



IFRC-DREF Operation - Final Report

Guatemala | Tropical Storm Julia

IFRC-DREF operation	Operation n° MDRGT019
Date of issue: 2 October 2023	GLIDE n° TC-2022-000343-GTM
Operation start date: 21 October 2022	Operation end date: 31 March 2023
Host National Society: Guatemalan Red Cross	Operation budget: 497,017 Swiss Francs (CHF)
Number of people affected: 19,542	Number of people assisted: 5,000 ¹
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Spanish Red Cross (SRC), American Red Cross (ARC), Italian Red Cross (IRC), German Red Cross (GRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED), Government Entities, Ministries, Humanitarian Country Team made up of UN Agencies and humanitarian NGOs.	
The Guatemalan Red Cross spent a total of CHF 419,575. The remaining balance of CHF 77,442 will be returned to the Disaster Response Emergency Fund.	
The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.	

¹ In Alta Verapaz, there were 77 families (out of 100 reached in Shelter) who did not receive food kits but received blankets. This brings the total (adding the 426 families reached in Alta Verapaz through food kits and the 497 families reached in Izabal through the CVA programme) number of families reached by the operation to 1,000 (5,000 people).

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

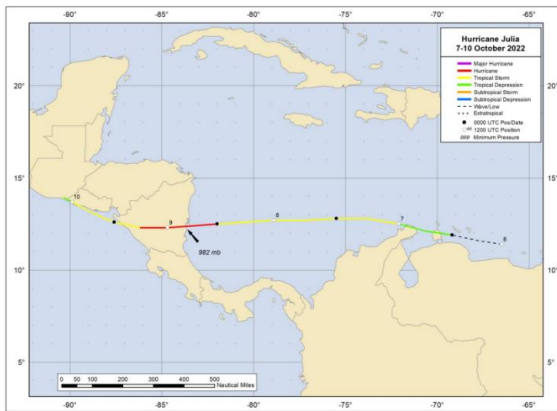


Figure 1. Path followed by TS Julia, 7-10 October 2022. Source: NOAA

Julia was a category one hurricane (on the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale) that made landfall in Nicaragua and affected many countries in South America, Central America, and Mexico.

Julia originated from a tropical wave that departed the west coast of Africa on 26 September 2022. The wave was quite weak and produced limited shower activity while it moved across the tropical eastern Atlantic during the next few days. By 1 October, however, showers and thunderstorms increased along the wave axis.

By far, the most life-threatening hazard associated with Julia was the large swath of heavy rains and associated flash flooding.

Figure 2 below shows an accumulated rainfall map for the Central American region.

Tropical Storm Julia directly affected Guatemala due to the entry of the outer bands and the strong circulation of humidity and cloudiness, maintaining partial to total clouds, drizzle, and constant and intermittent rainfall in the country. The highest rainfall accumulations were registered in the departments of Petén, Izabal, Alta Verapaz, Quiché, and the north of Occidente. Consequently, the National Society targeted the departments of Alta Verapaz and Izabal, as they reported the greatest impact.

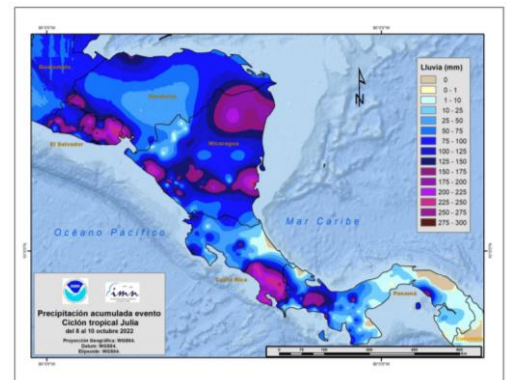


Figure 2. Total rainfall (mm) produced by Hurricane Julia across Central America. Source: NOAA

On 10 October 2022, the Government of Guatemala announced a State of Public Calamity² throughout the country due to the damage caused by Tropical Storm Julia.

The latest data on the impact caused by this event, as of 25 November 2022, is summarized by the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED) on the figure below:

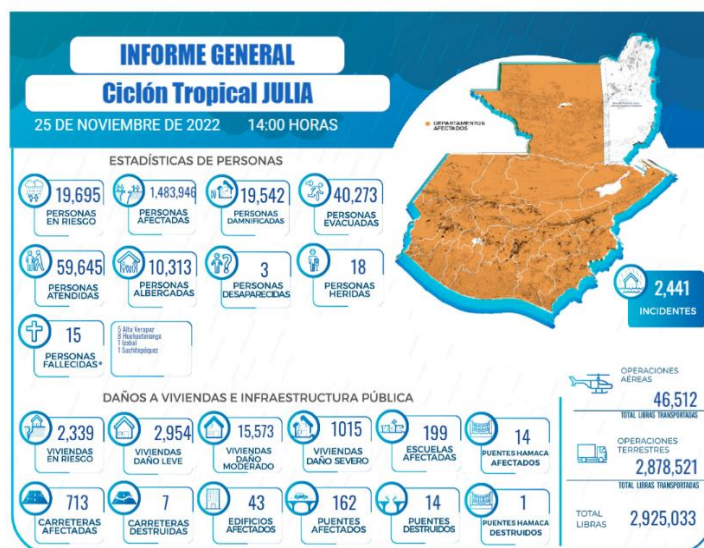


Figure 3. Summary of impact data from TS Julia as of 25 November 2022. Source: CONRED

² Congress ratifies state of public calamity, 11 October 2022.

Summary of response

Overview of Host National Society

The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) implemented the IFRC-DREF Operation Tropical Storm Julia, in communities of the departments of Izabal and Alta Verapaz, in the sectors of livelihoods, shelter, health, WaSH and CEA, with a component to strengthen volunteering.

The GRC provided support to the implementation of this Plan of Action through the Delegations of Puerto Barrios, Santo Tomás de Castilla, Cobán and Guatemala; both in the response and recovery phase, with the participation of around 300 local volunteers supporting the sectoral response, strengthening their capacities and linking with the participating communities.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Guatemala is home to the country office of the Secretariat of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross mission (ICRC), the representative office of the Spanish Red Cross and the participation of the German Red Cross from the regional office in Honduras.

Frequently the Country Cluster Delegation's Disaster Management Coordinator, the IFRC provides guidance and support to emergency response actions carried out by the National Society. In addition, the IFRC's Americas Regional Office in Panama provides support through a specialized team that assists the different components linked to the emergency: water and sanitation, health, logistics, and disaster risk reduction, among others. The ICRC carries out joint actions to address operational safety, safer access, operational communication, restoration of family links and health service protection issues through its country office and cooperation area. The German Red Cross, through its delegation in Honduras and its country delegate, performs climate risk studies regarding extreme hydrometeorological events, to prepare early action plans (anticipation).

However, specifically for this DREF, until the issuance of this report, there was only accompaniment and follow-up by the IFRC through representatives of the Central America Cluster on technical, logistical, administrative, and monitoring and reporting issues.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Government of Guatemala, through the Executive Secretariat of the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (CONRED, for its acronym in Spanish), mobilised Immediate Response Teams (ERI by its Spanish acronym) for some departments of the country, in support of local governments. It also mobilised humanitarian aid for families that were affected by the effects of the rains in previous days to Julia.

CONRED declared a Red Alert on October 7, 2022³ throughout the country, and it was published in the Official Gazette. The President of the Republic announced the declaration of a State of Public Calamity throughout the country, for 30 days. The Ministry of Education announced⁴ the suspension of on-site school classes to protect the physical integrity of the educational community, And on the other side, the UN agencies and humanitarian NGOs that make up the Humanitarian Country Team coordinated with the CONRED authorities to establish the support mechanisms with which they could support the emergency response.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

The National Society's team of volunteers carried out a Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) in the field, which provided relevant information on the effects of the passage of Tropical Storm Julia on livelihoods, contamination of water sources, loss of crops, loss of household goods, loss and/or damage to household furnishings, loss of farm animals, severe damage to homes, forcing families to evacuate and move to safe places (shelters and self-shelters).

³ [CONRED, Institutional Red Alert due to Tropical Storm Julia, 7 October 2022.](#)

⁴ [MINEDUC, suspension of classes at national level, 9 October 2022.](#)



GRC volunteer's carrying out Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) in Izabal, October 2022. Source: GRC

Throughout the implementation of this operation, the needs identified by sector remained the same as highlighted in the original DREF Plan of Action:



Shelter

Families suffered partial or total damage to their homes and household goods, requiring them to shelter in facilities provided by local authorities. The priority needs were the provision of housing and household goods, such as blankets for 500 families.



Livelihoods

Due to the damage to livelihoods, especially agricultural crops of maize and beans, as well as cattle, horses, pigs and poultry, families required support to recover their livelihoods. For people to do so, their basic needs must be met, and the minimum conditions must be created for them to begin recovering their livelihoods. It was therefore necessary to include in this operation, actions such as, basic food and multipurpose cash assistance, with which affected families can remedy any essential needs, especially those in highly vulnerable conditions, such as single mothers, people with disabilities, children, and the elderly.



Health

The population's physical and emotional health was affected by the impact of the emergency. Health conditions in most of the country are precarious and there are significant challenges in public health coverage. Due to the rainy season, people were exposed to gastrointestinal, dermatological, respiratory, and vector-borne diseases. This could have led to epidemiological outbreaks with consequences for children, the elderly and the most vulnerable. Stagnant water is a favourable environment for vectors that transmit diseases such as dengue and other arboviruses. Consequently, immediate containment actions became a priority.

In terms of health the affected population needed pre-hospital care, medical care, and psychosocial support with the promotion of self-care and psychological first aid including COVID-19 prevention actions, especially in shelters and households affected by this phenomenon. The GRC carried out health promotion with emphasis on vector-borne diseases, respiratory diseases, and contagious diseases, in the communities and through local mass media.



WaSH

Due to the contamination of water supply points caused by the floods, preventive actions and support to the population were essential and allowed for the reduction of morbidities associated with the consumption of

contaminated water. Hygiene promotion, the provision of hygiene kits, home treatment kits, as well as adequate water containers and water filters were necessary actions to protect the health of the population in the shelters and affected communities.



Protection, Gender, and Inclusion

The affected areas are home to communities that suffer from historical social exclusion, with mostly indigenous communities speaking various languages, high rates of poverty and chronic and acute malnutrition.

During emergencies, women are more vulnerable to risks than men, these risks are especially related to gender-based violence. While gender violence can occur at any time, there is a risk of it increasing during emergencies due to a breakdown in public order, the lack or limitation of support services and the temporary absence of social networks. The needs for differentiated attention and relevant evaluations are necessary. For the areas of Alta Verapaz, the work of the Kekchi and Pocomchi- speaking volunteers was aligned with the CEA approach.

Historically, after an emergency, women have been the most affected by the damage and losses, and the impact is manifested through various psychophysiological signs, sleep disturbances, lack of appetite, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress. Therefore, it is important to implement humanitarian response and recovery actions that contribute to gender equality and women's empowerment, ensuring that these actions respond to the differentiated needs of women.

Operation Risk Assessment

A conditioning factor for the National Society's humanitarian actions was the security situation in the country, as well as the high level of political activity of the parties that were in the electoral campaign stage, as stipulated by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal. This involved the presence of political candidates in the communities, which meant a risk of electoral conflict and respect for the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. An operational security analysis was conducted in both the Department of Izabal and Alta Verapaz in order to identify existing risks and help keep the volunteers of the delegations that implemented the action plan safe. Despite this scenario, no substantial security related incidents were recorded during the operation in any of the assisted communities.

In order to ensure their safety and access to affected people, all members of the Guatemalan Red Cross who participated in the response wore the institutional uniform and were oriented on their behaviour in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Code of Ethics and Conduct of the GRC. They also participated in the development of the local operational security management plans, which allowed them to keep abreast of their context, the risks present and the control measures to be addressed for the continuity of the actions stipulated in the action plan. Volunteers from the Delegations involved in the response maintained close coordination with the Emergency Operations Centre and reported any security incidents. Volunteers are continuously aware of and apply security standards, based on the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's Safer Access and Volunteers Stay Safe methodologies.



Provision of equipment and supplies to volunteers (visibility and Personal Protective Equipment), October 2022. Source: GRC

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy



Through this DREF Plan of Action, the Guatemalan Red Cross aimed to address the urgent humanitarian needs of **5,000 people** (1,000 families) affected by Tropical Storm Julia in Guatemala. They were reached through the implementation of activities in the areas of shelter, livelihoods, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion.

The GRC identified the population affected by this disaster to prioritise the areas of intervention, as well as the integration of humanitarian assistance.

The branches of Santo Tomás de Castilla and Puerto Barrios carried out an analysis of the information initially collected to determine, based on the analysis of capacities, access, resources and security, the communities, and numbers of families to be reached through the implementation of the proposed intervention.

With the support of the CEA programme, the communities were approached to integrate the information, perspectives and recommendations that allowed for the efficient implementation of the operation.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

	<p>Shelter People reached: 500 Male: 82 Female: 418</p>				
<p>Outcome 1: Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions.</p>					
<p>Indicators:</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Target</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>100</td> <td>100</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Target	Actual	100	100
Target	Actual				
100	100				
<p># of families reached with shelter actions</p>					
<p>Output 1.1: Shelter and settlements and basic household items assistance is provided to the affected families.</p>					
<p>Indicators:</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Target</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>500</td> <td>500</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Target	Actual	500	500
Target	Actual				
500	500				
<p># of people reached with in-kind assistance</p>					
<p>Narrative description of achievements</p>					
<p>The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) distributed 500 blankets to 100 families in the municipality of Cobán, located in the department of Alta Verapaz. This distribution was one of the first actions that GRC carried out to cover some of the immediate shelter needs expressed directly by the affected people.</p>					
<p>After this distribution, GRC carried out an evaluation to learn more in detail about other immediate needs of the affected people to address them within the framework of this DREF operation. At all times the GRC had the support of the community authorities to ensure that we could reach the most affected people.</p>	<p><i>Distribution of blankets in Alta Verapaz, Cobán, October 2022. Source: GRC.</i></p>				
<p>During the course of the assessment, several needs were identified, including food provision, the recovery of household goods damaged by the floods, as well as the loss of crops and livestock, mainly. At the same time, several vulnerable groups were identified, such as people dependent on medicines, elderly people without support, people with disabilities, widows, pregnant women, and single mothers. The most immediate needs were addressed through the other sectors of this operation.</p>					
<p>Challenges</p>					

- There were no challenges at the time of acquisition of the blankets, however, at the time of distribution there was disagreement about the lack of coverage provided to families in the communities as there were more families affected.
- As part of the conflict resolution process, the CRG informed them of the selection criteria for the prioritization of the families to be benefited, and the people were satisfied.

Lessons learned

- Training of local volunteers and disaster responders at the national level, especially in personal shelter and rapid damage assessment courses, has resulted in a stronger response capacity.
- The availability of volunteers with local language skills has built confidence in communities. This linguistic competence ensures that actions are culturally relevant and communicated effectively, thus fostering more meaningful collaboration with affected people.
- Decentralization of local volunteering has proven to be key to efficient and quality emergency response. This approach ensures that trained and available volunteers are available in strategic geographic areas, allowing for faster mobilization and immediate action.
- Targeted training of local volunteers in hygiene promotion and water and sanitation has resulted in more effectively addressing the basic needs of affected communities.
- Transparent disclosure of the criteria for selecting families to assist has proven to be crucial in ensuring fairness and trust in the assistance process. By informing communities about the criteria, it avoids misinformation that could lead to conflict and promotes a fairer and more understandable selection process.



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 4,615

Male: 1,846

Female: 2,769

Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with livelihood actions	5,000	4,615

Output 1.1: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families reached with food assistance	500	426

Output 1.2: Community awareness activities on livelihoods strengthening and protection are carried out with target communities and public actors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families that participate in awareness-raising activities on the use and scope of livelihood protection at the end of the operation.	500	923

Output 1.3: Households are provided with multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families that receive assistance through multipurposed cash at the end of the operation.	500	497

Narrative description of achievements

The Guatemalan Red Cross (GRC) distributed **426 food kits to 426 families** in 7 communities in Cobán, department of Alta Verapaz. Due to the generalized increase of basic grains in the country, the amount of food

kits was reduced to what was initially established in the action plan due to price increases versus the availability of specific funds for this action.

These kits contained 100 pounds of corn, 35 pounds of beans, 25 pounds of rice, 20 pounds of sugar, 20 pounds of fortified flour and 2 gallons of oil, which were distributed in the following communities:

Department	Municipality	Community	Number of families
Alta Verapaz	Cobán	Las Brisas del Chixoy	20
		San Jorge La Unión	72
		Tierra Blanca, Sebol	85
		Isla Las Tortugas	39
		Caserío Senojá	34
		San José Icbolay	103
		Tierra Blanca Salinas	73
Total			426

GRC also conducted a market feasibility study for cash/voucher distribution. Visits were made to the communities and surrounding areas to study the markets and verify the priority needs and type of assistance required. The evaluation and selection of the people to be assisted was also carried out, using as a basis the results of the feasibility study, the visits to the communities and the selection criteria established at the beginning of the operation. This study also allowed for a minimal modification of the initial target number of families to be assisted established in the action plan, due to the increase in the prices of the basic food basket.

Finally, the GRC assisted **497 families through the Cash Transfer Program** by means of the check modality with a multipurpose approach. This assistance was given in 9 communities in the municipalities of Morales and Puerto Barrios, in the department of Izabal. The value assigned per family was Q 1,900 (approximately 250 USD) and the distribution was carried out in the following communities:

Department	Municipality	Community	Number of families
Izabal	Morales	El Manguito	48
		Buenos Aires	24
		Punta de Rieles	46
		Sioux	110
		Switche Quebradas	126
	Puerto Barrios	Suiche III	36
		Los Quineles	19
		La Gloria	31
		Chachagualilla	57
Total			497



Distribution of food kits, Alta Verapaz, Cobán, February 2023.
Source: GRC



Distribution of CVA in Morales, Izabal, January - February 2023.
Source: GRC

In parallel, the GRC carried out **information/sensitization activities with the 923 families (4,615 people)** assisted in the departments of Izabal and Alta Verapaz, in which they were provided with information related to: purpose of humanitarian aid, dissemination of the Fundamental Principles of GRC, recommendations for the proper use of humanitarian aid in cash and in kind, mechanisms for complaints or consultation with GRC and actions to follow up on humanitarian aid.

Challenges

- For the National Society, the creation and availability of a table of commodity costs by locality represents an important challenge, considering the variation in prices, so at the time of distributions, the number of families/persons to be assisted had to be reduced as established in the action plan.
- Food procurement processes remain an activity that limits efficiency in the implementation of humanitarian operations of this nature. The lack of prior agreements with suppliers prolongs the time needed to carry out procurement, which in turn impacts on commodity prices.
- Reviewing individual products and verifying their compliance with food quality standards, as well as their timely mobilization, have become key challenges.

Lessons learned

- It is necessary for each National Society delegation to have a table of costs and availability of supplies that are frequently required during emergencies in each locality to have more accurate frames of reference to consider during the development of action plans.
- The presence of an Institutional Contingency Plan specific to the rainy season proved to be very useful. This document provided valuable support by underpinning every action undertaken by the Guatemalan Red Cross. It was an essential resource in interactions with various institutions, NGOs and government entities during the meetings.
- The presence of specialized Damage and Needs Assessment staff proved to be of great help during the operation because first-hand evidence was always available, which contributed to the relevance of the actions.
- Having a specialized CEA team had a significant impact on the operation. This team strengthened distribution processes, both in terms of physical assets and cash during emergencies, and also positively influenced the accountability process.



Health

People reached: 4,069

Male: 1,445

Female: 2,624

Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with health services	2,500	4,069

Output 2.1: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with pre-hospital care services	500	620

Outcome 4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced

Output 4.1: Community-based disease control and health promotion is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
-------------	--------	--------

# of people reached with promotional actions for the prevention of vector-borne, respiratory, and contagious diseases.	1,000	1,054
Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with MHPSS	1,000	2,395

Narrative description of achievements

Considering the pre-existence of conditions such as chronic malnutrition and the impacts of various social and environmental factors on health, as well as vector-borne diseases, the Guatemalan Red Cross implemented actions targeting families in selected communities in the municipalities of Puerto Barrios and Morales, located in the department of Izabal. These communities included Chayenne, Sebol, Buenos Aires Tenedores, Sioux and Caserío El Manguito in Morales, Izabal, as well as Cacao Frontera, Champas Corrientes, Sestadero, Edén Nueva Vida and La Laguna in Puerto Barrios, Izabal.

A health needs assessment was carried out to identify the main deficiencies in the prioritized communities to provide medical assistance. During this assessment, recurrent problems were identified, such as skin conditions, gastrointestinal problems and diseases caused by viruses, bacteria, and fungi, among others.

In response to Tropical Storm Julia, a health care intervention was implemented in the communities of Morales, Izabal. The objective of this intervention was to provide free medical evaluations and essential medicines to the affected communities. The communities assisted were Sebol, El Manguito, Buenos Aires and Chayenne, assisted a total of **620 people through pre-hospital care services**.

In addition, support was provided to these communities through educational sessions and home visits, focusing on the prevention and control of COVID-19, as well as vector-borne diseases, with the purpose of raising awareness among the most vulnerable population in these areas.

The vector-borne disease prevention strategy materialized through home visits, where 154 people were attended. On the other hand, educational sessions on the prevention and control of COVID-19 reached 827 people, while sessions focused on the elimination of mosquito breeding sites impacted 73 people. Together, these actions reached a total of **1,054 people through educational sessions**.



Household visits to check water storage containers for the prevention of vector-borne diseases, January 2023. Source: GRC

In addition, educational sessions on Primary Health Care (PHC) and training in mental health, self-care and emotional management were carried out to address the emotional aftermath of storm Julia. The focus was on the importance of recognizing that those affected may experience various emotional states, such as depression and anxiety, and therefore it is important to acquire self-control and self-care skills to contribute

to their wellbeing. In total, **mental health support and psychosocial support services were provided to a total of 2,395 people.**



Psychosocial support education sessions, March 2023. Source: GRC.

Challenges

- Low attendance of the population to the programmed activities due to factors such as distance, childcare, economic initiatives, among others.

Lessons learned

- Collaboration and coordination between different actors, from organizations to local volunteers, are essential to effectively and holistically address the challenges presented by these situations, thus maximizing positive outcomes for the affected communities.
- Strengthening mental health self-care was found to play a vital role in building people's resilience. Recognizing that emergency situations can have a negative impact on mental health, it was evident that providing resources and support for emotional and psychological management helps people cope more effectively with challenges.
- Carry out home visits to develop the actions, considering that the low attendance to the activities is due to distance, the need to attend to household matters, etc.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

People reached: 2,500

Male: 883

Female: 1,617

Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people that participate in the implementation of key actions related to WASH	2,500	2,500
Output 1.1: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families that have access to water and perform actions related to sanitation and hygiene	500	500
Output 1.2: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population		

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families that participate in activities related to hygiene promotion and vector control	500	500
Narrative description of achievements		
<p>Due to the increase in product prices, the Guatemalan Red Cross decided to adjust in the purchase of kits for the cleaning and elimination of mosquito breeding sites. One of these changes consisted of purchasing the kits in the quantity originally proposed, to reduce costs. To achieve this, the decision was made to make the purchase and request delivery at the Central Headquarters located in Guatemala City. This strategy made it possible to eliminate the supplier's contribution for the freight/transportation service, and instead, the Guatemalan Red Cross assumed the costs of fuel and other expenses necessary to make the deliveries to the families as established from the beginning.</p> <p>In the process, 500 Ecofilters were distributed, which are designed to purify water for family consumption. These filters contain clay, colloidal silver and activated carbon filter units. Parallel to their distribution, educational talks were given on the importance of consuming purified water and on how to use the filters correctly and extend their durability.</p> <p>In addition, 500 water storage containers were distributed. Educational talks on water chlorination and safe handling of water for family consumption were also given in parallel to their distribution.</p> <p>Also, 500 kits for cleaning and eliminating mosquito breeding sites were distributed. The objective of these kits was to provide families with basic cleaning supplies and encourage them to take measures to control vectors. This is particularly important in the case of the vector that transmits Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya, the Aedes Aegypti. At the same time, educational talks were also held to instruct on the elimination of breeding sites and the prevention of vector-borne diseases, emphasizing the need to maintain hygienic habits and control in situations of rain and flooding.</p> <p>Finally, 500 family hygiene kits were distributed to promote personal, family and community hygiene practices. At the same time, educational talks were given on the importance of hygiene in all areas, providing practical actions for daily application.</p> <p>The distributions were made to a total of 500 families (2,500 people) in the communities of Buenos Aires, El Manguito, Chayenne and Sebol in the municipality of Morales in the department of Izabal.</p>		
Challenges		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The high input costs of the purchased kits reduced the budget earmarked for direct delivery to the communities, and budgetary and logistical adjustments had to be made to ensure that the kits reached the planned families. ▪ Volatile weather conditions in the intervention area, characterized by the presence of cold fronts, generated unpredictable rainfall in the communities. These variable weather conditions sometimes limited field activities. Consequently, on some occasions it was necessary to reschedule and adjust the activities planned at the beginning of the intervention, to adapt to the climatic circumstances and ensure the safety of those involved in the actions. ▪ The need to mobilize volunteers from the Puerto Barrios Delegation to the communities of Morales posed a challenge in terms of capacity and resources. Not many resources had been contemplated for frequent mobilizations. 		



Delivery of Ecofilter to assisted person, March 2023. Source: GRC.

Lessons learned

- Continue and strengthen collaboration with community leaders and local influencers. This collaboration proved to be essential for the effective mobilization and delivery of humanitarian aid in the affected communities. Establishing fluid communication and maintaining a close relationship with community leaders will make it possible to anticipate needs, align strategies and ensure a more efficient response adapted to the circumstances of each community.
- Continue to promote and support the participation of volunteers in humanitarian response actions. To ensure a steady flow of committed volunteers, it is necessary to maintain training and motivation programs, as well as to establish effective recruitment and retention systems.



Protection, Gender, and Inclusion

People reached: 500

Male: 0

Female: 500

Outcome 1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with PGI activities (activities, training, distribution of kits, etc.)	500	500

Output 1.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people that participate in PGI-related activities and receive a differentiated hygiene kit.	500	500

Narrative description of achievements

500 differentiated hygiene kits were distributed to women of childbearing age who are part of families impacted by Tropical Storm Julia. Simultaneously, educational talks were held with these women, addressing issues related to personal and family hygiene habits. These actions took place in the communities of Buenos Aires, El Manguito, Chayenne and Sebol, located in the municipality of Morales, department of Izabal.

Challenges

- Limited actions at the community level to strengthen both the delivery of differentiated kits and the promotion of menstrual hygiene.

Lessons learned

- Experience shows that the delivery of humanitarian aid differentiated according to the specific needs of each population group is essential. By addressing the particularities of each group, a more effective and appropriate response to individual needs is achieved, thus increasing the impact of humanitarian aid actions.

- Inserting information on menstrual hygiene in the differentiated hygiene kits proved to be effective in empowering affected women and providing them with the necessary knowledge to maintain proper hygiene practices. This approach not only complements the assistance provided, but also contributes to the overall well-being and health of women of childbearing age.

Strategies for implementation

S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that participate in the implementation of the action plan at the end of the operation.	300	300

Output S1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that receive incentives for their work during the implementation of the operation.	300	300

Output S1.6: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of staff hired to implement the activities	2	5

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of IFRC monitoring visits	2	2

Narrative description of achievements

During the operation, the Guatemalan Red Cross implemented various actions to recognize and support the valuable work of the volunteers, as well as to guarantee their safety. It ensured that all active volunteers had access to personal protective equipment, training in operational safety, psychosocial support, visibility material, medical control and follow-up, insurance, and recognition with non-monetary inputs for their humanitarian work.

300 volunteers active in the operation received personal protective equipment: safety footwear (boots), forearm protection implements, caps with neck protection, and liquid and gel alcohol.

In addition, **10 members of the Guatemalan Red Cross received the Solidarity Fund for volunteers and personnel affected by COVID-19.** This fund ensured that isolated people had access to basic food and medicine, complemented by medical follow-up and psychosocial support. For each case, administrative records of the donation and the positive COVID-19 test were documented.

In addition, as part of the actions to protect volunteers, **life and accident insurance was purchased for 150 volunteers** from the delegations of Puerto Barrios, Santo Tomás de Castilla, Cobán and Headquarters.



Delivery of PPE items to volunteers, February 2023. Source: GRC.

During the operation, a workshop on Psychosocial Support and Promotion of Self-care was held for the volunteers who supported the implementation of the operation. With the support of the Health Directorate,

the workshop focused on the delegations of Cobán, Puerto Barrios, Santo Tomás de Castilla and Headquarters. The purpose was to strengthen capacities in this area and train the Psychosocial Support focal points to promote self-care, psychological briefing and debriefing sessions, fatigue, and stress management. A **psychosocial support kit was delivered to 37 volunteers** who participated in the workshop.



Informative material produced on the actions developed in the operation. Source: GRC

To ensure efficient management of the operation, **7 people were hired at different times of the operation with specific functions.** The positions hired were: 1 operation coordinator, 1 emergency health technician, 1 psychologist, 1 emergency mental health technician, 1 administrative-logistical assistant, 1 warehouse assistant and 1 CEA technician.

In terms of transparency and accountability, the Guatemalan Red Cross **implemented follow-up and post-distribution surveys of humanitarian aid.** These evaluated the level of people's satisfaction, the quality of products and services, their proper use and the detection of anomalies. In

specific municipalities, a methodology based on community participation was applied for the follow-up of humanitarian action, incorporating satisfaction surveys, informative talks, focus groups, suggested interviews and preparation of informative material on the actions being developed, all within the framework of the CEA approach.

Two follow-up field visits were made. The Guatemalan Red Cross conducted tours, interviews with affected families and active listening of volunteers and intervention staff. In November 2022, the Disaster Risk Management Director and the Health Director made visits to the Delegations of Puerto Barrios and Santo Tomas de Castilla to coordinate joint activities in specific sectors.

The Disaster Risk Management Director and the Emergency, Disaster and Crisis Preparedness and Response Program Coordinator met in April 2023 with volunteers and interveners from the Delegations of Puerto Barrios and Santo Tomas de Castilla to identify key implementation actions. IFRC staff were also present during the follow-up visits.

To conclude the operation, **two lessons learned workshops were held** in the Coban and Puerto Barrios delegations to consolidate lessons learned and improve processes for future operations.

Challenges

- Constantly follow up on actions to make amendments at the right time, and thus be more effective and efficient.
- Having personnel hired on a permanent basis allows for better coordination and execution of humanitarian actions, without having to start from scratch to explain or retake processes.
- Few multidisciplinary intervention teams, which often delays the development of actions because the teams are always not available.
- Availability of volunteers always, because many of them have family or economic commitments, etc., which means that they are often only able to support at specific times.

Lessons learned

- Effective volunteer recruitment strengthens the response strategy of the National Society. The engagement of additional volunteers enriches operations and allows us to reach more people in need.
- Although coverage of affected areas has been achieved, the need to increase local coverage is recognized.

- The management of local funds for humanitarian actions is essential. Although a good level of management has been achieved, it is important to strengthen efforts to ensure a continuous and effective response.
- Volunteering in emergencies involves dealing with emotionally draining situations. Therefore, the operation has once again demonstrated the importance of implementing permanent psychosocial support actions and fostering self-care among all those involved in the response.
- It is recognized that the continuous provision of personal protective equipment, hydration and food for volunteers and staff is essential. This ensures their well-being, safety, and security during humanitarian operations.
- Training in risk management and sectoral response is essential to providing quality humanitarian services. Specialized training enhances skills and promotes volunteerism for the Guatemalan Red Cross.

D. Financial Report

See Annex.

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)

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

In the Guatemalan Red Cross

- **General Director:** Daniel Javiel, daniel.javiel@cuzroja.gt
- **Disaster Risk Management Director:** Teresa Marroquín, teresa.marroquin@cuzroja.gt

In the IFRC Americas region

- **Head of Central American Country Cluster Delegation:** Nelson Aly Rodríguez; nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org
- **Operations, Evolving Crises and Disasters Manager:** María Martha Tuna; maria.tuna@ifrc.org
- **Communications Manager:** Susana Arroyo, susana.arroyo@ifrc.org
- **Regional Head of PMER and Quality Assurance:** Golda Ibarra, golda.ibarra@ifrc.org
- **Head of Partnerships and Resource Development:** Monica Portilla, monica.portilla@ifrc.org
- **DREF Senior Officer:** Santiago Rodriguez, Santiago.rodriguez@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- **DREF Senior Officer:** Eszter Matyeka; eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org
- **Operations Coordination:** Antoine Belair; antoine.belair@ifrc.org

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.

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/10-2023/8	Operation	MDRGT019
Budget Timeframe	2022/10-2023/2	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 21/Sep/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGT019 - Guatemala - Tropical Storm Julia

Operating Timeframe: 21 oct 2022 to 31 mar 2023

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	497.017
DREF Response Pillar	497.017
Expenditure	-419.575
Closing Balance	77.442

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	20.878	9.922	10.957
PO02 - Livelihoods	72.013	68.407	3.606
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	142.589	137.263	5.327
PO04 - Health	50.998	32.236	18.762
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	91.071	69.469	21.602
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	33.542	32.960	582
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery		31	-31
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	6.046	5.977	69
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	417.139	356.265	60.873
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	5.858	722	5.135
EA02 - Secretariat Services			0
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	74.021	62.588	11.433
Enabling Approaches Total	79.878	63.310	16.568
Grand Total	497.017	419.575	77.442

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/10-2023/8	Operation	MDRGT019
Budget Timeframe	2022/10-2023/2	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 21/Sep/2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRGT019 - Guatemala - Tropical Storm Julia

Operating Timeframe: 21 oct 2022 to 31 mar 2023

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
General Expenditure	5.500	876	4.624
Travel	4.000	656	3.344
Information & Public Relations	480		480
Communications	200		200
Financial Charges	820	220	600
Contributions & Transfers	461.182	393.091	68.091
Cash Transfers National Societies	461.182	393.091	68.091
Indirect Costs	30.334	25.608	4.726
Programme & Services Support Recover	30.334	25.608	4.726
Grand Total	497.017	419.575	77.442