



## CHILE: FLOODS

**Final Report for  
DREF Bulletin  
no. MDRCL001  
GLIDE no.  
FL-2006-000086-CHL  
19 June 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: 14 July to 14 November 2006.

History of this Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF)-funded operation:

- CHF 130,000 (USD 105,285 or EUR 83,216) was allocated from the Federations DREF on 14 July 2006 to respond to the needs of this operation.
- This operation was implemented over a four month period, and was completed by 14 November 2006.
- The final report was due on 14 February 2007.

[Click here to go directly to the Final Financial report](#)

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

The strong rains and gusty winds that affected 7 of the 13 regions of Chile called for the declaration of a Yellow Alert in five Regions and a Red Alert in two – the VIII and the IX Regions, which were declared “disaster zone” and “agricultural disaster zone”, respectively by the nation's President.

While normally during winter the rainfall in the VIII region is around 100 millimetres, the strong frontal system generated more than 654 millimetres of rain within 24 hours. Most of the rain was reported in the VIII region, although rain intensity was also strong in the VII, IX and V regions. A minor intensity was reported in the Metropolitan region. All the Regions were monitored by early warning systems with the support of the Civil Protection in anticipation of needs arising from the rains.

The bad weather caused the death of 22 people, among which a police officer and three firemen. The railway service was interrupted in three regions; sewage systems collapsed in the VII, IX and X regions; septic tanks in rural sectors overflowed and electrical power was shut-down in the urban sectors of the regions VI, VII, VIII and the Metropolitan Region.

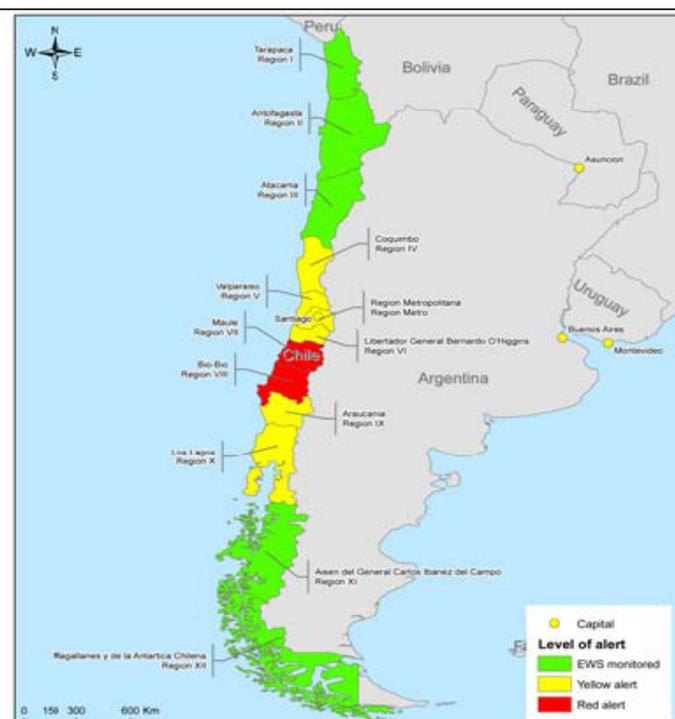
The Los Libertadores international road – which joins Argentina and Chile - was closed for more than 48 hours due to snow-coverage and obstructions caused by land slides in the V, VI, VII, VIII, IX and Metropolitan regions. Due to this situation 1,900 people (around 600 families) were isolated in the Alto Bío Bío community in the VIII region and around 11,749 people (around 3,316 families) were isolated in the mountain range and coastal zones of the IX region.

In relation to overflowing of rivers, canals and deltas the following was reported:

- The overflowing of one river affected at least three communities in the VI region,
- Another river that burst its banks affected one community in the VII region.
- The overflowing of three deltas affected 10 populations in three communities of the VIII region
- The overflowing of seven canals affected eight populations in seven communities of the VIII region
- The overflowing of 11 rivers affected 19 populations in 11 communities of VIII the region.

The table below summarizes the total amount of affected people:

Region	Affected people	Severely affected People	People in shelter	Isolated people	Houses with minor damage	Houses with major damage	Destroyed houses
V Region		1,717	24		835	319	17



VI Region	13,404	1,448	142		928	136	22
VII Region	6,737	3,703	124		901	43	16
VIII Region	291,397	51,206	3,158		33,077	2,334	600
IX Region	64	3,547	319	11,749	1,179	639	6
Metropolitan Region	5,135	795			1,231	23	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>316,737</b>	<b>62,416</b>	<b>3,767</b>	<b>11,749</b>	<b>38,151</b>	<b>3,494</b>	<b>664</b>

## Coordination

The National relief department of the Chilean Red Cross (CRC) is part of the National Emergency Committee (Comité de Emergencia -COE), through which all emergency responses were coordinated. Simultaneously, the Chilean Red Cross developed the National Humanitarian Aid Plan based on the needs assessments and reinforced the emergency response with their volunteers. In order to coordinate relief activities within the different technical departments of the Chilean Red Cross, regular meetings were held with the President of this National Society, the Directors of the operational, administrative and communicative areas and the Executive Directorate.

The Chilean Red Cross received an official validation from the President of the Chilean Republic, and the Director of the National Office of Emergencies (ONEMI), indicating that the National Society was the only officially recognized institution to store and distribute humanitarian aid items and support the needs assessments in the affected areas. From the onset of the emergency, the CRC has also been in close contact with the Federation's Regional Delegation in Lima and the Pan American Disaster Response Unit through the Disaster Management delegate based in Lima.



**Floods in Temuco, IX Region**



**Floods in Concepción, VIII Region**

## Analysis of the operation – achievements and impact

The Chilean Red Cross immediately mobilized more than 300 volunteers within the affected regions. 10 volunteers from other regions in the country specialized in education, health, shelters and damage assessments were deployed to the VIII Region in order to support and strengthen the response actions in the field. A total of 520 volunteers contributed directly and indirectly to the successful completion of this operation.

The needs assessments carried out by the CRC local branches revealed even more affected communities than the official figures of the government demonstrated. Without these needs assessments many affected communities would not have received the much needed humanitarian assistance. The CRC changed the initial Plan of Action in order to include these localities. The operation was based on three pillars:

1. **Relief:** Because of the developing nature of the emergency and the fact that the government distributed small stoves, mattresses, camp beds and roof covers it was decided that CRC would address the other major needs such as food and hygiene.
2. **Health:** The outbreak of waterborne diseases was closely monitored by the CRC National Directorate of Health (Dirección Nacional de Salud) because of the flooding and the low temperature.
3. **Operational assistance and logistics:** The nature and the large scope of the emergency revealed the need to strengthen the CRC distribution capacity. A Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member specialized in logistics was therefore deployed to the affected area to assist the CRC with the distribution activities and to strengthen the capacity of the CRC in matters of warehousing and logistics. The deployed RIT and two CRC staff members organized a logistics and warehousing workshop for CRC volunteers. In addition, PADRU also deployed the Disaster Management delegate based in the regional office in Lima to the affected area to support the CRC.

DREF funding was allocated for distribution of food and non food items for 2,000 families in the VIII and IX regions (1,000 in each region). In addition the DREF funds also covered the deployment of the RIT specialized in logistics.

The CRC launched a national appeal since the onset of the emergency and received a large number of contributions, both financial and in-kind. Four tons of humanitarian aid was sent to the VIII Region of Bío Bío, mainly clothing, diapers, shoes and food.

It is important to mention that 1,497 families in the VIII region and 200 families in the IX region received immediate humanitarian aid from the CRC thanks to the pre-positioned stock in the CRC warehouse. In combination with the 2,000 families assisted with DREF funding and some other private donations, the CRC provided immediate relief assistance to a total number of **3,697 families (approximately 18,485 persons)**. This number corresponds to 4.7 percent of the total affected families.



**Affected persons in Concepción, VIII Region**



**Obstructed roads caused by landslides in VIII region**

On 17 July a meeting was held in CRC Headquarters between the Federation's Disaster Management delegate, the RIT member in the field, the President, Vice President and Second Vice President of CRC, the National Relief Director, the head of the Disaster Intervention Programme and ONEMI personnel in order to review and coordinate the CRC plan of action as well as to address issues concerning airport customs, transportation of goods aboard Chilean Army trucks and re-assessment of the affected areas.

A chartered flight financed with DREF funds was dispatched from PADRU carrying 2,000 hygiene kits and visibility material. The goods arrived in Chile on 18 July, were loaded onto trucks provided by the army and on that same day to the VIII and IX Region, specifically to the cities of Concepción (Capital of Bío Bío - VIII Region) and Temuco (Capital of Araucanía – IX Region), where distributions were being handled.

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The contents of 800 food kits financed with DREF funds were procured locally, and were received at the main warehouse in Santiago. After they were assembled, the parcels were dispatched to the VIII and IX Regions, along with clothing, shoes and chlorine on Tuesday 25 July.

Distribution of goods was re-scheduled and coordinated by local authorities and CRC personnel in the city of Concepción. Distributions within the VIII Region took place in Alto Bío Bío, Curanilahue and Hualqui.

In Alto Bío Bío the kits were transported to the community of Los Ángeles and from there by helicopter to Los Andes mountain range, from where the goods were dispatched in five flights (one per day) to the communities of Trapa Trapa, Pitril and Butalebun. Two groups of volunteers were mobilized to Hualqui and Curanilahue, where assistance was distributed to different communities.

On Friday 21 July the RIT, CRC personnel and volunteers travelled to Temuco, capital of Araucanía, IX Region, to continue with the distributions. Dispatch of the relief items to the Branches started on the following day. The National Relief Director and the head of the Disaster Intervention Programme went to Lonquimay to meet with local authorities in order to coordinate distributions to communities located in the Andes and that are difficult to access due to the snow.

Donations such as clothing, blankets, food, coal, chlorine, diapers and shoes were received, sorted and distributed from the Chilean Red Cross offices in Santiago and Branches in the affected areas. CRC headquarters sent a truck loaded with humanitarian relief (clothing, chlorine and diapers) to the affected area, which was distributed in the VIII and IX regions through the CRC Branches.

The table below corresponds to the total delivery of humanitarian aid done through DREF finds. 2,000 hygiene kits and 800 food kits were financed with DREF funds. Thanks to private donations from the communities and a supermarket, it was possible to distribute a total amount of 1,244 food kits as well.



**Distribution of hygiene kits in the VIII region**

City and Region	Community / village	Families
Bío Bío, VIII region	Trapa Trapa	224
Bío Bío, VIII region	Potril	82
Bío Bío, VIII region	Butalebun	294
Concepción, VIII region	Hualqui	200
Arauco, VIII region	Curanilahue	200
Malleco, IX region	Collipulli	30
Malleco, IX region	Lonquimay	100
Malleco, IX region	Curacautín	60
Cautín, IX region	Malipeuco	70
Cautín, IX region	Carahue	100
Cautín, IX region	Currarehue	30
Cautín, IX region	Toltén	100
Cautín, IX region	Teodoro Schmidt	100
Cautín, IX region	Nueva Imperial	100
Cautín, IX region	Galvarino	55
Cautín, IX region	Chol Chol	30
Cautín, IX region	Temuco	100
Cautín, IX region	Vilcún	35
Cautín, IX region	Puerto Saavedra	50

Cautín, IX region	Lautaro	40
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2.000</b>

### Impact

3,697 families saw their basic needs met through the timely distribution of relief items such as hygiene kits and/or food kits. Activities within the Plan of Action had a significantly wider reach thanks to pre-positioned stock in the CRC warehouses and private donations from the community and a supermarket branch.

The implementation of the operation and the distribution of humanitarian aid in isolated zones under extreme conditions certainly strengthened the credibility and visibility of CRC within the affected communities and the system of civil defence. As it was the first time that the National Society faced an emergency of this scope, it allowed the CRC to test and strengthen their ability to effectively use the response platform of the International Federation of the Red Cross. The operation and the deployment of a RIT specialized in logistics strengthened the overall internal capacity of the CRC.

The official validation from the highest authorities of the country was very valuable in terms of recognition and visibility of the CRC's work. Although the CRC has always been part of the National Emergency Committee, it was the first time that a President of the Republic publicly acknowledged the National Society's response to an emergency.

Through the involvement in the operation the capacity of the local branches was strengthened, thereby enhancing the possibility to provide permanent communitarian work in Disaster Preparedness. In that case further capacity strengthening proved to be necessary.

### Constraints

Some of the most significant constraints were the weather and the long distances that had to be travelled through roads obstructed by snow and landslides.

The operation revealed constraints in communication with the Regional System of Civil Defence and in the CRC capacity in matters of logistics, warehousing and need assessments, as well as a lack in activities in disaster preparedness. Considering the fact that it was the first time that an operation of this scope took place, it has become evident that the communication channels with the Regional System of Civil Defence needs to be improved. Furthermore there is an urgent need to strengthen and scale up the capacity of the volunteers in matters of logistic, warehousing, needs assessment and evaluations in emergencies. In addition, constant awareness-raising is necessary at the political level as regards preventive and necessary actions before an emergency.

### Lessons learned

The operation proved once more the strength of the local branches. Without the needs assessments of the local branches, many affected communities would have been without humanitarian aid, as the needs assessment of the governmental authorities underestimated the extent to which people and communities were affected.

The emergency revealed the need to update the Emergency and Contingency Plans in preparation for emergencies such as these, which will allow for a faster response.

In order to develop an effective plan of action the process of information sharing between the different CRC departments involved in the emergency response needs to improve. Furthermore, knowledge and experience about DREF as a Federation emergency response tool needs to be disseminated within the CRC and his local branches.

Finally, it is also necessary that the governmental level gains more knowledge about the emergency response capacity of the Chilean Red Cross and the tools of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society.

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*[Final financial report below](#)*

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRCL001 - CHILE - FLOODS

Final Financial Report

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/4
Budget Timeframe	2006/1-2007/12
Appeal	MDRCL001
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
<b>A. Budget</b>		130,000				130,000
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>Income</b>						
<u>Reallocations (within appeal or from/to another appeal)</u>						
<i>DREF</i>		130,000				130,000
<i>C3. Reallocations (within appeal or</i>		130,000				130,000
<b>C. Total Income = SUM(C1..C6)</b>		130,000				130,000
<b>D. Total Funding = B + C</b>		130,000				130,000

**II. Balance of Funds**

	Health & Care	Disaster Management	Humanitarian Values	Organisational Development	Coordination & Implementation	TOTAL
<b>B. Opening Balance</b>		0				0
<b>C. Income</b>		130,000				130,000
<b>E. Expenditure</b>		-130,000				-130,000
<b>F. Closing Balance = (B + C + E)</b>		0				0

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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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
<b>BUDGET (C)</b>		<b>130,000</b>					<b>130,000</b>	
<b>Supplies</b>								
Clothing & textiles	233		232			232	0	
Food	14,297		14,297			14,297	0	
Other Supplies & Services	50,502		50,502			50,502	0	
<b>Total Supplies</b>	<b>65,031</b>		<b>65,031</b>			<b>65,031</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Transport &amp; Storage</b>								
Storage	706		706			706	0	
Distribution & Monitoring	33,957		33,957			33,957	0	
Transport & Vehicle Costs	1,303		1,303			1,303	0	
<b>Total Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>35,966</b>		<b>35,966</b>			<b>35,966</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Personnel Expenditures</b>								
National Staff	1,850		1,850			1,850	0	
National Society Staff	2,330		2,330			2,330	0	
<b>Total Personnel Expenditures</b>	<b>4,180</b>		<b>4,180</b>			<b>4,180</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>General Expenditure</b>								
Travel	7,777		7,777			7,777	0	
Information & Public Relation	1,487		1,487			1,487	0	
Office Costs	215		215			215	0	
Communications	6,408		6,408			6,408	0	
Professional Fees	31		31			31	0	
Financial Charges	455		455			455	0	
<b>Total General Expenditure</b>	<b>16,373</b>		<b>16,373</b>			<b>16,373</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>Program Support</b>								
Program Support	8,450		8,450			8,450	-0	
<b>Total Program Support</b>	<b>8,450</b>		<b>8,450</b>			<b>8,450</b>	<b>-0</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE (D)</b>	<b>130,000</b>		<b>130,000</b>			<b>130,000</b>	<b>0</b>	
<b>VARIANCE (C - D)</b>			<b>0</b>			<b>0</b>		

**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies**

MDRCL001 - CHILE - FLOODS

Selected Parameters	
Reporting Timeframe	2006/1-2007/4
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**IV. Project Details**

Project	Name	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing Balance	Budget	Variance
		A	B	C	A + B + C	D	D - C
<b>Disaster Management</b>							
PCL001	Floods 2006	0	130,000	-130,000	0	130,000	0
<b>Sub-Total Disaster Management</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>-130,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>CHILE - FLOODS</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>-130,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>130,000</b>	<b>0</b>