



Embassy of the United States of America

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U.S. Ambassador visits flood-stricken San Julian town in Santa Cruz

Ambassador Greenlee assessed the impact of U.S. relief efforts on behalf of the victims

U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia David Greenlee visited today the town of San Julian, Department of Santa Cruz, in order to assess first hand the impact of the humanitarian assistance efforts the Embassy is making to help families affected by floods and relentless rains.

Ambassador Greenlee, who was accompanied by Santa Cruz Prefect Ruben Costas and Bolivian Vice Minister of Civil Defense and Cooperation for Integrated Development Gil Hernán Tuco Ayma, had the opportunity to talk with the victims, many of which had already been sheltered under U.S.-donated plastic tents and received U.S. relief assistance. In the coming days the U.S. Embassy will donate up to 800 tents in San Julian.

U.S. government assistance extensive

So far, the U.S. government has committed approximately \$900 in humanitarian assistance to alleviate the effects of multiple natural disasters that struck several Bolivian regions. This assistance includes supplies, food, tents, blankets, water tanks, smaller water containers, hygiene kits, and the provision of emergency transportation.

The U.S. government Agency for International Development (USAID) is also distributing more than 100 tons of food under its Title II Food Security Program to prevent food shortages among the victims of the floods in affected regions of the country.

On February 3, the U.S. Embassy distributed two tons of food to 73 families in Achocalla, La Paz. This food donation included wheat flour, corn flour, vegetable oil, peas and lentils.

In addition, Ambassador Greenlee authorized the use of Emergency Funds of approximately \$50,000 in order to pay logistical costs such as transportation of materials and tools and evacuation of victims, as necessary.

The U.S. government has also cooperated with Bolivian authorities by providing weather satellite imagery, obtained by the U.S. Military Southern Command in Miami, in order to better direct relief efforts toward the most critical areas. Also, USAID's Alternative Development program provided more than \$25,000 to help clear roads covered by mudslides in the Yungas region of La Paz and to provide other humanitarian relief.

Likewise, the Embassy's Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) authorized the use of its helicopters by the Bolivian Air Force Red Devils Unit and supported Black Devils C-130 missions to rescue victims, deliver emergency relief supplies, and transport government and relief officials to disaster sites. Also, the Bolivian Army Green Devils are contributing by providing ground transportation of relief donations and will continue to provide logistical support to emergency operations.

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