



Embassy of the United States of America

Public Affairs Section

For more information please contact: Phone 216-8122, Fax 216-8622

Embassy website: <http://bolivia.usembassy.gov>

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U.S. humanitarian assistance begins to be distributed

U.S. government starts to distribute donations for over \$us900,000

The humanitarian assistance donated by the U.S. government will start to be distributed immediately in both the departments of La Paz and Santa Cruz, in order to provide aid to thousands of families affected by natural disasters. To fulfill that objective, a DC-10 aircraft arrived in Santa Cruz today bringing 32 tons of assistance items. This is part of a donation of \$us500,000, which was announced by U.S. Ambassador to Bolivia David Greenlee last week.

This donation includes 1,000 plastic tents, plus the metallic structures to assemble them; blankets; five water tanks; 5,000 water containers for affected families; and 3,000 personal hygiene kits. The U.S. Government Agency for International Government (USAID) is also providing 100 tons of food under its "Title II" food security program to prevent food scarcity among the families that became isolated due to the floods. This donation is part of the World Food Program. Two tons of food were already distributed on Friday, February 3 to 73 families in the town of Achocalla. The families received wheat flour, corn flour, vegetable oil, peas, and lentils.

Ambassador Greenlee authorized the use of Emergency Funds for \$us50,000, which will pay logistic costs within Bolivia, including the transportation of supplies and tools, and the evacuation of victims, in case it were necessary.

The United States will also cooperate with the Bolivian government by providing weather satellite imagery, a service by the Southern Command of the U.S. Armed Forces in Miami, in order to better direct the assistance to the most negatively affected regions. Additionally, USAID's Alternative Development program has contributed more than \$us25,000 to help clearing the roads blocked by mudslides and to provide other humanitarian assistance.

Also, U.S. Embassy's Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) authorized the Red Devils unit to use its helicopters and the Black Devils to use its C-130 aircraft to rescue victims, deliver emergency relief supplies, and transport government officials and relief officials to disaster sites. Today, the NAS authorized the Green Devils unit to transport the donation that arrived in Santa Cruz by means of its trucks. They will continue to provide logistic support to emergency relief operations.