

DREF operation



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Brazil: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBR006
GLIDE n° FL-2011-000002-BRA
18 January 2011

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is a source of un-earmarked money created by the Federation in 1985 to ensure that immediate financial support is available for Red Cross and Red Crescent emergency response. The DREF is a vital part of the International Federation's disaster response system and increases the ability of National Societies to respond to disasters.

20,000 Swiss francs has been allocated from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the Brazilian Red Cross in carrying out a needs assessment following the floods in Rio de Janeiro state. Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.



The Brazilian Red Cross undertakes a damage and needs assessment following the floods in Rio de Janeiro state. Source: *Chiran Livera / IFRC*

Summary: Heavy rains led to widespread flooding and landslides in the state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil since 12 January 2011. An estimated 13,000 persons are affected with current death toll at 500. The Brazilian Red Cross, supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are undertaking a joint-assessment of the situation and developing a plan of action in coordination with the local authorities to respond to the needs.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by April 2011; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by July 2011).

[<Click here for the DREF budget; here for contact details>](#)

The situation

Heavy rains have caused numerous landslides and overflowing of rivers in the state of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. An estimated 300mm of rain fell over a 24-hour period beginning on 12 January 2011. The

mountainous regions of Nova Frigurgo, Petropolis and Teresopolis are estimated to be the most affected followed by other surrounding areas.

The rains have caused all local rivers to overflow in the area alongside numerous landslides. Heavy seasonal rains are common in the Rio de Janeiro state of Brazil, and with this high accumulation of rainfall over a short period of time, the soil absorption capacity reached its limit. The floods and landslides have caused widespread damage, washing away houses alongside rivers and burying neighbourhoods by landslides. An estimated 10,000 persons are reported affected with 500 deaths and several hundred more missing.

Isolated communities have been unable to be contacted as forms of communication were disrupted due to infrastructure damage. Many roads have been washed away or damaged by landslides and continuous rainfall makes air access through helicopter difficult. There are also reports of damage to the agriculture sector around the affected areas.

It is anticipated that local services of electricity, water and telecommunications will be disrupted over the coming week as authorities work to restore services.

Coordination and partnerships

The Brazilian Red Cross has been in regular contact with the Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro, and the civil defence agency. Working under the coordination of the civil defence agency, relief materials are being sent to affected communities while search and rescue, first aid and evacuations are being undertaken jointly. Several other smaller non-governmental organizations have also been in contact with the Brazilian Red Cross and the branches are working together to coordinate the management and distribution of relief materials. Information has also been shared with the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Immediately following the floods and landslides, the President of the Brazilian Red Cross mobilized 16 branches of the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC) and began the coordination of relief efforts from the central office. An emergency committee has been formed to manage the relief operation. This committee is responsible for guiding the actions of the branches and coordination with the civil defence system, local and national authorities and other non-governmental organisation.

The IFRC has deployed two delegates to provide technical support to the Brazilian Red Cross in carrying out the needs assessment and development of the plan of action. The ICRC has also deployed an additional delegate to support the restoration of family links of the affected population.

The BRC branches, with a high number of volunteers mobilized, are collecting donations of food and non-food items such as cleaning products, personal hygiene materials and clothing. At the field level, these items are being distributed and Red Cross volunteers are providing first aid, transporting injured persons to medical facilities and undertaking search and rescue activities alongside the civil defence agency.

Cooperation between the Brazilian Red Cross, ICRC and the IFRC has been excellent from the beginning in providing a coordinated response to the emergency.

The needs

As the effects of the floods and landslide become clear, the Brazilian Red Cross will carry out damage and needs assessment in the affected areas. Alongside this, a comprehensive plan of action will be developed in coordination with local authorities in order to cover all gaps and avoid duplication of services. This will take into consideration the financial, human and relief resource capacity to manage an operation with support from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners.

The proposed operation

This DREF will support the deployment of a disaster response delegate from the IFRC's Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) alongside the Organization Development Coordinator from the Regional Representation for the Southern Cone and Brazil to support the Brazilian Red Cross in identifying the needs

of the affected population and developing a plan of action. It is anticipated that this assessment will be undertaken jointly between the ICRC, the Brazilian Red Cross and the IFRC. The large numbers of volunteers and vehicles that will require mobilization will be supported through this DREF as search and rescue and medical evacuation efforts are undertaken.

How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the [Code of Conduct for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO's\) in Disaster Relief](#) and the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by [Strategy 2020](#) which puts forward three strategic aims:

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace.

Contact information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

- **In Brazil:** Carmen Serra, Institutional Affairs Secretary of the Brazilian Red Cross; phone: + 55 21 2242 3720; email: carmen.serra@cvb.org.br
- **In Buenos Aires:** Gustavo Ramirez, Regional Representative for the Southern Cone and Brazil; email: gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Chiran Livera, Disaster Response delegate of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: + 507 316 1001; and fax: + 507 316 1082; email: chiran.livera@ifrc.org
- **In Panama:** Jorge Zequeira, Coordinator of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; phone: + 507 316 1001; and fax: + 507 316 1082; email: jorge.zequeira@ifrc.org
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator; phone: + 41 79 2173376; fax: + 41 22 730 0395. email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org

[<DREF budget below; click here to return to the title page>](#)

BUDGET SUMMARY

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget	TOTAL BUDGET CHF
Shelter - Relief		-
Shelter - Transitional		-
Construction - Housing		-
Construction - Facilities / Infrastructure		-
Construction - Materials		-
Clothing & Textiles		-
Food		-
Seeds & Plants		-
Water & Sanitation		-
Medical & First Aid		-
Teaching Materials		-
Utensils & Tools		-
Other Supplies & Services & Cash Disbursements		-
Total Supplies	0	0
Land & Buildings		-
Vehicles		-
Computer & Telecom		-
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment		-
Medical Equipment		-
Other Machinery & Equipment		-
Total Land, vehicles & equipment	0	0
Storage		-
Distribution & Monitoring		-
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,000	2,000
Total Transport & Storage	2,000	2,000
International Staff		-
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300	3,300
National Staff		-
National Society Staff	5,000	5,000
Other Staff benefits		-
Consultants		-
Total Personnel	8,300	8,300
Workshops & Training		-
Total Workshops & Training	0	0
Travel	7,479	7,479
Information & Public Relation		-
Office Costs		-
Communications		-
Professional Fees		-
Financial Charges	1,000	1,000
Other General Expenses		-
Total General Expenditure	8,479	8,479
Cash Transfers to National Societies		-
Cash Transfers to 3rd parties		-
Total Contributions & Transfers	0	0
Program Support	1,221	1,221
Total Programme Support	1,221	1,221
Services & Recoveries		-
Shared Services		-
Total Services	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	20,000	20,000