

DREF operation update



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Brazil: Floods

DREF operation n° MDRBR005
GLIDE FL-2010-000067-BRA
DREF Update n° 1
23 April 2010

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 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.

Period covered by this update: 9 April to 20 April 2010.

Summary: On 9 April 2010, **20,000 Swiss francs** (18,659 US dollars or 13,961 euro) were allocated from the Federation's Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to deploy the IFRC Regional Organizational Development Coordinator and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member to Brazil to perform initial damage and needs assessments and provide support to the Brazilian Red Cross (BRC) to respond to floods.

After the completion of damage and needs assessments, the Brazilian Red Cross drew up a plan of action to assist 3,000 families (approximately 15,000 people) with relief items. A second allocation of **162,240 Swiss francs** (152,248 US dollars or 113,145 euro) was made to support the National Society to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable families in the State of Rio de Janeiro. Thus, the total allocation for this operation is **182,240 Swiss francs** (171,016 US dollars or 127,093 euro).



Water covers the streets in the city of Rio de Janeiro due to heavy rains. Photo source: Brazilian Red Cross.

This operation is expected to be implemented over three months, and will therefore be completed by 9 July 2010; a Final Report will be made available three months after the end of the operation (by 9 October 2010).

The major donors to the DREF are the Irish, Italian, Netherlands and Norwegian governments and ECHO. Details of all donors can be found on <http://www.ifrc.org/what/disasters/responding/drs/tools/dref/donors.asp>

[<Click here to view contact details and revised budget>](#)

The situation

Since 4 April 2010 torrential rains and mudslides have severely affected the State of Rio de Janeiro. Up 19 April the National Civil Defence has reported: 256 deaths, 403 injured, 61,954 people living with family or friends, and 12,581 people sheltered in collective centres in the metropolitan region and in various neighbouring cities of the Rio de Janeiro municipality. This institution informs that more than six million people have been affected in some degree by the disaster. The following tables summarize the effects of the floods:

People living with family or friends	People in collective centre	Injured	Deaths	N° of houses damaged	N° of Houses destroyed
61,954	12,581	403	256	7,295	419

Table 1: Summary of the effects of the floods. Source: National Civil Defence. Data up to 19 April 2010.

Moreover, according to Brazilian regional authorities these are the worst floods to affect Brazil in 44 years. The State Governor declared three-days of mourning and a state of emergency, urging residents living in high-risk areas to evacuate their homes as more heavy rains are forecast which could trigger additional mudslides. The people displaced are receiving 400 Brazilian reais from the Brazilian government to rent a house, while others are being relocated to collective centres.

Furthermore, the Civil Defence has reported that measures have been taken to preserve health. Two tent hospitals have been deployed to São Gonçalo as the local health centre has collapsed in this municipality. The health authorities continue vaccinating the population against the A influenza as planned, and patients with injuries are also being vaccinated against tetanus. Nonetheless, the Municipal Civil Defence has warned of the risk of leptospirosis as the affected areas are both rural and urban.

Coordination and partnerships

The Brazilian Civil Defence is working with the support of the Brazilian Red Cross to carry out evacuations, assessments and to provide relief items to the affected population.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through its Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU) and the Regional Representation for the Southern Cone and Brazil based in Buenos Aires, has been monitoring the situation and is in constant communication with the National Society. The IFRC Regional Organizational Development Coordinator and a Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member were deployed to Rio de Janeiro to support the National Society to perform damage and needs assessments.



The municipality of São Gonçalo is located 18km from the city of Rio de Janeiro and 10km from Niterói. This municipality has been one of the most affected areas by the floods.

Red Cross and Red Crescent action

Since the beginning of the emergency, Brazilian Red Cross volunteers and search and rescue teams have been deployed to the affected areas. The assessments are being carried out in coordination with government authorities. The Brazilian Red Cross is participating in coordination meetings with the government authorities and other actors to establish the response activities.

The preliminary results from the assessments identified the following needs: kitchen utensils, mattresses, blankets, cleaning tools, hygiene items and clothing for babies.

Additionally, the Brazilian Red Cross State branch in Rio de Janeiro is receiving large quantities of in-kind items as follows: food items, personal hygiene items, clothing, mattresses and water from the civil society, religious groups and the private sector. The National Society is also channelling donated items from the Secretariat for Social Action (Secretaria de Açcao Social).

The Brazilian Red Cross State branch in Rio de Janeiro is therefore distributing food and non food items (NFI), water and clothing items to the affected people in different municipalities. Additionally, the National Society has made available a bank account to collect funds granted for the relief operations.

Progress towards objectives

This DREF operation update reflects a revised budget and an additional objective in line with the results of the evaluation assessments carried out by the National Society in coordination with the IFRC. The plan of action includes essential relief support to at least 3,000 families in the São Gonçalo municipality (Rio de Janeiro State). The IFRC continues providing support to the National Society through a RIT member in the field, a disaster management delegate in PADRU to strengthen its response capacities and a communications. Office equipment (computer) will be provided to the National Society as well to improve their response capacities during this operation.

Damage and need assessments

Objective: The Brazilian Red Cross has increased capacity to perform damage and needs assessments through the deployment of an IFRC staff and a RIT member to respond to the needs of the most vulnerable people affected by the floods and mudslides.

Activities planned:

- Conduct emergency damage and needs assessments.
- Development of a plan of action (if/as required)

Progress:

The Brazilian Red Cross, in coordination with the IFRC's Regional Organizational Development Coordinator from the Southern Cone and Brazil and a RIT member, conducted rapid assessments to evaluate the situation. The evaluation assessed the following:

- a) Identification of immediate needs and type of assistance needed;
- b) Identification of the number of people affected and most vulnerable groups;
- c) Drawing up of a plan of action (if required) to be carried out with a time frame and budget.

After the assessments were carried out in the São Gonçalo Municipality by the Brazilian Red Cross, a plan of action was developed to respond to the needs of the affected population.

The São Gonçalo Municipality is one of the worst affected areas and is sub-divided in 5 districts: São Gonçalo, Ipiíba, Monjolo, Neves and Sete Pontes. There are numerous neighbourhoods in this Municipality that to date have received little to no assistance from other organizations or institutions. Therefore, the Brazilian Red Cross has decided to focus its relief efforts in this Municipality.

The São Gonçalo municipal BRC branch has qualified volunteers to support the relief distribution activities.

Relief distributions (food and basic non-food items)

Objective: Humanitarian aid will be provided to 3,000 families (approximately 15,000 people) in the São Gonçalo Municipality to improve the lives of people who have been affected by the disaster. Three thousand kitchen kits and 1,000 cleaning kits will be distributed to the selected families.

Activities planned:

- Conduct rapid emergency needs and capacity assessments.
- Develop beneficiary targeting strategy and registration system to deliver intended assistance.
- Procure relief items
- Prepare cleaning kits
- Distribute relief supplies and control supply movements from point of dispatch to end user.
- Monitor and evaluate the relief activities and provide reporting on relief distributions.

The plan of action aims to reach 3,000 families (approximately 15,000 people). The following criteria have been used to select beneficiaries:

- Affected families from the Municipality of São Gonçalo who have not received assistance through other organizations.
- Affected families with a large number of children.
- Single-parent families with children.
- Families with elderly persons.

The relief kits will include the following items:

Kitchen Kit	
Pot (capacity of 7 litres)	1
Frying pan (used as a cover for the 7 litres pot)	1
Pot with cover (capacity of 5 litres)	1
Bowl (capacity of 1 litre)	5
Plates (capacity of 0.75 litres)	5
Pitchers (capacity of 0.33 litres)	5
Spoons	5
Forks	5
Knives	5
Kitchen knife (15cm)	1
Wooden spoon (30cm)	1
Scouring pad	1

The kitchen kits will be shipped from the IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit in Panama whilst the other items will be locally procured.

Cleaning Kit	
Broom	1
Dust pan	1
Mop	1
Bucket	1
Jerry can (capacity of 5 litres)	2

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

The International Federation'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 International Federation'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:** Brazilian Red Cross, Fernando da Costa, Relief Director; phone: 55 2196114996; email: costarecue@yahoo.com.br.
- **In Buenos Aires:** Gustavo Ramirez, Regional Representative for the Southern Cone and Brazil; email: gustavo.ramirez@ifrc.org.

- **In Panama:** Fernando Bendeck, Disaster Response delegate of the Pan American Disaster Response Unit; email: fernando.bendeck@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 316 1001; mobile: (507) 6671 8834; fax: (507) 316 1082.
- **In Panama:** Maria Alcázar, Resource Mobilization Coordinator for the Americas; email: maria.alcazar@ifrc.org; phone: (507) 380 0250; fax: (507) 317 1304.
- **In Geneva:** Pablo Medina, Operations Coordinator; email: pablo.medina@ifrc.org; phone: (41) 79 2173376; fax: (41) 22 730 0395.

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

DREF OPERATION BUDGET SUMMARY
BRAZIL FLOODS

Annex I
MDRBR005

BUDGET CHF

RELIEF NEEDS

Shelter	
Construction Materials	
Clothing & Textiles	
Food	
Seeds & Plants	
Water & Sanitation	
Medical & First Aid	
Teaching Materials	
Utensils & Tools	88,754
Other Supplies & Services	23,963
Total Relief Needs	112,717

CAPITAL EQUIPMENT

Land & Buildings	
Vehicles Purchase	
Computers & Telecom Equipment	3,600
Office/Household Furniture & Equip.	
Medical Equipment	
Other Machinery & Equipment	

TRANSPORT, STORAGE & VEHICLES

Storage - Warehouse	528
Distribution & Monitoring	4,200
Transport & Vehicles Costs	5,557
Service fee & Recovery	4,000

PERSONNEL

International Staff	-
Regionally Deployed Staff	11,094
National Staff	-
National Society Staff	7,238
Consultants	

WORKSHOPS & TRAINING

Workshops & Training	-
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GENERAL EXPENSES

Travel	13,937
Information & Public Relations	850
Office running costs	634
Communication Costs	792
Professional Fees	3,170
Financial Charges	2,077
Other General Expenses	

PROGRAMME SUPPORT

Programme Support - PSR	11,846
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Total Operational Needs **69,523**

DREF ALLOCATION **182,240**
