

Delivery of Water and Survival Kits in the north of Salta

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Report prepared by:	Cristian David Bolado, Director of Emergency and Disasters Response of Argentine Red Cross.		
Operation:	DREF due to floods in Salta, Argentina.		

Summary of the emergency situation

The rains produced during the night of January 31st, 2018 in Salta, with accumulated water exceeding 200 millimeters, and the contribution of water to the Pilcomayo River derived from leaks in the border towns of Bolivia, by a fissure in the structure of the Chimeo dam, in Villamontes, caused floods that affected mainly the north of the Province of Salta and specifically the municipality of Santa Victoria Este, a border area with Bolivia and Paraguay, overcoming widely (and historically) the corresponding levels of Warning and Evacuation, generating different degrees of flooding, damages caused by waterlogging, landslides, impassable routes, uncovering of a gas pipeline, interruption of basic services, among other inconveniences.

The increase of the Pilcomayo River (which reached its maximum peak of 7.32 meters, marking a historical record in 45 years) caused the flooding of the communities of native peoples that were located on the coastline (mostly indigenous peoples Wichi, Chorote, Toba and Tapiete, as well as Creole communities).

More than 17,000 people were affected by the situation that forced thousands of people to evacuate and self-evacuate, as well as others who were isolated and without communication.

The Province declared on 9 February the state of hydric, road, sanitary and social emergency in the Departments of Santa Victoria, Iruya, Orán, General San Martín and Rivadavia, for a term of one hundred and twenty (120) days.

In the first phase of the emergency, there were roadblocks and access difficulties due to the state of the roads. There was total and partial damage to housing and loss of habitat in general in terms of water and sanitation (further complicating the situation of deep structural vulnerability of these families and projecting a complicated return to their homes). Family farming, the raising of animals (goats, sheep and pigs mainly) and subsistence fishing, characteristic of the native and creole communities of the area, have also been affected in a high percentage.

The conditions of the temporary lodgings enabled in the first phase of emergency were very precarious and did not meet the international minimum standards (Sphere), being among the main problems: overcrowding, lack of adequate sanitation, separation of families derived to different centers (loss of family contacts), registration of minor injuries, health problems (mainly hypertension, dehydration and diarrhea), among others. These conditions deepened, in turn, different reactions at the individual, family and community levels of anguish, insecurity and stress.

Until the end of February, more than 300 people continued to be self-evacuated and evacuated. The first days of March 2018 new floods were registered in the area, making the return home difficult as well as the tasks of humanitarian organizations in the area.

Communication with Worldwaterworks Limited

On February 5th, an email was received from the Director of Operations of Worldwaterworks Ltd - Rotary Water-Survival Box Project, Hugo Pike, in which he offered support through 200 Water and Survival Kits without a cost, to attend the emergency in Chaco. Due to the situation registered in Salta (Argentina), a more serious and urgent situation than that registered in Chaco, the Argentine Red Cross asked the Director of Operations of Worldwaterworks Ltd to donate the KITs but to be sent to the north of Salta.

Logistics Chain

- At the end of February the 200, survival kits were correctly received; The security controls of the airport were passed without problems, and there was no damage or unforeseen issues in the handling of the merchandise. Argentine Red Cross covered the costs of handling products at the airport (approximately U\$S 1,600 dollars).
- On March 7th, the shipment was sent to Salta (more than 1,500 km from the airport) and on the 9th they arrived at our local warehouse. Salta is 400 kilometers away from the affected area.
- At the beginning of March, a training on the use of water filters for the family was given to the Red Cross staff who made the deliveries.
- In the framework of Red Cross actions in the field, the beneficiaries of the actions were identified during the month of February and March, and among them were those who received the Survival Kits.
- Initially, delivery was scheduled for the second week of March, but due to the new flooding, land access and shipment of KITs became difficult, which delayed delivery until the last week of March.

KITs delivery

On March 29th, 30th and 31st, Argentine Red Cross carried out a large delivery of humanitarian aid that included Cleaning Kits, Hygiene Kits, Family Water Filters and Survival Kits, reaching 15 communities in total.

The delivery consisted of:

197 Survival Kits.

409 Cleaning Kits.

409 Personal Hygiene Kits.

247 family water filters.

Thanks to the contribution of the Water and Survival Kits, it was possible to reach a greater number of

beneficiaries with the strategy initially proposed by Red Cross, since the available relief resources were better distributed.

The articles that the Water and Survival KIT had were very useful. First, the purifier and the jerrycan, helped the communities count on safe and easily accessible water immediately. Also, the tools and hardware items of the kit helped a great deal; with them, the families were able to improve the structures of their shelters and complement the assembly with other materials received by the government. In addition, the elements of personal hygiene served both beneficiary families and Red Cross volunteers when facilitating workshops on healthy habits and good practices.

During the delivery of the Water and Survival Kits, Red Cross volunteers made the registration of corresponding beneficiaries, while explaining to the people the contents of each box and the correct use of each item.

Survival KITs were delivered to the following communities of indigenous peoples:

- La Curvita
- El Cruce
- El Cruce II
- Padre Col Nuevo
- Padre Col Viejo
- Mekle