role of the Red Cross throughout the project to enhance public awareness and strengthen understanding of its humanitarian mandate prior to the electoral process. - Production and dissemination of communication materials and key messages on humanitarian principles, the role of the Red Cross, and emblem protection.
Impact of Vector-Borne Diseases and Extreme Weather on Response Teams: There is a risk that BRC response teams may suffer from vector-borne diseases and be affected by extreme weather conditions, such as heavy rains, heat stress and low temperatures.	- Provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to BRC teams and ensure that deployed personnel, including volunteers, have the necessary vaccinations according to the area of intervention. - Ensure the availability of trained first aid personnel and access to emergency medical support.
Social and political instability: Social and political instability may affect aid distribution due to protests, strikes or roadblocks. Tensions over perceived inequities in distribution could lead to unrest, increasing the risk of theft or looting of humanitarian supplies. In addition, staff and volunteers may be exposed to violence in certain areas.	- Maintain close coordination with local authorities and security forces. - Conduct regular security assessments and adapt operational plans accordingly. - Ensure that staff receive security training and follow strict security protocols. - Use clearly marked Red Cross vehicles and uniforms to improve recognition and protection. Develop and share with branch staff and volunteers a contingency plan for dealing with social unrest related to the electoral process, developed with ICRC technical support.
Difficulty accessing communities: Flooded roads, landslides and damaged infrastructure can make access difficult and put CRB teams at risk, and remote communities can be difficult to reach.	- Identify and establish alternative transport routes - Ensure that vehicles are well maintained and clearly identified. - Pre-position relief supplies in strategic locations, if available - Coordinate with local authorities and private transport providers to obtain accurate information and additional logistical support.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Staff and volunteers are exposed to multiple risks, including structural collapse due to weakened infrastructure, and potential conflicts with the local community, which may arise from frustration or misunderstandings related to aid distribution. Insecurity also increases the likelihood of theft or damage to response equipment.

In addition, the context of social tensions is exacerbated by the national electoral process in August. The elections, with candidate registration in April and the possibility of a run-off in October, could lead to social unrest that directly affects operational areas, complicating logistics and security activities.

To mitigate these risks, the Bolivian Red Cross will implement specific contingency plans, continuously updated, with clear security protocols for staff and volunteers. These measures will include regular risk assessments, mandatory security training and the provision of adequate protective equipment for response teams. In addition, contingency plans will be developed for specific situations, such as delays in the delivery of supplies and security threats in intervention areas.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 194,550

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families assisted with Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) program	2,000
Number of feasibility studies developed	1
Percentage of households participating in post-distribution survey	80

Priority Actions

- * Development of a feasibility and market study.
- * Financial management through RedRose and MoneyGram for cash deliveries.
- * CVA Multipurpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) program targeting 2,000 families
- * Organization of community workshops on cash handouts and use of assistance.
- * Training in Cash and Voucher Assistance for volunteers.
- * Post-distribution survey.



Health

Budget: CHF 41,147

Targeted Persons: 7,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people receiving individual psychosocial support, including psychological first aid, by National Society staff or trained volunteers	200
Number of support meetings or psycho-educational activities organized for staff and volunteers (emotional ventilations).	10
Number of families supported through vector control interventions	1,400
Number of community awareness-raising workshops on prevention of vector-borne diseases.	7

Priority Actions

- * Procuring psychological first aid kits.
- * Providing psychological first aid care in shelters and communities returning after the flooding.
- * Delivering physical first aid care in shelters and evacuation zones.
- * Conducting refresher/training sessions for staff and volunteers on physical vector control.
- * Procuring and distributing cleaning kits for physical vector control at household and community levels.
- * Organizing community awareness and clean-up days for the physical control of vectors.
- * Facilitating emotional debrief sessions for National Society staff and volunteers involved in the response.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 74,674

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people who received personal hygiene kits, which include menstrual hygiene management.	2,000
Number of people reached with effective water treatment materials and promotion	2,000
Number of awareness sessions on hygiene promotion conducted in affected communities.	14

Priority Actions

- * Delivery of inputs for household water treatment (water purification tablets in 5,000-litre sachets).
- * Distribution of jerry cans for safe water storage.
- * Delivery of hygiene kits.
- * Community workshops on hygiene promotion, including handwashing and disease prevention.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 8,505

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Percentage of people surveyed who report they know how to provide feedback about the Red Cross activities during the emergency response	80
Percentage of people surveyed who report receiving useful and actionable information	80
Number of committee meetings and focus group discussions held with affected communities to share operation results and lessons learned	14

Priority Actions

- * Development of messages on health, hygiene, disaster prevention, and other public awareness messages.
- * Working meetings with community leaders.
- * Implementation of community feedback mechanisms (suggestion boxes).
- * Installation of banners in strategic locations (schools, markets, shops, and hospitals) with key messages on health, hygiene, and prevention.
- * Focus groups with the community to share results and lessons learned.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 88,292

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Monitoring visits	4
Surge deployed	2

Priority Actions

- * Deployment of rapid response personnel to support the implementation of the operation: 1 Operations Manager and 1 CVA Coordinator.
- * Visits by the IFRC technical team to provide technical support to the National Society.
- * Monitoring visits to the operation by IFRC CCD.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 88,075

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Lessons learned Workshop	1
Number of monitoring and technical support visits to branches carried out by the National Society's technical staff	20

Priority Actions

- * Development of refresher/training sessions for staff and volunteers on operational security and safe access.
- * Conducting monitoring visits and providing technical support from HQ to departmental and municipal branches involved in the emergency response.
- * Recruitment of three members for the technical team to implement the operation on a full-time basis.
- * Purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment to volunteers and the technical team (uniforms, hats, rubber boots, repellents, and reusable water bottles).
- * Conducting a workshop to review and reflect on lessons learned at the conclusion of the operation-
- * Purchase of three laptops to support information management and local coordination.

About Support Services

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

The operation will rely on the support of 140 Bolivian Red Cross volunteers, strategically allocated across various branches nationwide. Volunteer participation will be scheduled based on their availability, ensuring seamless rotation and continuous coverage. Furthermore, they will receive ongoing training and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to safeguard their well-being and enhance their effectiveness throughout the operation.

The following professionals will be recruited as National Society staff and will be fully dedicated to the operation:

- 1x National Coordinator - 100% (6 months): Responsible for developing operational actions, coordinating with local authorities, establishing synergies with other humanitarian organisations, developing awareness-raising processes with affected communities, managing volunteers, coordinating AVC activities, facilitating training processes for volunteers and compiling information for diagnostic and complementary processes within the framework of the CEA.
- 1x Financial Logistics Coordinator - 100% (6 months): Responsible for developing a procurement and contracting plan and preparing regular financial reports.
- 1x PMER Technician - 100% (6 months): Responsible for monitoring activities to ensure that they meet established quality standards. The role will include ensuring proper data collection and timely reporting, facilitating informed decision-making and accountability.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

1 x Operations Manager for three months will support the start-up of the operation. Its objective will be to review and reinforce security protocols, structure efficient action plans to optimise response efforts, support the National Society's technical team and volunteers in coordinating the procurement and distribution of relief items, improve coordination with local actors and oversee the implementation of emergency activities, ensuring compliance with IFRC operational guidelines and best practices.

1 x CVA Coordinator for two months responsible for the design and implementation of the cash assistance programme. Responsibilities will include reviewing and strengthening cash distribution processes and standards, supporting national coordination and operations management in organising distribution schedules, overseeing the implementation of cash distribution activities and adapting tools for post-distribution monitoring.

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

The National Society will carry out all procurement processes in strict accordance with IFRC procedures, ensuring transparency, accountability and efficiency in the management of resources. In the case of the delivery of cash assistance, the Andean CCD and the Logistics Unit of the Americas Regional Office (ARO) will support the financial management of deliveries through RedRose and MoneyGram.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Bolivian Red Cross headquarters, through its Disaster Risk Management Unit, will continuously monitor the operation to ensure its correct implementation and effectiveness. This will be achieved through periodic missions to the intervention zones to supervise the implementation of activities and ensure alignment with the response plan, verify compliance with operational plans and provide technical guidance and support to field teams as required.

The CCD for the Andean countries will provide support to the Bolivian Red Cross in administrative and operational aspects. This will include assistance in the transfer of funds, financial follow-up and support during the initial needs assessment to ensure proper data collection.

Both the Bolivian Red Cross and the CCD will continuously monitor the progress of activities, identifying areas for improvement and ensuring timely reporting on activities undertaken and financial expenditures, in compliance with the standards set by the IFRC.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

This DREF operation will adhere to the new IFRC-DREF communication protocols established by the Americas Regional Office to improve the visibility of the operation and the RCRC's services supporting the most affected populations. To achieve this, the launch of the operation will be announced on the National Society's social media channels and regular reports will be provided.

As the National Society does not currently have a communications focal point, the IFRC's regional communications team will develop a comprehensive communications strategy to effectively showcase the impact of the DREF fund and ensure adequate documentation of the operation.

Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

**MDRBO018 - Bolivian Red Cross
Bolivia: Floods**

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	318,876
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	194,550
Health	41,147
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	74,674
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	8,505
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	176,367
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	88,292
National Society Strengthening	88,075
TOTAL BUDGET	495,243

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal

25/4/2025

#V2022.01

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



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Blass Kevin Jacobo Cabrera, Presidente Cruz Roja Boliviana, presidencia@cruzrojaboliviana.org.bo

IFRC Appeal Manager: Stephen McAndrew, Head of Delegation, stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org

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

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

Media Contact: Susana Arroyo, Manager, Regional Communications, susana.arroyo@ifrc.org

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