

# DREF operation final report



International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## Brazil: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBR004  
Glide No. FL-2008-000234-BRA  
29 October 2009

The International Federation's 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 Red Crescent response to emergencies. 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.

**Summary:** CHF 170,000 (USD 141,078 or EUR 110,924) was allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) on 3 December 2008, to support the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC) in delivering immediate assistance to some 2,000 families (approximately 10,000 people).

During the second of week of November 2008, intense rainfall affected the southern state of Santa Catarina in Brazil. Approximately 56,789 people were evacuated and 57 cities were declared in a state of emergency. With this DREF allocation the BRC distributed essential relief items including bed sheets, cleaning kits, hygiene kits and water to 2,000 families.

In addition to this DREF allocation, the BRC was able to provide 2,300 families with 2,300 kitchen stoves, 800 hygiene kits and 300 cleaning kits, thanks to the German Red Cross and the Swiss government. Each family received the same items of the same quality.



Children in the state of Santa Catarina reached through the provision of humanitarian assistance. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

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## The situation

On November 2008, intense rainfall affected the state of Santa Catarina, located in the southern region of Brazil. The constant rain caused floods and landslides in several areas directly affecting the lives of the population and the economy of the state of Santa Catarina. Several roads and bridges were damaged as well as water systems. Water treatment plants were seriously affected and the Secretary of Health reported several cases of leptospirosis. Many factories closed down as a result of the emergency. The companies had to offer their employees collective vacations in December 2008 in order for the affected people to repair their damaged houses or re-build their homes. The economy of the state of Santa Catarina is based on the textile industry, port activities, agriculture, cattle farming, fishing and tourism. All of these sectors were affected by the floods, hence increasing prices in basic food items and negatively impacting economic security.

The region, which is a high tourist attraction, experienced economic losses in the summer of 2009 due to the emergency. Many of the affected families remain in the shelters built by the municipalities while others are living with friends and relatives.

According to figures from the National Secretariat of the Civil Defence (Secretaria Nacional de Defesa Civil – SNDC) 97 cities were flooded, affecting 1.5 million people. Approximately 78,000 people were displaced, 130 people died and 7 remain missing. The most affected cities were Itajai, Blumenau, Navegantes, Luiz Alvez, Ilhota and Gaspar. National and local authorities provided financial assistance for infrastructure rehabilitation in the port city of Itajai, one of the most important in Santa Catarina. In addition, roads and bridges were repaired. The municipality of Blumenau continues building temporary shelters and houses to assist the families who lost their homes. These shelters will have individual rooms, bathrooms and shared kitchens.

## Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the emergency the BRC mobilized resources and people to collect donations to distribute to the most vulnerable people. The National Society, through its local branches, collected tonnes of clothes, food items, water and mattresses for the affected people. These donated items were sent directly to the Civil Defense where it was distributed to the people registered through surveys in the affected areas. The BRC's National Disaster Relief department with the assistance of the Brazilian Air Force completed damage and needs assessments in the areas without road access (red zones), as in the case of the city of Ilhota.



Distribution of hygiene kits in a temporary shelter in Blumenau. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

The National Society received support from the International Federation's Pan-American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) in Panama and the Regional Representation for the Southern Cone and Brazil in Buenos Aires to initiate relief response procedures and launch a DREF request. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member was deployed to assist the BRC in the relief activities. The German and Swiss government supported the BRC financially as well as the Spanish Red Cross. In addition, the German Red Cross provided financial assistance and deployed a delegate to support with the donation campaigns. The BRC National Disaster Relief department mobilized a National Intervention Team (NIT) consisting of three members. The state BRC branch of Santa Catarina including the municipal branch provided a coordinator and volunteers. The mission was coordinated by the National Disaster Relief department.

The BRC estimates that 10,000 people received assistance with support from

the local and national authorities. The operations room was structured in the BRC local branch in Navegantes for logistical purposes, since it was near the most affected communities.

Due to the needs caused by the emergency, two workshops on humanitarian assistance were held with the support of Movement partners to better prepare volunteers to assist in the operation. These workshops were held in the local branch of Navegantes. The facilitators were all involved in the emergency response (National Disaster Relief coordinator, RIT, German Red Cross delegate, NIT members and the personnel from the State branch of Santa Catarina).

The BRC procured all relief items locally in order to boost the local economy; most of the items for the kits were bought in the state of Santa Catarina. A private company from the city of Gaspar donated 2,600 plastic sacks to the BRC. The National Society obtained a loan for a warehouse in the port city of Itajai (container terminal of the Rogelio Philippi Company), without cost for the storage of the kits.

The Brazilian Red Cross strengthened its image with the population thanks to the dissemination of relief actions through all types of communications media, including national and international television networks. The local branch procured a computer which assisted them in the restructuring of the branch and having access to internet.



The Brazilian Red Cross volunteers preparing distribution lists in the state of Santa Catarina. Source: Brazilian Red Cross

## Progress towards objectives

### Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

<b>Objective: 2,000 families will benefit from the provision of hygiene and cleaning kits to recover from the effects of the floods.</b>	
<b>Expected Results</b>	<b>Activities Planned</b>
2,000 families received essential hygiene and cleaning kits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.</li> <li>• Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.</li> <li>• Obtain quotes from suppliers for relief items.</li> <li>• Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.</li> <li>• Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.</li> <li>• Workshop on Humanitarian Distribution</li> </ul>

#### Progress:

On 19 November 2008, a relief distribution workshop was conducted with the objective of training 25 BRC volunteers on the International Federation distribution standards. The workshop was conducted by the RIT member specialized in relief deployed by PADRU.

The kits were distributed in two phases due to minor delays from suppliers in delivering the items in some of the affected areas. In addition, due to the high number of beneficiaries the distribution process had to be carried out in phases.

After the identification and procurement of suppliers, the BRC completed identification of beneficiary families in coordination with the municipalities. The first phase of distribution started on 31 January 2009 in the affected cities, as reported in the last DREF Bulletin update.

The BRC distributed 2,000 cleaning and hygiene kits, 800 water filters, 4,000 sheet sets and 4,000 single sheets. The distributions were held between 5 and 20 February 2009 in the cities of Itajai, Navegantes, Blumenau, Gaspar, Luiz Alves and Ilhota (see table below).

<b>Dates</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Neighborhoods</b>	<b>No. of families</b>
5 - 6, 9 -10, 16 and 17 February	Itajai	São Vicente	278
31 January 7 February	Navegantes	Porto das Balsas Volta Grande Porto Escalvados Carvão	1,092
13 and 20, February	Blumenau	Bairro Velha (abrigos)	357
8 February	Gaspar	Belchior Baixo	36

		Sertão Verde	
8 and 15 February	Luiz Alves	Rio do Peixe Centro	189
10 and 18 February	Ilhota	Centro (abrigos)	48
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>2,000</b>

Each beneficiary family had an identification card with personal data (name, address, number of family members, gender and age). In each distribution, the card was punched to identify the date of distribution of the items. The families confirmed receipt of items by signing a document to that effect.

Each family received the following items:

- 5 single bed sheets
- 2 double bed sheets
- 1 cleaning kit (broom, rake, plastic bucket, sponge and detergent).
- 1 hygiene kit (bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, toilet paper, sanitary towels, disposable razors and combs).

In addition, 800 families who did not have access to safe drinking water received water filters:

- 1 water filter per family

### Impact:

The most vulnerable families affected by the floods received emergency relief items to satisfy their basic needs and restore human dignity. The water filters were an important component since they avoided the families' use of contaminated water.

### Challenges:

While carrying out the relief activities, the BRC faced delays due to several factors. At the end of December 2008, constant rain was still affecting the areas and since it was the holiday season most supply companies were temporarily closed. In addition, since the Brazilian territory is very extensive and there was a lack of transportation, the volunteers had difficulty in accessing the affected areas. Nevertheless, the beneficiary lists were completed thanks to the assistance of the municipal authorities. Another factor that caused delays to the operation was the change of local government at the end of 2008 since it was difficult to obtain data on the emergency.

## Conclusion

### Lessons learnt:

The meetings held between all BRC coordinators of the project before starting the relief activities were crucial for the planning process of the operation. This clearly allowed defining the steps and operational procedures that needed to be taken by all members of the team.

The BRC believes it is important to have scheduled assessments to improve the gathering of information as well as to complete a thorough evaluation at the end of the project to identify the lessons learnt. The BRC performed an audit of the operation. This helped to demonstrate to staff and BRC volunteers how to follow procedures and ensure a more coherent and efficient project.

This operation was a good learning experience for all the Brazilian Red Cross volunteers who were involved. The coordination among all actors that participated in this operation allowed optimization of resources.

## How we work

*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.*

The International Federation's activities 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.

## Contact information

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

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International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

MDRBR004 - Brazil Floods

Final Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2008/12-2009/10
Budget Timeframe	2008/12-2009/03
Appeal	MDRBR004
Budget	APPEAL

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

**I. Consolidated Response to Appeal**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
A. Budget	170,000					170,000
B. Opening Balance	0					0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Other Income</u>						
Voluntary Income	158,294					158,294
C5. Other Income	158,294					158,294
C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C5)	158,294					158,294
D. Total Funding = B + C	158,294					158,294
Appeal Coverage	93%					93%

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination	TOTAL
B. Opening Balance	0					0
C. Income	158,294					158,294
E. Expenditure	-158,294					-158,294
F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)	0					0

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MDRBR004 - Brazil Floods

Final Report

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Reporting Timeframe	2008/12-2009/10
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### III. Budget Analysis / Breakdown of Expenditure

Account Groups	Budget	Expenditure					TOTAL	Variance
		Goal 1: Disaster Management	Goal 2: Health and Care	Goal 3: Capacity Building	Goal 4: Principles and Values	Coordination		
A		B					A - B	
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>170,000</b>					<b>170,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Construction Materials		32					32	-32
Water & Sanitation		18,774					18,774	-18,774
Utensils & Tools	74,000	29,796					29,796	44,204
Other Supplies & Services	52,000	61,090					61,090	-9,090
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>109,691</b>					<b>109,691</b>	<b>16,309</b>
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage		1,332					1,332	-1,332
Distribution & Monitoring	12,850							12,850
Transport & Vehicle Costs	5,500	1,319					1,319	4,181
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>18,350</b>	<b>2,651</b>					<b>2,651</b>	<b>15,699</b>
<b>Personnel</b>								
Regionally Deployed Staff	3,300	3,302					3,302	-2
National Staff		622					622	-622
National Society Staff	4,500	18,054					18,054	-13,554
<b>Total Personnel</b>	<b>7,800</b>	<b>21,977</b>					<b>21,977</b>	<b>-14,177</b>
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	3,500	19,409					19,409	-15,909
Information & Public Relation		1,547					1,547	-1,547
Office Costs	1,200	1,638					1,638	-438
Communications	1,650	894					894	756
Financial Charges	450	-9,919					-9,919	10,369
Other General Expenses		117					117	-117
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>6,800</b>	<b>13,686</b>					<b>13,686</b>	<b>-6,886</b>
<b>Programme Support</b>								
Program Support	11,050	10,289					10,289	761
<b>Total Programme Support</b>	<b>11,050</b>	<b>10,289</b>					<b>10,289</b>	<b>761</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>170,000</b>	<b>158,294</b>					<b>158,294</b>	<b>11,706</b>
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>		<b>11,706</b>					<b>11,706</b>	