

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE HUMANITARIAN/RESIDENT COORDINATOR ON THE USE OF CERF GRANTS

Country	Bolivia
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Reporting Period	2007

I. Executive Summary

The extreme weather events that accompany the El Niño Phenomenon peaked in Bolivia in February and March 2007. These include extreme climatic events, which had resulted in river overflows, droughts, hail, freeze, strong winds, mudslides, and landslides. These events affected all nine departments in Bolivia, affecting around 100,000 families (500,000 people) as of the end of April.

At one point some 30.000 people were displaced and in need of shelter, food, medical attention and protection. More than 100,000 people received immediate humanitarian assistance. There were also communities, which were isolated due to damaged, blocked or flooded roads, complicating humanitarian response.

One of the worst effects was the loss of income. Floods, hail and freeze arrived just before harvest, meaning that many families lost their basic food crops and livestock or their source of work as hand labour because of flooded fields.

Early in the year, national, departmental and municipal authorities responded to the emergencies using their own structure and resources, but soon they were exhausted.

In April 2007, an Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) assessment mission estimated that more than 400,000 hectares of cultivated area had been damaged or lost affecting the food security of thousands of subsistence farmers. Thousands of rural communities that lost all their crops did not have sufficient seeds for the next sowing season. A CEPAL mission calculated that total losses were 450 million dollars and resulted in a fall of one point in the growth of the GIP. Another 140,000 cows died because of the floods, lack of food and sanitary problems.

Thousands of cattle and other species were impacted in varying degrees by the floods, lack of food and sanitation. More than 140.000 cattle, 7.000 horses were lost. Total losses of grasslands, fences, machinery and equipment amounted to \$ 13.7 million.

For those with herds below 100 head, losing cattle implied the loss of a rapidly interchangeable productive asset, a saving and a source of protein. Cattle that did not die but were overexposed to excess water, stress and lack of food (in some cases for several weeks) emerged vulnerable to diseases, not only micotic, but also to foot-and-mouth disease, asymptomatic rabies and carnbuncle. ECLAC estimated a total amount of losses and damages of \$450 million, representing a 1.7 percent loss of the GDP.

The humanitarian response in Bolivia was provided under difficult conditions of access to communities and a high degree of dispersion, especially in Beni Department. As reference, it is important to note that nine million Bolivians inhabit an area of 1,098,581 square kilometres. Sixty percent of the population is concentrated in cities while 40 percent live in the rural areas.

CERF funds were requested to jump-start key life-saving projects listed in the Bolivia "El Nino Phenomenon" Flash Appeal published by OCHA, on 22 February 2007. Immediate humanitarian needs were included in the request.

Total amount of humanitarian funding required and received (per reporting year)	Required: Received:	\$ 14.3 \$ 7.9 r		
Total amount of CERF funding received by funding window	Rapid Respons	se: \$ 2 mi		
Total amount of CERF funding for direct UN agency/IOM implementation and total amount forwarded to implementing partners	Total UN agend	cies/IOM: \$2 mi	llion	
Approximate total number of beneficiaries reached with CERF funding	Households Total	under 5 years of age and from 5 to 18 years	Households Female (If available)	Households Male (If available)
(disaggregated by sex/age if possible)	110.735	16.423 – 38.587	28.578	27.147
Geographic areas of implementation	Beni, Santa Cru	ız, Cochabamba, Pa	ando and Tarija [Departments

II. Coordination and Partnership-building

Priority geographical areas and needs were identified through initial assessments carried out by the government, UN agencies and NGOs.

UN agencies supported the government working groups assessing needs and providing assistance.

National and Departmental Emergency Operation Centres (COE's) were the government channels for the decision making process, from where the UN Agencies collected information for their operations.

Further joint in-depth evaluations were carried out with the Government in concert with specialized agencies such us WFP, FAO and UNDP.

For instance, WFP carried out an Emergency Food Security Assessment (EFSA), an in-depth survey to identify the most food insecure families and to provide key food security and nutrition baseline information. The EFSA confirmed that approximately 18,000 families were in need of food assistance until the affected families recover their main food and income source, which for most of them was the next agricultural harvest in April 2008.

The UN Agencies supported the Government in coordinating the assessments and the response at national and departmental levels, immediately responding with the agencies' available stocks. The UNETT (UN Emergency Technical Team) was at the centre of the coordination efforts among the UN agencies, NGOs and the international community. The government adopted a similar coordination structure with six sectoral working groups. Each group assessed the impact and needs that later could be supported by the humanitarian actors. At national level UNETT, NGOs and government held daily meeting during the initial crisis, and weekly for the first few weeks to monitor all emergency activities, including those funded by CERF.

A department-level UNETT was organized in Beni due to the weak response capacities and a tense political situation. On one hand, the national government appointed a Military Transitional Command (CUT) in Trinidad to implement all the response activities. On the other hand, the Prefecture of Beni organized the Emergency Operation Centre (COE) with local institutions with the same objectives. This Departmental UNETT served as a buffer and enabled both, CUT and departmental authorities, to provide efficient aid despite of their differences.

Prompt coordination between UN agencies through the interagency UNETT mechanism led to the production of an immediate draft of the Flash Appeal and related CERF request.

(a) Partnerships

Joint efforts were implemented among UN Agencies. For example, UNICEF complemented WFP ration with the inclusion of nutritional biscuits for children under five. UNICEF, UNDP, WFP, UNFPA and PAHO/WHO combined efforts to provide integral assistance to shelters.

NGOs played an important role implementing activities in most of the humanitarian sectors. Participating NGO's were PLAN International, Action Aid, World Vision, OXFAM, CARITAS, Solidaridad Médica Canaria, Samaritan's Purse, Sumaj Huasi, Fundación La Paz, and CIES.

The added value of NGOs was their in-depth knowledge of the affected population in the particular geographical areas, multisectorial expertise and installed capacity. For example, Solidaridad Médica Canaria and CARITAS ensured that health assistance was provided to the neediest populations in very isolated communities along the riversides.

NGOs implemented several UN activities including those financed by CERF funds. The partnership with NGOs allowed to increase the impact of the interventions by joining resources and efforts. For instance, WFP signed Letters of Understanding (LOUs) with PLAN International, Action Aid, and World Vision to implement its operation. While WFP provided food, the NGOs provided technical assistance, training and non-food items such as seeds, construction materials, etc.

National capacities were enhanced by UNICEF, UNFPA and PAHO/WHO implementing all health related activities through the Departmental Service of Health (SEDES). Meanwhile UNDP supported the overall coordination with de National Civil Defense and the Prefectures of Beni and Santa Cruz. WFP food management and distribution were also carried out by Departmental specialized units (DRIPAD). FAO implemented its support through the Ministry of Agriculture (MDRAyMA), Prefecture of Beni, Cattle Associations of Beni and Pando, and the National Service of Agricultural Sanity and Food Safety (SENASAG). Operational co-operation from SENASAG was lower than compromised.

(b) Prioritization process

The prioritization process was carried out within the UNETT and the Emergency Operation Centres at national and departmental levels, based on life saving needs and the results of the assessments described above.

Based on these criteria the prioritized sectors were:

- Shelters
- Food and Nutrition
- Health
- Water and Sanitation
- Protection and Education
- Agriculture

III. Implementation and Results

Due to the nature of the intervention with CERF funds –very short period of time and life saving activitiesit is not possible to measure effects. Therefore, this report provides specific outputs information obtained by the different participating agencies. Table in Section V provides detailed information on the results achieved.

Food and Nutrition: Interventions allowed an adequate food intake of affected population. 3,245 metric tons¹ of food was distributed to mention 100,731 persons, along with supplemental food delivered to children under the age of five in more than 400 communities. No significant increase of children acute malnutrition was reported. Capacities to respond with food aid were strengthened and created; in the case of Beni Department, the Government created a Unit (DRIPAD) to manage and distributed food provided with CERF funds trough WFP. DRIPAD staff was trained by WFP. UNICEF helped more than 4,010 children under 2 years through supplemental feeding, thus preventing by 60 percent child acute malnutrition in the affected communities. Some 250 doctors and nurses were also trained in nutritional surveillance.

In the health sector, CERF-funded programmes helped reduce illnesses in the affected population. Activities included distribution of medicines, strengthening of emergency health situation rooms improving coordination among health actors. In mental health management, 250 persons were trained to assess and implement activities to support families in crisis. Different tools and materials were produced for this purpose. Regarding sexual and reproductive health a survey was carried out in shelters to provide relevant information, awareness workshops, materials and equipment were provided to health staff, university students and the Army. Distribution of safe childbirth kits, condoms, contraceptive pills, and complete treatment kits for sexual violence cases.

More than 3,000 families, including 9,000 children, have received ceramic filters, which converted polluted river and pond water into safe water. Filters were distributed along with training on its use and maintenance. One-thousand families were provided with adequate access to excreta disposal and hand washing means. In addition, 325 schoolchildren benefited from hygiene kits. Water quality has permanently been followed up as well as many epidemiological indicators. Training, tools and materials were provided to support these activities. The capacity of the water laboratory of the Departmental Health Service (SEDES) was improved.

Child rights were promoted and child rights violation prevented through the establishment of a Child Defence Office in the main temporary shelter in the city of Trinidad. Psychosocial recreational and learning support activities were provided to 10,000 affected children. In addition, 60 high-ranking military officers were trained on child rights and prevention of sexual commercial violence in emergency settings. Sixty members of NGOs, Government institutions, private enterprises and media were sensitized on sexual commercial violence.

Some 16,000 schoolchildren received knap sacks with essential school supplies, 190 schools received materials and tents, and 300 sport and recreation kits were distributed, facilitating the immediate start of classes.

Some 1.373 families in temporary shelters were assisted with tents, sheets, mattresses and mosquito nets in Beni and Santa Cruz Departments.

- 65.890 animals were vaccinated, de-wormed, and received vitamins, thus benefiting 1.452 cattle growers in 252 rural communities and 553 private properties) located in 17 municipalities of the 8 provinces of the department of the Beni.
- 1.452 small cattle growers received information about vaccines and other medicines
- A record of small breeders was prepared and updated.

In general, most of the agencies have used CERF funds to provide technical assistance to the COEs. Sector-specialized consultants have provided guidance and advice to COE members, sectoral commissions, and field agencies and staff.

¹ This tonnage involves food purchased with CERF and other funds received by WFP.

Rapid Response projects

Existing staff and additional consultants were mobilized to the field to follow up on the implementation of the activities. Each agency implemented specific monitoring and evaluation procedures. UNETT held regular coordination meetings to assess the implementation of the activities.

WFP monitoring systems were applied. With a special emergency module of the food distribution the monitoring and evaluation system SIMEVDA all the distributions were recorded. Also, based on the base line information obtained through the emergency food security assessment (EFSA) the performance of the project will be evaluated at the end of the project in April 2008. The evaluation will include a new survey to assess outcomes and outputs.

Besides the \$2 million contribution of CERF another \$5.8 millions were received through the Flash Appeal to support humanitarian activities.

Government, international cooperation and the civil society complemented CERF funds with the provision of different food and non-food items. The Government provided key transport support for the distribution of the humanitarian aid. South-south cooperation among Latin American countries allowed the availability of helicopters and C-130s.

IV. Results

Sector/ Cluster	CERF projects per sector (Add project nr and title)	Amount disbursed (\$)	Number of Beneficiaries (by sex/age)	Implementing Partners	Expected Results/Outcomes	Actual results and improvements for the target beneficiaries
Shelter and non food items	07-UDP-002 "Shelter for affected families"	100,000	1,373 displaced families	Departmental Emergency Operation Centers of Beni and Santa Cruz, Military Transitory Command (CUT) and OXFAM	The provision of low cost temporary shelter will prevent illness, crowding and unsanitary conditions, in populations who have fled their homes numerous times in the past weeks due to flooding and mudslides	
Health	07-FPA-004 "Prevention of the sexual health and reproduction in the affected population"	30,000	84.000 displaced families	Regional health services and CIES	Contribute to improve the reproductive and sexual health of women and young people living in camps and shelters	 Census of pregnant women and young people completed. Health service providers trained and Emergency Obstetric and Neonatal Care (EMONC) networks implemented, and supplies and equipment to EMONC networks donated. Clean delivery kits for pregnant women who cannot be transferred to regular health services and should be tended in their own homes or communities donated. Leaders in training camps and shelters to raise awareness in young people in order to prevent sexual and gender violence trained. Local networks in prevention and care of sexual violence were strengthened. Leaders among women and young people trained in the correct use of condoms and emergency contraceptive pills. Delivery points of male and female condoms, and emergency contraceptive pills, in camps and shelters implemented. Establishment of PEP (Post-Exposure-Prevention) Kits delivery points
Health	07-WHO-008 "Strengthen the Health Sector"	100,000	30.000 affected population	Ministry of Health and Departmental Health Service (SEDES)	Improved monitoring and control of infectious diseases	 Five health emergency kits with essential drugs provided to the Ministry of Health and Departmental Services of Santa Cruz, Beni, Chuquisaca, La Paz, Cochabamba, Tarija, Potosi. National Service of Tropical Diseases Laboratory (SENETROP) provided with lab material for the

				 Better health care in communities and shelters in affected areas Efficient and transparent management of humanitarian assistance 	 diagnosis of lepthospirosis and dengue. 10 Fumigation kits provided to the Ministry of Health and SEDES to support fumigation campaigns 60 shelter responsible personnel trained in health risk factors. Among these factors special emphasis was given to mental health, water quality control, food manipulation. 2 Health Emergency Operation Centers in Beni and Santa Cruz Departmens installed and fuctioning. LSS SUMA installed in 10 warehouses of several governmental institutions and NGO's and training given to 30 warehouses personnel.
Food	07-WFP-011 "Assistance for highly food insecure victims"	960,000	22.147 families	 Stabilized prevalence of acute malnutrition among beneficiaries 	 3.243 tons of food distributed among 22.147 families Through food for work: 1.022 m3 of dikes constructed 2.036 km of rural roads reconstructed 1.303 ha of land prepared for production 16 ha of land planted with trees 16.000 nursery trees produced 29 trainings carried out in different topics.
Agriculture	07-FAO-005 "Provision of vaccines/vita mins for livestock"	300,000		 Animal deaths avoided Sites with infection identified and controlling measures timely undertaken Decrease in the incidence of zoonosis Economic losses avoided or significantly reduced 	 Animal health and sanitation of small cattle raisers (less than 100 livestock) has been reinforced Protection of the beneficiaries food security
Water and sanitation	07-CEF-011-D "Provision of safe drinking water and sanitation"	175,000		■ To reduce the incidence of water and sanitation related diseases in affected populations, especially in young children	 Enabled Swedish volunteer stationed in Santa Cruz to strengthen COE and organize and supervise emergency response 3000 people in dispersed rural communities where able to use their filters appropriately due to distribution and training on their use and maintenance by volunteers trained. 1200 families in the departments of Beni and Santa Cruz learnt about proper latrine use and hand washing due to training courses and puppet shows on the subject 1200 affected families in shelters and improvised tents were able to have access to adequate means of excreta disposal and hand washing 3000 affected families (including 9000 children) in

				rural dispersed communities in Pando and Beni had access to ceramic filters which converted contaminated river and pond water into safe water 325 school children in 30 schools and 45 families benefited from hygiene kits which contributed to their personal hygiene and cleaning of the school premises Consultants and UNICEF staff were able to supply technical assistance, coordinate field partner's work and verify that the activities achieved the desired results General coordination from UNICEF HQ in New York
Education and Protection	07-CEF-011-B "Ensure that children access their rights to education"	140,000	Children in affected areas enjoying the same rights to education as all children	 16.000 children received support for the immediate start of classes. Their families had lost their livelihoods and were not able to purchase the required school material 150 teachers and 190 schools received material for the start of classes 300 sport and recreation kits were supplied to affected schools, permitting a shorter period of resilience for affected children Coordinated actions permitted the timely arrival supplies to affected school-children The strategy included education clubs, games which were implemented in the shelters and later in the camps Requests and necessities in education were received from the populations in camps. The commencement of classes was coordinated in camps. Reading clubs were inaugurated
Education and Protection	07-CEF-011-C "Promote the return to happiness for 20.000 children" (protection /psychosocial activities)	125,000	Less vulnerable and better protected children with quicker recovery from traumatic events	 Needs and priorities of the affected population identified 5,000 rights holders directly and indirectly sensitized on child rights. 200 children and their families directed attended 10,000 children benefited from recreational, psycho-social and learning support activities. 247 public officers, NGOs representatives and students trained in the psycho-social strategy "A new sun for community well-being" (<i>Return to Happiness</i>). Printed materials on child rights distributed amongst rights holders and duty bearers and utilized during orientation sessions. 10,000 children benefited from recreational, psycho-social and learning support activities

					60 senior military officers trained on child rights and prevention of sexual commercial violence in emergency settings. 60 members from NGOs, Government institutions, private enterprises and media sensitized on commercial sexual violence. Regional plan elaborated and under implementation
Food	07-CEF-011-A "Nutritional Supplement to young children"	70,000		 Stabilized prevalence of acute malnutrition among beneficiaries Beneficiaries reduced depletion of essential assets 	 4.010 children younger than 2 years of age of 423 communities affected by the floods had access to complementary nourishment for 3 to 6 months, preventing malnutrition Eight municipal governments assigned resources (30 percent) to combat malnutrition among children of the 423 affected communities, ensuring the actions undertaken during the emergency continue Healthcare personnel with knowledge, skills and abilities for the prevention and attention of malnourished children in the affected municipalities

V. CERF IN ACTION:

FOOD AND NUTRITION (WFP)

Helping overcome hunger in face of catastrophic floods in Bolivia:



Neiser, (33 years old, is the mother of five small children. Before the floods, she and her husband used to produce yucca, maize and rice, and had some minor livestock such as pigs, ducks and chickens. They were neither rich nor poor, but had a quiet life in Santa Ana de Yacuma, in Beni. On the night of February 13, the rains came suddenly and with such rapidity, that she and her husband had hardly any time to save their children's lives. All their livelihood sources vanished with the floodwaters. They managed to get to the roof of their house and stayed there for two days before being rescued. During those two days, they ate nothing and their children got truly weak. Since then, Neiser and her family have been living in an improvised shelter, where WFP assisted another 22 families. She believes that, of all the assistance they received, food has been the most essential. "Food is key to our survival as a family, it is helping us to live through this hard time", she says with a smile in her face despite the tragedy.

Intense catastrophic rains, during the last three months, have brought hard times for deprived Bolivia, particularly for the eastern lowlands where severe floods affected large areas of highly

populated land. According to official reports, there were some 207,000 women and 69,000 children below five years among the affected families.





CERF allocated \$960,000 to WFP to react immediately after the first assessment of the extent of the calamity and is now providing food assistance to more than 18,000 families in the departments of Beni,

Santa Cruz, Cochabamba and Tarija. The operation has been praised by the government and beneficiaries, not only for the large amount of food aid made available, but also for the timely and quick response.

The rains and the floods presented WFP with a great challenge, especially in the eastern department of Beni, one of the most gravely affected. As road access was not possible to most of the flood-affected areas, it had to resort to the support of helicopters provided by neighbouring countries such as Brazil, Argentina and Venezuela, for airlifting of WFP aid. The situation got extreme in many areas of Beni, where there was no dry soil to land with helicopters, so food had to be dropped from the air to the beneficiaries.

Threats of hunger, homelessness and diseases have lasted for several months. The donor community proved enormous support to the flood stricken Bolivian population, through which WFP is being able to assist around 18,000 families, who have been targeted for assistance for a one-year period, until they can rebuild their livelihoods through activities such as land reclamation, the rebuilding of housing and the reconstruction of roads.

PROTECTION (UNICEF)

As briefly described above, the prompt release of the CERF funds allowed UNICEF to start project implementation during the peak of the humanitarian crises, preventing cases of child rights violations (especially in the areas of sexual abuse and sexual commercial violence) in temporary shelters and promoting a culture of child rights among government stakeholders and community members. The Armed Forces, responsible for coordinating the humanitarian response in the Beni region, were trained on child rights and prevention of sexual commercial exploitation.

Approximately 40,000 community members were sensitized (directly and indirectly) on child rights and approximately 5,000 children living in temporary shelters directly benefited from recreational, psychosocial and learning support activities. UNICEF also introduced the program "A New Sun for the Well-Being of the Community", training a total of 247 public officers, students and NGOs representatives in the implementation of the strategy and contributing to improve capacity and awareness in the area of Child Protection in emergencies. Better known as Return to Happiness, this concept was first developed in Mozambique during 1992, later on adapted, and disseminated in more than 20 different countries around the world. Focusing on offering psychosocial care and support to children aged 6 to 14 through recreational activities, it has been recognized as the simplest and most successful strategy to encourage the return to normalcy.







Posters, stickers and leaflets





EDUCATION (UNICEF)

Affected families lost much during the flooding: seeds, crops, and animals for consumption and livelihood sources. Selling of agricultural products comprises the only income for most families, which permits the purchase of school materials for classes. Without this income, families find it impossible to send their children to school. Without the supply of school materials, paid for with the help of \$125,000 in CERF funding for UNICEF's "return to happiness" children would have lost a full year of school; this is especially relevant considering that in the Amazon region of Bolivia there tends to be a long delay in finishing school, accompanied by seasonal migration. Children and adolescents, together with their families, migrate in search of work to sustain the family during seasons when crop production is poor and when animals have been lost.

The 21.000 knap-sacks provided ensured that 21.000 children could return quickly to classes.



