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Emergency Appeal

Chile: Forest Fires

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

Appeal n° MDRCL013

2,000 people to be assisted

Appeal launched 08 February 2017

Glide n° [WF-2016-000138-CHL](#)

67,760 Swiss francs DREF allocated

Appeal ends 10 February 2018

528,860 Swiss francs current Appeal budget

This Emergency Appeal seeks a total of some **528,860 Swiss francs with an initial loan of CHF 67,760 from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) to provide immediate support to the National Society and allow for the deployment of IFRC personnel** on a preliminary basis to support the **Chilean Red Cross (ChRC)** deliver assistance and support **2,000 people (400 families) for 12 months**, with a focus on the following sectors: **health (including psychosocial support PSS); water, sanitation and hygiene promotion; shelter and settlements (including household items); National Society capacity building; disaster preparedness and risk reduction; and cash transfer programme (CTP)**. The planned response reflects the current situation and information available at this time of the evolving operation. As the situation evolves and further assessments are completed by local authorities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the plan and appeal may be revised with the possibility of scaling up and CTP considerations.

Details are available in the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) [<click here>](#)

The disaster and the Red Cross Red Crescent response to date

15 January 2017: Forest fires break out in the Metropolitan and Maule regions; despite the efforts of firefighters, fire brigades and volunteers, they are **unable to halt the fires' progress**.

21 January 2017: The government of Chile declares a Constitutional State of Exception and State of Disaster simultaneously for the provinces of **Colchagua and Cardenal Caro in the O'Higgins region** and for Maule and BioBio region; a Constitutional State of Exception is also maintained in commune of Valparaíso in the region of Valparaíso

28 January 2017: The fires spread to the regions of Coquimbo and Araucanía; the fire has destroyed 396,027 hectares of agricultural crops and forest. All of the efforts have been directed toward containing the fires in the affected areas close to population centres and their mitigation and extinguishment.

3 February 2017: IFRC Surge Capacity deployed to Chile – general Regional Intervention Team (RIT) member

10 February 2017: The IFRC issues an Emergency Appeal for 528,860 Swiss francs for 2,000 people for 12 months



A fire-damaged house in the commune of Cauquenes in the region of Maule. This image was taken in a rural sector of Chile, where the fires are not just ravaging houses, but destroying the livelihoods of farming families like the residents of this house. Source: Chilean Red

The operational strategy

Needs assessment and beneficiary selection:

The Chilean Red Cross has 157 branches and 10 regional committees between Arica and Parinacota and Magallanes, with a total of 4,000 volunteers nationwide. So far, 247 National Intervention Team (NIT) members, eight of whom are trained in DANA have supported the response efforts.

According to the damage and needs assessment (DANA) carried out by Chilean Red Cross from 21 to 23 January in the regions of Libertador Bernardo O'Higgins and Maule, the fire had caused damage to forests, agricultural land and homes; however, this scenario has been changing as the fire has started to affect housing in highly populated areas, approximately 1,644 homes (1,206 totally destroyed, 244 severely damaged and 194 with minor damage).

Health

There are no statistical data available regarding fire-related health issues; however, according to information from the ChRC's assessment teams in the field, first aid care continues to be provided to people suffering from wounds, first, second and third-degree burns, asthma, respiratory distress and eye problems due to the smoke. It is necessary to mobilize staff with first aid training to treat the population. Because of the constantly changing scenario, setting up mobile clinics is being recommended so that they can be moved according to needs. Treatment is not only being provided to affected families, but to response teams working on fire control as well. Moreover, the ChRC has set up first aid posts in areas where residents are clearing debris and repairing their fire-damaged homes, as well as in some collective centres. First aid is not only being delivered to the affected population, but to the firefighting brigades as well.

Water, sanitation and health promotion

Preliminary assessments show that some water systems have been totally or partially affected due to fire damage to distribution lines. The Ministry of Health has instructed people not to consume the water in some communities until the water quality can be checked; however, this water may be used for washing clothes, utensils, homes, or any activities as long as the water is not consumed or used to prepare food. Municipalities are distributing water through tanker trucks, and people from non-affected areas are contributing with bottled water for drinking and cooking. It is still not possible to begin rebuilding the water supply systems because there are recurrent fires in some areas, which means that water will continue to be distributed via tanker trucks, as will the bottled water. Preliminary reports indicate the need to distribute jerry cans and water to affected families who have suffered partial or total loss of their homes in rural areas in O'Higgins and Maule. The plan of action also provides for the implementation of hygiene promotion activities in the affected communities.

Shelter

The information available to date indicates that fires have destroyed household appliances and caused partial or total loss of household items such as mattresses, kitchen utensils, bedding and so forth. Approximately 1,644 dwellings in urban and rural areas have been affected, most of which are located in O'Higgins and Maule. Access to rural areas is difficult, although it is possible to reach homes with four-wheel drive vehicles or heavy machinery. According to information gathered in the field, as well as to ChRC experience with similar events in the area, people have been returning home a few hours after fires dissipate in order to try to rescue usable belongings and remove debris, as was observed during past fires in BioBío in 2011 and in Valparaíso in 2014;

Target Population:

The project will centre its efforts with populations in the regions of O'Higgins (Rancagua) and Maule (Talca). The following criteria will be used to select beneficiaries:

- Large number of destroyed houses
- Low socioeconomic level
- Psycho-emotional impact
- Damage to water systems
- Emotional and health impact on family members who have not received sufficient and timely support.
- Families with children less than five years old, elderly members, pregnant women and persons with disabilities
- Health and life at risk
- People who are not receiving similar non-complementary aid from other institutions.

Overall objective: Meet the needs of 400 of the most vulnerable families affected by the fires in the regions of O'Higgins and Maule through an intervention that supports the affected communities' sustainability and resilience.

Operational Strategy

The operation consists of closely integrated sectors aiming to provide:

- **Psychological First Aid:** Provide psychological first aid to 400 families through National Society volunteers; ChRC's volunteers will be trained by specialized personnel in this area.
- **First Aid:** Volunteers trained in first aid will continue to be sent to affected areas to provide their services. The National Society will mobilize tents and ambulances to provide assistance, and first aid supplies and equipment will be replenished in order to remain prepared for future emergencies. Treatment will be limited to first aid, as the responsibility for providing medical care falls to the Ministry of Health, with which the National Society coordinates and complements its emergency actions.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion:** ChRC will support the population in improving their hygiene practices during the emergency, focusing on recommendations on proper water use and excreta and solid waste disposal in affected areas and collective centres. Hygiene promotion should be complemented by mobile and fixed first aid posts to provide comprehensive intervention in communities. A total of 400 hygiene kits will be delivered simultaneously with the distribution of jerry cans, which is complementary to the water distributions being carried out via tanker trucks by local authorities.
- **Shelter:** In total, 400 families will receive NFIs such as kitchen kits and blankets. For this first version of the emergency appeal, this sector will not include a reconstruction component or provision of materials for repairs because there are many national organizations working on these issues, and this will avoid duplication of actions. Given the small number of dwellings involved; however, a more detailed assessment could reflect new needs in this sector and include a more structured component for home repair.
- **National Society capacity building:** The branches involved in fire emergency interventions will be fortified through staff training, development of their strengthening plans and self-analysis of their capacity and weaknesses in order to enable adequate actions for enhanced institutional preparedness in future emergencies.
- **Risk reduction:** The National Society will support communities on the development of their contingency plans for future emergencies, as well as training for a better understanding of the risks to which they are exposed, how to reduce them, and how to adequately manage them. Families will receive support on the development of emergency plans, and they will be equipped with an emergency backpack.
- **Quality programming:** This includes emergency assessments and a more detailed analysis of the livelihoods and housing sectors in order to identify possible future intervention actions since a large number of specialized organizations are currently addressing these issues. The operation will also have the technical staff necessary to manage the activities outlined in this plan of action; the implemented actions will be disseminated through adequate information management via press releases and communications with beneficiaries, in addition to satisfaction surveys and holding an internal lessons learned workshop that will identify achievements and aspects to improve in future operations.
- **Multipurpose CTP:** This programme is designed to allow families whose incomes have been affected to buy household supplies, food, and meet health care and other urgent needs. The estimated value of the transfer is 250,000 Chilean pesos (CHF 389.34), which is equivalent to one month's minimum wage in the country; CTP will be provided to 400 beneficiaries.

Risk Assessment

Wildfires continue in the area, which means that further damage to the population cannot be ruled out. Crops have been lost; there are complex situations in collective centres that need to be better managed; and new fires are springing up around the country, which has led to an international appeal for help from firefighting brigades. ChRC volunteers must be trained and equipped with personal protective gear while conducting assessment in communities. Gear should include hard hats, goggles, gloves and masks suitable for conducting such tasks.



Coordination and partnerships



The IFRC and the National Society are working with the German Red Cross, Qatar Red Crescent, American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross Society, Swiss Red Cross on the possible support to the Chilean Red Cross, and the German Red Cross will donate approximately 200,000 euros for bilateral support to the ChRC.

The National Society has been coordinating with other organizations such as the Ministry of Interior and Public Security (ONEMI for its acronym in Spanish), Caritas, the United Methodist Committee on Relief-Chile (UMCOR), the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), World Vision, Search and Rescue (SAR), Green Peace, among others via the Chilean Humanitarian Aid Network (RAHCh for its acronym in Spanish), through which they have organized the various sectors working in the intervention areas and shared information from the preliminary assessments of the affected zones with one another.

Proposed sectors of intervention



Health

Outcome 1 Immediate psychosocial health risks have been reduced and first aid provided to 400 families.

Output 1.1 The affected population has psychological first aid care

Activities planned:

- Provide psychological first aid and containment to the community
- Psychological first aid workshops for ChRC volunteers
- Replenishment of psychological first aid materials used in the recreational activities

Output 1.2 First aid care is provided to people affected by the disaster

Activities planned:

- Deployment of mobile first aid posts
- Deployment of volunteers with first aid training
- Deployment of ambulances
- Replenishment of first aid supplies to branches



Water; Sanitation; Hygiene

Outcome 2 400 families reduce their immediate risk of water-related diseases in the regions of O'Higgins and Maule.

Output 2.1 The population has implements for storing and using drinking water

Activities planned:

- Identification and registration of families
- Distribution of 800 jerry cans to 400 families (two per family)
- Distribution of 400 hygiene kits

Output 2.2 At least 400 families in the regions of O'Higgins and Maule receive key hygiene and sanitation messages and practices

Activities planned:

- Hygiene promotion campaigns in public places (including collective centres) and campaigns on proper water use and solid waste disposal
- Printing and distribution of hygiene promotion material (community health and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion [WASH])
- Deployment of volunteers to help conduct the promotional campaigns



Shelter and settlements (including household items)

Outcome 3 400 families in the regions of O'Higgins and Maule meet their needs related to household items.

Output 3.1 400 kitchen kits and 800 blankets are distributed to affected families in the regions of O'Higgins and Maule

Activities planned:

- Evaluation and prioritization of beneficiary population
- Distribution of 400 kitchen sets
- Distribution of 800 blankets (2 per family)



Disaster response preparedness; Early warning; Risk reduction

Outcome 4 Disaster preparedness and early intervention actions are implemented for community response.

Output 4.1 At least 400 families in affected areas know how to prepare for and respond to wildfire threats

Activities planned:

- Disaster risk reduction (DRR) training sessions for affected communities
- Development or improvement of regional response plan for the regions of O'Higgins and Maule
- Training for communities and partners on public awareness campaigns dealing with wildfire hazards.
- Printing of materials for public awareness campaigns on wildfire risks
- Disaster preparedness activities for communities
- Emergency backpack distribution to 400 families
- Develop family contingency plans



National Society capacity building

Outcome 5 National Society capacity is strengthened in the provincial branches involved in the fire emergency.

Output 5.1 Evaluations conducted in branches

Activities planned:

- One Branch Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (BOCAC) workshop
- One Well-Prepared National Society (WPNS) evaluation
- One strengthening of the branches' organizational development plan workshop

Output 5.2 100 volunteers trained to provide effective response according to National Society contingency plans.

Activities planned:

- Workshop on strengthening of local contingency and response plans
- One General National Intervention Team (NIT) training workshop
- Damage Analysis and Needs Assessment (DANA) training for volunteers



Quality programming; Programme support services

Quality programming (areas common to all sectors)

Outcome 6 A proper management, communication and support system is used for the implementation of the operation.

Output 6.1 The management of the operation is informed by a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation system

Output 6.2 Operational activities are disseminated at the local, national and regional levels
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hiring of operational staff (1 coordinator) • 4 monitoring visits by the IFRC • Monitoring visits by technical staff • Lesson learned workshop • Rapid emergency assessment • Development of press releases / Beneficiary stories/ Photo reportages / videos • Implement a public awareness campaign • Implement a social media campaign • Deployment of a General RIT for 3 months
Outcome 7 Affected families receive non-conditional cash transfers
Output 7.1 Cash transfer programme implemented to support the immediate cash needs of 400 families
<p>Activities planned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beneficiary identification and selection • Design and implementation of CTP according to area characteristics • Conduct satisfaction survey • Establish mechanism for lodging complaints for the beneficiaries and monitoring of the CTP

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Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)
- [Budget](#)
- [Map of affected areas](#)

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

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How we work

All IFRC 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 Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC'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 IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives.
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote **social inclusion**
and a culture of
non-violence and peace.

EMERGENCY APPEAL
MDRCL013 - Chile Forest Fires

11/02/2017

Budget Group	Multilateral Response	Inter-Agency Shelter Coord.	Bilateral Response	Appeal Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0			0
Shelter - Transitional	0			0
Construction - Housing	0			0
Construction - Facilities	0			0
Construction - Materials	0			0
Clothing & Textiles	3,974			3,974
Food	0			0
Seeds & Plants	0			0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	17,089			17,089
Medical & First Aid	21,858			21,858
Teaching Materials	22,355			22,355
Utensils & Tools	11,923			11,923
Other Supplies & Services	79,483			79,483
Emergency Response Units	0			0
Cash Disbursements	168,902			168,902
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	325,584	0	0	325,584
Land & Buildings	0			0
Vehicles	0			0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0			0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	2,385			2,385
Medical Equipment	0			0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0			0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	2,385	0	0	2,385
Storage, Warehousing	0			0
Distribution & Monitoring	4,968			4,968
Transport & Vehicle Costs	18,281			18,281
Logistics Services	8,942			8,942
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	32,191	0	0	32,191
International Staff	0			0
National Staff	1,610			1,610
National Society Staff	39,940			39,940
Volunteers	11,744			11,744
Other Staff Benefits	0			0
Total PERSONNEL	53,294	0	0	53,294
Consultants	0			0
Professional Fees	0			0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0	0	0	0
Workshops & Training	34,774			34,774
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	34,774	0	0	34,774
Travel	28,813			28,813
Information & Public Relations	4,819			4,819
Office Costs	5,067			5,067
Communications	7,750			7,750
Financial Charges	298			298
Other General Expenses	0			0
Shared Office and Services Costs	1,610			1,610
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	48,356	0	0	48,356
Partner National Societies	0			0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0			0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0	0	0	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	32,278	0	0	32,278
Total INDIRECT COSTS	32,278	0	0	32,278
Pledge Earmarking & Reporting Fees	0			0
Total PLEDGE SPECIFIC COSTS	0	0	0	0
TOTAL BUDGET	528,860	0	0	528,860
Available Resources				
Multilateral Contributions				0
Bilateral Contributions				0
TOTAL AVAILABLE RESOURCES	0	0	0	0
NET EMERGENCY APPEAL NEEDS	528,860	0	0	528,860



Emergency Appeal: **MDRCL013**

Chile: Forest Fires



 Affected Areas

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.
 Map data sources: ESRI, DEVINFO, GIST, International Federation