



BRAZIL: FLOODING

**Final Report for
DREF Bulletin
no. MDRBR001
GLIDE code:
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11 October 2007**

The Federation's mission is to improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity. It is the world's largest humanitarian organization and its millions of volunteers are active in 185 countries.

In Brief

Period covered by this Final Report: 19 January 2007 to 22 June 2007.

[Click here to go to the interim financial report](#)

- CHF 95,000 (USD 77,900 or EUR 59,097) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 19 January 2007 to respond to the needs in this operation, or to replenish disaster preparedness stocks distributed to the affected population.
- This operation was expected to be implemented over 3 months, and was completed by 19 April, 2007; a Final Report is made available three months after the end of the operation (by 19 July, 2007). Unearmarked funds to repay DREF are encouraged.

The International Federation undertakes activities that are aligned with its Global Agenda, which sets out four broad goals to meet the Federation's mission to "improve the lives of vulnerable people by mobilizing the power of humanity".

Global Agenda Goals:

- Reduce the numbers of deaths, injuries and impact from disasters.
- Reduce the number of deaths, illnesses and impact from diseases and public health emergencies.
- Increase local community, civil society and Red Cross Red Crescent capacity to address the most urgent situations of vulnerability.
- Reduce intolerance, discrimination and social exclusion and promote respect for diversity and human dignity.

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All International Federation 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 is committed to the [Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Disaster Response \(Sphere\)](#) in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable.

For longer-term programmes in this or other countries or regions, please refer to the Federation's Annual Appeal. For support to or for further information concerning Federation programmes or operations in this or other countries, or for national society profiles, please also access the Federation's website at <http://www.ifrc.org>

Background and Summary

During January 2007, heavy rains caused floods and landslides in the States of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais in Southeast Brazil, leading to the deaths of 59 people and affecting at least 200,000 people. The rains damaged homes and seriously affected the local population. According to the information from the national Civil Defence, Rio de Janeiro was the worst affected State. Most deaths were registered in the mountainous regions of Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro, where houses built in areas of risk were destroyed by landslides.

The dislodgement of mud from the Muriaé River caused severe damage to homes and caused problems with the water supply in two districts of Itaperuna. As a result of the heavy rains, in the State of Rio de Janeiro 5,697 people lost their homes and 6,143 were temporarily displaced and stayed with friends or relatives.



The State of Minas Gerais suffered from heavy rains since October 2006, which caused 18 deaths and left 80 injured. The number of people who lost their homes is 4,207 and 11,275 were temporarily displaced. Army personnel was mobilized to support Civil Defence in the cities of Pouso Alegre and Itajubá.

The Federal Government authorized an allowance of 57 million Brazilian Reales (USD 26.5 million) to support the recovery of the damages. Civil Defence and the Government's Social Protection System responded to the most urgent needs of those affected.

Floods and landslides devastated rural and urban areas in Southeast Brazil.

Source: www.interminas.com.br

After preliminary evaluations of the situation on the ground and the needs of the affected population, the National Society decided to request support from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for a total of CHF 95,000 to support the Plan of Action and respond to the needs of 750 families affected from the floods and landslides.

Coordination

The Brazilian Red Cross (BRC) maintained close contact with the local authorities and the Civil Defence in order to coordinate humanitarian relief activities and avoid duplication of efforts. Through the National Department of Relief and Disasters, the BRC also maintained contact with the Civil Defence State Coordinators in Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais on the numbers of people affected and the damage caused.

Throughout the operation, the BRC headquarters and the National Relief Department maintained regular contact and coordination with BRC branches in the affected areas.

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On request of the National Society, a Disaster Management Delegate from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) was displaced to Brazil to support the BRC and its branches in the assessment, coordination and implementation of the Plan of Action. The BRC received ongoing support from the Federation representative in Brazil, PADRU and the Regional Representation in Lima.

Analysis of the operation – achievements and impact

From the onset of the emergency, the BRC worked to support those affected by the floods and landslides through the National Society's Department for Relief and Disasters and branches located in the affected areas of the States of Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais.

The branches of the affected municipalities in the State of Rio de Janeiro responded to the disaster by carrying out search and rescue activities and transporting at-risk population to safer ground in ambulances. Branches also supported those affected by the heavy rains through the distribution of humanitarian aid – such as clothing - to shelters in coordination with Civil Defence.

The BRC Plan of Action was initially developed to respond to the needs of 750 families affected, and at the same time develop the capacities of the National Society to respond to future emergencies. These 750 families were identified in coordination with local authorities. Further detailed assessment revealed the need of hygiene items to a larger amount of families. The Plan of Action was revised in order to further respond to the needs of those affected by the floods and landslides to reach 1,500 families in total.

The Plan of Action was coordinated by the BRC National Department of Relief and Disasters and was carried out over a period of three months. Approximately 40 volunteers from the relief departments of local branches in affected areas provided invaluable support to the implementation of the operation. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member was deployed to support the National Society in implementing the Plan of Action for a period of one month.

It is important to note that the National Society, with the support of the Federation, is currently in the middle of an internal organisational development process to recover capacities that were lost during an institutional crisis that lasted a decade. The relief operation has certainly contributed to this internal process of change.

Humanitarian Relief**Objective: Humanitarian aid will be distributed to 750 families affected by the emergency.**

After further evaluations carried out by the BRC on the needs of the affected families, it became clear that there was a higher need for hygiene kits than for cleaning kits. Therefore, the original objective of providing hygiene kits and cleaning kits to 750 families was reviewed and it was decided to provide twice the number of families, 1,500 families (approximately 7,500 people), with hygiene kits in two of the most affected areas, Minas Gerais and Petropolis.

In the state branch of Minas Gerais 1,200 families were identified in the Municipality of João Monlevade and in the Municipal branch of Petropolis 300 families were identified in the neighbourhood of Alto Independencia, Municipality of São José do Vale do Rio Preto, Municipality of Arenal and the district of Posse del Municipio de Petropolis.

The purchasing of contents of the hygiene kits was delayed as the February Carnival was underway, which paralyzed most daily activities. This also delayed the distribution of the kits to affected families. The items for the kits were procured locally in Rio de Janeiro and were in accordance with the Federation's purchasing procedures. The packing of the relief items was organized at the BRC Headquarters with the assistance of BRC volunteers and were transported to the affected areas.



Above: Families affected by the floods being registered and receiving hygiene kits.
Source: Brazilian Red Cross

The hygiene kits for the 300 families located in Petropolis were transported to the local branch by means of BRC transportation. The remaining kits for the 1,200 families located in Minas Gerais were transported to the local branch, specifically contracted for this operation.

Distributions were carried out on 15 and 16 March in Minas Gerais and 15 March and 13 April in Petropolis. Volunteers from the state branches in each area supported the distributions. The distributions were successfully carried out to 1,500 families (approximately 7,500 people), who all received family hygiene kits.

The content of the hygiene kits distributed to each family of 5 people included the following:

Description	Quantity
Soap (90g)	5 units
Adult shampoo (250 ml)	2 units
Toothbrush	5 units
Toothpaste (90g)	5 units
Toilet paper (4 rolls)	3 packages
Sanitary towel (10 items)	3 packages
Disposable razor	5 units
Men's comb	1 unit
Women's comb	2 units

The distributions showed the need to strengthen BRC branch capacities, and those of the National Relief Department, to respond more effectively to possible future emergencies. This need was responded to through actions to strengthen the National Society as reflected below.

National Society capacity building

Objective: The capacity of the Brazilian Red Cross in the needs assessment and humanitarian response is increased.

In order to build the capacity of the BRC in needs assessments and humanitarian responses, a training course for National Intervention Team (NIT) members who are BRC volunteers from local branches, was held. The course aimed to develop the capacities of human resources within National Societies in logistics, relief, water and sanitation and damage and needs assessments, among others, to respond to emergencies.

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The course was carried out from 28 to 31 of March and 15 volunteers participated from the branches of Rio de Janeiro, San Paulo, Minas Gerias, Rio Grande de Sul and Mato Grosso. BRC relief personnel also participated in the course. The agenda of the course addressed all the topics of the standard Federation NIT course and was adjusted to the Brazilian reality particularly during the simulation that was carried out.

The course was coordinated by the BRC Department for Relief and Disasters and support was provided by the deployed RIT member. In addition, the Disaster Management delegate from the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Community Risk Reduction Coordinator both based in the Lima Regional Representation were also present and provided additional support.

The course proved extremely valuable in strengthening an already identified weakness within the BRC. Now the National Society counts on NIT members with increased knowledge and capacity to respond to emergencies. The same team who participated in the course formed an informal communication network to maintain contact and coordination.

Impact

- 1,500 of the most affected families saw their basic needs met through the distributions of hygiene kits, which contributed to the recovery from the effects of the floods and the resumption of their daily lives.
- The capacity of the BRC to carry out timely needs assessments and provide accurate humanitarian relief has improved and 15 volunteers of the BRC are trained to respond during future emergency operations conform Federation procedures.
- Branches that had not carried out humanitarian action of this kind for some time were activated and carried out humanitarian relief.
- Visibility was improved during the operation, strengthening the public image, through improved uniforms. This will also serve for future actions carried out by volunteers.
- The operation allowed the BRC to strengthen the role and capacity of the National Relief and Disaster Department. Furthermore, the operation also joined together a group of volunteers and opened up communication and contact with branches and in the latter case, the National Department improved communication tools such as the internet.
- The operation allowed the BRC branches to establish new and strengthen existing relations with local authorities such as local Civil Defence and those responsible for municipal social projects.
- The operation also improved the coordination between the BRC National Society and the Federation.

Constraints

- The financial crisis that the Brazilian Red Cross is facing and the resulting weakened structure and resources of the National Society meant that the response to the operation was limited. On the other hand responding to the emergency also provided an excellent opportunity to change these existing internal difficulties and develop the capacities of the BRC.
- As mentioned before, the carnival activities in Rio de Janeiro caused a delay in the purchase of the kit items, which delayed the distribution of the hygiene kits to the affected families.
- The absence of a response or contingency plan was evident and was an obstacle for work being carried out.

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- The large distances and the lack of resources, among others communication resources (phone lines were cut off), hindered the coordination.
- While relief visibility during the operation was minimal, good dissemination of the emblem on the packages was ensured during distributions.

Lessons learned

- The emergency revealed the need to strengthen the BRC capacity in disaster response at a National and branch level.
- The need for a response and contingency plan was evident during the emergency, which will contribute to regulating BRC action during future emergencies.
- The absence of a communication department and communication plan for the operation prevented the development of visibility and publicity actions. This would have been of much use for the National Society and will be taken into consideration for future actions.
- The absence of hired staff, except the coordinator of the operation, meant that the National Society could not take on all responsibility for the operation. Federation representatives played an active role to ensure the success of the operation. In future emergency situations, the National Society needs to have a stronger leadership role.
- The absence of a functioning financial structure within the National Society meant that finances were entirely managed by the Federation Representative in Brazil, which is not recommended on the long term and should be improved by strengthening financial structures.
- A number of issues were highlighted which could hinder the effectiveness of an operation. While these cannot be changed on the short term or during an operation, addressing these during planning processes could reduce sources of conflict or situations that generate stress.
- Despite the constraints, the operation allowed for increased knowledge and improved work methodologies which have left the National Society in a better position than before.

Interim financial report below;

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBR001 - BRAZIL FLOODS

Interim Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/08
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDRBR001
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Consolidated Response to Appeal

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
A. Budget		95,000				95,000
B. Opening Balance		0				0
Income						
<u>Other Income</u>						
<i>DREF Allocations</i>		95,000				95,000
C6. Other Income		95,000				95,000
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)		95,000				95,000
D. Total Funding = B + C		95,000				95,000

II. Balance of Funds

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance		0				0
C. Income		95,000				95,000
E. Expenditure		-79,346				-79,346
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)		15,654				15,654

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Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/08
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III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation		
A							B	A - B
BUDGET (C)		95,000					95,000	
Supplies								
Other Supplies & Services	30,150		24,667				24,667	5,483
Total Supplies	30,150		24,667				24,667	5,483
Transport & Storage								
Distribution & Monitoring	6,150		415				415	5,735
Transport & Vehicle Costs			15				15	-15
Total Transport & Storage	6,150		431				431	5,719
Personnel Expenditures								
International Staff Payroll Benefits	6,675		8,725				8,725	-2,050
Regionally Deployed Staff	7,317							7,317
National Staff	3,659							3,659
National Society Staff			10,333				10,333	-10,333
Total Personnel Expenditures	17,651		19,058				19,058	-1,407
Workshops & Training								
Workshops & Training	20,664		3,480				3,480	17,184
Total Workshops & Training	20,664		3,480				3,480	17,184
General Expenditure								
Travel	6,000		10,836				10,836	-4,836
Information & Public Relation	2,272		1,504				1,504	768
Office Costs	5,939		1,573				1,573	4,366
Communications			8,662				8,662	-8,662
Financial Charges			3,977				3,977	-3,977
Total General Expenditure	14,211		26,552				26,552	-12,342
Program Support								
Program Support	6,175		5,157				5,157	1,018
Total Program Support	6,175		5,157				5,157	1,018
TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)	95,000		79,346				79,346	15,654
VARIANCE (C - D)			15,654				15,654	