



Community work. Manabi, Agosto 2023. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Appeal: MDREC021	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 441,810	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: EQ-2023-000038-ECU	People Affected: 148,255 people	People Targeted: 8,850 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 06-04-2023	Operational End Date: 31-10-2023	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months

Targeted Areas: **El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Loja, Los Rios, Manabi, Santo Domingo de Los Tsachilas, Santa Elena**

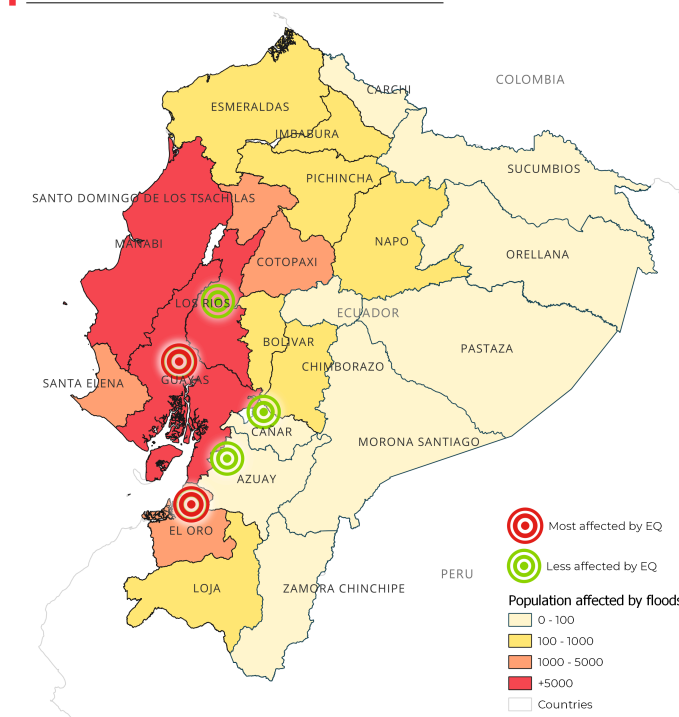
The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as 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.

Description of the Event

Ecuador | Floods & Earthquake Affected areas - March 30, 2023



+ IFRC



Creation date: March 30, 2023
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.
Produced by IM Team, HDCC, Americas Region
Sources: Government of Ecuador, Ecuadorean Red Cross.

Map of areas affected by floods and earthquake. March 2023, IFRC.

Date of event

2023-03-20

What happened, where and when?

Rainy season:

According to the National Regional Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (ERFEN, by its initials in Spanish) Committee, abnormal warming was observed in the Ecuadorian Sea and on the northern coast of Peru (Niño 1+2 region), registering temperatures between 27 and 29°C on the surface, which were up to 1.5 °C higher than normal. In addition to atmospheric instability and the transit of equatorial waves, these conditions led to the intensification of convective activity with intense precipitations (1).

During 2023, 205 cantons of the country were affected by 3,181 hazardous events caused by the rainy season, affecting more than 148,255 people. The provinces with the greatest impact on the population were Guayas, Los Ríos, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Bolívar, Cotopaxi, El Oro, Santo Domingo de Los Tsáchilas, Imbabura, Loja, Pastaza and Pichincha (2).

Earthquake:

On March 18, 2023, in the Gulf of Guayaquil, a seismic event was recorded with a magnitude of 6.64 Mw, a depth of 63.1 km, and a total of 72 aftershocks between 2.1 and 4.6 MLv. Although the main earthquake and aftershocks had an epicenter in the province of Guayas, the main damages were registered in the cantons of Santa Rosa and El Guabo in the province of El Oro.

On March 20, the President of Ecuador declared a state of emergency for 60 days through Decree No. 693 for the provinces of Guayas, El Oro, Pichincha, Loja, Los Ríos, Bolívar, Santa Elena, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Imbabura, Chimborazo, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Napo, and Azuay. The state of exception due to public calamity was based on the serious affectations to the life and material goods of the inhabitants of these provinces as a result of the serious winter season and the telluric movement.

From March 18 to May 4, more than 3,774 people were reported to have been affected by this emergency. The provinces with the greatest impact on the population were El Oro, Guayas, and Azuay (3).



In response to these two emergencies, on April 6, 2023, the Ecuadorian Red Cross launched an IFRC-DREF for Assessment to conduct a detailed Damage and Needs Assessment in 15 of the provinces reported to have been affected. The assessment aimed to identify the impacts resulting from the heavy rains that have been affecting the country since February 2023, as well as the 6.5 magnitude earthquake that occurred in March 2023.

During the implementation of the DREF for Assessment, on June 4, a new flooding event occurred in the Province of Esmeraldas, causing widespread affectation. Heavy rains were recorded in the province of Esmeraldas, causing 7 rivers to overflow: Súa and Tonchigüe (Atacames canton); Teaone (Esmeraldas canton); Cube, Viche, and Blanco (Quinindé canton), Matambal (Muisne canton), which affected 7 cantons and 21 parishes. Additionally, on 6 June, the Rioverde River overflowed affecting the Rioverde canton in the Lagarto parish.

Due to the event, more than 22,181 people were affected (who are included in the total 148,255 people affected by the rainy season during 2023) and three dead, as well as 6,309 houses impacted, and 495 crops lost (4).

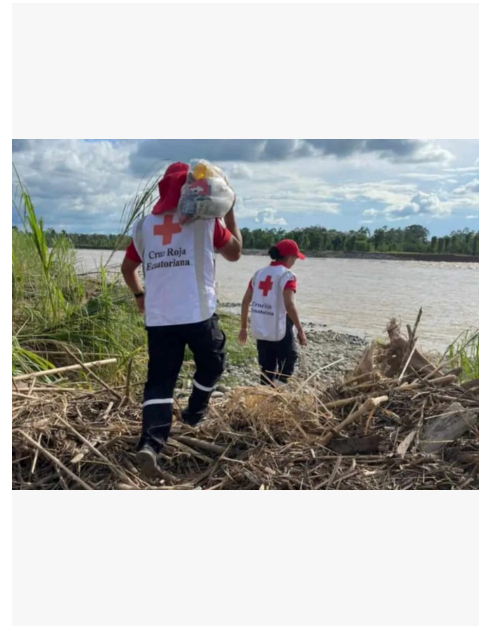
To respond to this combined emergency and based on the results of the IFRC-DREF for Assessment, the National Society launched an Operations Update in March 2023 to provide support to families affected by the earthquake and floods.



ERC responding to Floods. June 2023. Source: ERC



ERC responding to earthquake. March 2023. Source: ERC



Delivery of Humanitarian Assistance. June 2023. Source: ERC



Needs Assessment. April, 2023. Source: ERC

Scope and Scale

According to the latest Situation Report #120, issued by the Risk Management Secretariat (SGR, by its initials in Spanish) on 22 January 2024, between January and December 2023, a total of 205 cantons of the country were affected by 3,181 hazardous events caused by the rainy season, affecting more than 148,255 people. The provinces with the greatest impact on the population were Guayas, Los Ríos, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Bolívar, Cotopaxi, El Oro, Santo Domingo de Los Tsáchilas, Imbabura, Loja, Pastaza and Pichincha.

The impact of these events included 1,314 floods, 255 instances of structural collapse, and 1,077 landslides, resulting in 44 people dead and 65 injured. In terms of infrastructure, 28,944 homes have been affected and 1,086 have been completely destroyed. Additionally, 1,288 educational institutions and 83 health centers have been impacted by the adverse conditions.

The most recurrent hazardous events included floods (41.30%), landslides (33.86%), structural collapse (8.02%), windstorms (5.75%), undermining (5.69%), alluvium (2.33%), subsidence (1.16%), thunderstorms (0.91%), hailstorm (0.88%), and subsidence (0.09%). (1.16%), thunderstorm (0.91%), hailstorm (0.88%), and subsidence (0.09%). (2).



Regarding the earthquake, according to the Situation Report #35 issued by SGR, the seismic event resulted in more than 3,774 people affected, including 494 injured and 14 fatalities. In terms of infrastructure, 1,050 houses were reported to have been affected and 291 were destroyed. Additionally, 331 educational institutions and 291 health centers were affected (3).

To respond to the emergency, the National Decentralized Risk Management System activated different response and relief teams in coordination with the Risk Management Secretariat, Decentralized Autonomous Governments, Fire Departments, the National Police, the Ministry of Health, and the Ecuadorian Red Cross. In addition, nine temporary shelters were set up in educational units, where over 1,986 people (570 families) were hosted. The National Decentralized System also asked for institutional support at the local level, especially in the cantons of Atacames (3 parishes), Esmeraldas (5 parishes), Muisne (2 parishes), and Quinindé (3 parishes).

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. SitRep No. 103 - Rainfall, June 2023	https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/INFOGRAFIA-NACIONAL-EPOCA-LLUVIOSA-19-06-2023.pdf
2. Technical Bulletin - ERFEN No. 05-2024, March 2024	https://www.inocar.mil.ec/erfen_bac/cargar_boletinespdf.php?id_secc=4
3. SitRep No. 120 - Rainfall, December 2023	https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2024/01/SITREP-Nro.-120-Lluvias-Cierre.01012023-al-31122023.pdf
4. SitRep No. 35 - Earthquake, May 2023	https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SitRep-35-Sismo-Balao-Guayas-04052023-1.pdf

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	Yes
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	<p>During the first quarter of 2023, the National Society activated Flood Response Action Plans in the Provinces of Guayas and Manabí.</p> <p>In Guayas, response teams of 100 people were deployed to the following cantons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Milagro: Distributed 3 home kits, 300 food kits, and 600 blankets. - Balzar: Provided 100 food kits. - Playas: Provided 100 food kits. - Jujan: Provided 100 food kits. <p>In the province of Manabí, the most significant impact was recorded in the canton of Chone. 50 individuals, including volunteers and hired personnel, were dispatched to assess the water supply in peripheral areas of Chone, specifically in López, La Alianza, Gallardo, Badeal, and the Chuno water company. The survey covered communities in Santa Rita Parish (La Alianza, La Guabina, El Zapote, Mosquito, El Jobo, El Guabal, La Fortuna, El Mate, La Estrella), Ricaurte Parish (Garrapata, Garrapatilla), and San Antonio Parish (Badeal, San Pablo, Copeton). The Ecuadorian Red Cross distributed humanitarian assistance to 126 families in the Santa Rita neighborhood of La Alianza Parish and the San Antonio neighborhood of Badeal Parish, providing food, hygiene, and tool kits. In both cases, the National Response Plan protocols were activated, along with strategic warehouses for the distribution of pre-positioned kits, expediting response and distribution according to identified needs in each locality.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event



Secretariat	<p>The Andean Cluster provided technical support for the IFRC-DREF fund request, supported the implementation of the operation, and assisted in the preparation of reports. The Regional Office also supported the approval of the IFRC-DREF fund request and the operation update.</p> <p>During the assessment phase, IFRC deployed a PMER Officer for one month to support data analysis and the development of the assessment report and Operations Update.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>During the emergencies related to the winter season, the ERC received support and funding from the Spanish, Italian, and German Red Cross through the PPP Project, which covered some of the needs for the deployment of equipment and the distribution of humanitarian assistance to the affected families. PPP funds have been used to restock Ecuadorian Red Cross warehouses with goods that were needed for the immediate response to other emergencies, such as hygiene and cleaning kits, which are not being included in this IFRC-DREF Application. The coordination for the use of these funds, within the Ecuadorian Red Cross, is carried out through the Planning Department, ensuring that the allocation of funds responds to the needs of ongoing operations and avoids duplication of financing.</p> <p>Apart from that, the ERC implemented an intervention to assist the population affected by floods in the province of Esmeraldas with the support of the Spanish Red Cross in conjunction with AECID. With these funds, the ERC implemented activities to complement the DREF operation in the lines of action of WASH, Multipurpose Transfer, awareness-raising in health, nutrition, safe water, and risk management, reaching 500 families with a budget of 100,000.00 USD.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

With ICRC funds, the security component was strengthened. This included the monitoring of Operational Security and Safer Access reports, taking into consideration the current context of the country. Additionally, branding (visibility and signage) of institutional vehicles for several Provincial Boards was carried out.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	<p>No</p>
National authorities	<p>Rainy Season and Earthquake: In coordination with the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs, by its initials in Spanish), shelters have been set up to guarantee basic services, bathrooms, dormitories, dining rooms and kitchens, and medical attention points.</p> <p>The Presidency of the Republic, through the Secretariat of Risk Management (SGR) and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, delivered emergency vouchers, food kits, personal hygiene, cleaning kits, sleeping kits, crockery, and kitchenware, among others, to families affected by the floods and the earthquake.</p> <p>Other key actors that intervened in the rehabilitation of affected services or assistance to the population are the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works, the Ministry of Public Health, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Ministry of Water, and the Electric Company, among others.</p> <p>Floods in Esmeraldas: Considering the magnitude of the event, on June 5, the President of the Republic and his ministerial cabinet visited the province of Esmeraldas for evaluation and coordination with key local stakeholders.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>The agencies within the UN system and members of the Humanitarian Country Team remained vigilant so that, if needed, corresponding coordination mechanisms could be</p>



established. The Situation Report (SRA) was shared with members of the Humanitarian Country Team, and the evolution of the situation was presented in various meetings.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

As part of the response operations, the SNDGR activated the Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) to coordinate the different actions of public and private institutions that provide care at different levels. The ERC participates especially in the water, health, education, humanitarian assistance, productivity, and infrastructure committees at the cantonal, provincial, and national levels.

This emergency coordination system ensures that information and assistance are not duplicated. It is also a means for analysis and decision-making.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Based on the results of 3,708 family surveys collected in the 15 provinces that were part of the needs assessment, three types of damage were observed:

- Total damage: in the case of the earthquake, of the 291 uninhabitable houses, 185 (64%) are registered only in El Oro province.
- Partial damage but habitable: houses that had damage due to collapse or cracking of walls in the basic structure, in bathrooms, doors, windows, or roofs. However, it is not considered unsafe;
- Minimal damage: even though the water reached more than 70 cm, these houses did not get relevant damage to the structures or their property.

It should also be mentioned that 804 houses had no reports of major damages, meaning the water level reached less than 10 cm in height and was drained immediately.

The needs identified were based on the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MIDUVI, by its initials in Spanish) traffic light reports and the evaluation of the ERC teams through direct observation. At the end of the surveys, the following housing results were obtained:

Affected (requires specialized evaluation) = 1,637;
Partial damage (habitable) = 778;
Total damage not habitable = 21;
Destroyed = 185;
Not habitable (according to a technical report from a specialized institution) = 3;
Pending verification (no access for internal evaluation) = 90
No report of damage = 804;
Housing in impact/risk zone = 18;

The main needs were removing debris and cleaning and rehabilitating infrastructure, especially in areas less than 100 meters from the riverbanks, and trying to find a solution for at least 1,986 people (570 families) who were hosted in emergency shelters.

On the coast, 70% of the houses are of mixed construction with a cement base, wood or block structure, and zinc and are raised to the ground to avoid damage during the rainy season. The first floor normally stores work tools or rests in hammocks. Meanwhile, the most current houses in the highlands are mainly made of cement, block, zinc, or tile. However, there are also old houses made of tiles and adobe, an ancient technique where a mixture of mud or clay mixed with water and straw is used for fixing.

These characteristics affect the condition of the houses, especially because, in less than 30% of cases, the structures are built based on previously approved plans or with quality materials. Therefore, families had to invest in reconstructing their homes or paying for other rental places until they could complete repairs.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Due to the intensity of the rains and consequent flooding, several hectares of beans, corn, barley, rice, fruit varieties, and herbs for animal feed have been lost; which also affected cattle, pig, and beef production. Additionally, access roads were interrupted, so producers who managed to recover their crops or who did not suffer consequences from the floods, could not take their products to market, so



they often loosed them or had to sell them locally at lower costs.

According to the assessment, it was detected that agriculture is the main economic activity of the families surveyed, being the main means of subsistence for 80% (1,052) of families. The intense rains caused damage to beans, corn, barley, rice, grass, bananas, and fruit crops. According to the Chamber of Agriculture, the losses were estimated at approximately 250 million dollars: 70 million in cocoa, 40 million in rice, 40 million in cane, 30 million in bananas, and 70 million in other products.

45% (784) of the total number of families that provided information on the status of their main economic activity (1,725) reported having been affected, with agriculture and livestock being the most affected activities. Concerning livestock, the raising of bovines and pigs and their derived products (meat and dairy) were affected by the lack of food and poultry died from flooding. In addition, aquaculture registered losses in the production of shrimp and river fish.

13% (220) of families that responded about the status of their family assets (1,727) mentioned having suffered a total loss, mainly the low-income population being affected. Added to this is the low capacity to respond to the crisis in the affected areas since the sources of employment (agricultural and livestock activities) and the means of production (cultivation land and animals) were lost.

The immediate needs of the affected population corresponded to daily food, protective equipment against weather conditions and vector-borne diseases in temporary homes, rental and reconditioning of homes, and the purchase of medicines, clothing, and money for transportation and incidentals.

In this regard, the population saw its main economic activity and source of income affected, making it necessary to assist so that families had an emergency income that allows them to pay for food, housing, and health expenses.



Health

The heavy rains and the earthquake had various impacts on the health, environment, and social sectors. These impacts affected not only the population but also the infrastructure and equipment of healthcare facilities.

The main situations found were the following:

- Respiratory diseases caused by temperature changes and exposure, skin diseases resulting from contact with contaminated water, and vector-borne diseases due to the proliferation of mosquitoes in areas with poor drainage of stagnant water.
- Lack of medical supplies that increased the risk of transmission of contagious diseases or the aggravation of the health condition of people without access to medicines for chronic diseases or treatments.
- Saturation of first-level health facilities due to the demand for care in transfers or transfers of cases from smaller localities, which exceeded the response capacity. Damage or difficulty of access to health facilities by the population, given the damage or cuts in first, second, or third-order roads, considering that road blockades or closures forced people to take alternate routes, which increased costs and/or time invested.
- In the case of pre-hospital care, the main injuries corresponded to patients with multisystem trauma, i.e., injuries affecting more than one body system, including the pulmonary, circulatory, neurological, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal and integumentary systems, drowning, respiratory distress, electrocuted persons, blunt force injuries, injuries to the skull, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or multisystem, fractures, hemorrhages and respiratory disorders.
- According to the information provided by the families during the application of the surveys and by the community leaders, the events had a psychosocial impact on all family members, who presented symptoms of irritability, stress, and depression, which added to an increase in conflict situations. The emotional health of the population was affected by the exposure to the effects caused by emergencies such as floods and earthquakes, added to the current insecurity situation in the country since the risk of being a victim of an attack in public establishments (including hospitals) has been increasing over the months. In addition, there was population going through mourning processes due to the loss or death of family members and loved ones during emergencies. Among the main priority groups exposed to mental health damage were children and adolescents.

The affected provinces also increased their demand for health services, so there was a greater referral of patients to other health facilities, where there was also insufficient capacity to assist the entire population. This added to the generalized shortage of medical supplies, which affected immediate care and hindered the functionality of medical services, resulting in the worsening of pre-existing diseases and an increase in communicable diseases.





Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The Damage and Needs Assessments conducted indicated important needs for rehabilitation of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) services in Guayas, Manabí, Los Ríos, and Santo Domingo. Access to safe water in quantity and quality was the main need in the face of the effects of floods, destined for human consumption and hygiene, as well as domestic use for cleaning. Also, the systems of the Water Branches (responsible for the collection, treatment, and provision of water at the community level) were affected by the collapse of the infrastructure, accumulation of debris, and damage due to electrical storms, especially in the suction pumps, contamination of collection points, and damage to distribution pipelines.

Water supply systems for human consumption and sewage infrastructure are some of the main services that were affected. The floods resulted in the overflow of wastewater, causing contamination of water sources and increased disease among vulnerable populations such as children, adolescents, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with co-morbidities.

In addition to the needs outlined above, there was damage caused by the fall of a tree on the tension cables in the San Mateo water collection plant (responsible for the collection, treatment, and supply of water) that supplies Esmeraldas, Atacames, Río Verde, and the upper part of Quinindé, which caused a temporary cut in drinking water supply, leaving about 11,500 people without this service.

On the other hand, limited access to safe drinking water forced the population to use river water (which is sometimes contaminated by mixing with physiological waste or garbage due to flooding), rainwater collected from roofs without the corresponding cleaning or distributed by tankers, but with poor storage practices at the household level.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

As a result, families had their homes affected or destroyed, forcing them to evacuate to safer areas or to stay in temporary shelters or schools. Families also had to send their children to the homes of relatives or friends in safe areas. In response, 14 temporary shelters were implemented in the affected provinces, with the highest prevalence in Esmeraldas, Guayas, and Los Ríos.

Affected people also lost communication with family members. Some of the main situations registered were:

1. Family members are unaware of their relative's whereabouts.
2. Injured family member in a health facility.
3. Family member in temporary accommodation.
4. Deceased and rescued family members.
6. Family members not in communication due to lack of access to a digital or telephonic medium.
7. Family members not in communication due to loss of property and belongings, including personal documents and mobile phone.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF Plan of Action, the Ecuadorian Red Cross aimed to provide humanitarian assistance to 8,850 people (1,500 families) affected by the effects of the rainy season and Earthquake in the provinces of El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Loja, Los Ríos, Manabí, Santa Elena, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas through the implementation of activities under Shelter, Health, WASH and Multipurpose Cash. Additionally, 200,000 people were intended to be reached indirectly through the dissemination of key messages with Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Community, Engagement, and Accountability (CEA) approaches.

At the end of the operation, 8,500 people were assisted, comprising 1,959 families plus 664 people assisted individually (through health actions).

Operation strategy rationale

The intervention strategy was designed based on the experience of the Ecuadorian Red Cross in providing humanitarian assistance during and after crises caused by natural events and on the needs identified through the IFRC-DREF for Assessment carried out between April and May 2023. Considering that the ERC is part of the National Decentralized Risk Management System, the response strategy was designed in coordination with the authorities of the different Autonomous Decentralized Governments, community leaders and other key stakeholders. Thus, actions were prioritized in the following components:



Health:

- Health promotion and Community Based Surveillance: Talks and awareness-raising campaigns by volunteers in the use of safe water, healthy living, nutrition habits, and vector-borne disease prevention aimed at community members; and home visits to detect possible risks to the health of the family and the community.
- Distribution of impregnated mosquito nets and training in vector-borne disease prevention.
- Psychosocial support was provided through individual, family, and group activities in community spaces and temporary shelters.
- Mental health and psychosocial support for ERC staff and volunteers was provided at the facilities of the respective Provincial Branch, and care for external personnel will be carried out based on prior inter-institutional coordination.
- Pre-hospital care and evacuation for the affected population in Esmeraldas. In this case, the preparation of the team was done to carry out evacuation cases, since the emergency continued throughout the implementation of the IFRC-DREF.

Shelter, Housing, and Settlements:

Families who suffered partial or total damage to their homes were assisted through the delivery of shelter toolkits for the reconstruction of their homes or the adaptation of their temporary accommodation, with an emphasis on families who stayed temporarily in shelters or host families. The shelter toolkits helped families to clean the mud in living spaces, make the adequacy of the land, enable the structure of partially affected housing, and cleaning points of accumulation of garbage or drains to keep the water drainage channels clean. Each family received a shelter toolkit, composed of 1 roll of polypropylene rope, 1 wood saw, 3 nail sleeves, 1 steel shovel, 1 steel hoe, 1 machete, 1 pair of metal shears, 1 roll of wire and 1 hammer, plus 2 plastic tarpaulins.

Multipurpose cash:

Based on the assessments conducted, it was determined that the affected population has experienced significant disruption to their primary economic activity and source of income. Because of this, a cash transfer program was implemented for 804 families, who withdrew the money from an ATM. The amount per family was USD 240 delivered in one allocation, which has been calculated considering the basic family basket of 734 dollars and discounting the amount corresponding to support from other organizations, the State and local economic reactivation. The money delivered was prioritized for food, but also included a percentage to cover housing and rent, clothing, health, education, and transportation.

Water, sanitation and hygiene:

Actions were carried out to guarantee the consumption of safe water through the production and distribution of sodium hypochlorite. In addition, awareness talks were given to the community on the proper management of water after holding update workshops for ERC volunteers and staff. For this activity, chlorinators (owned by the National Society), were used to support the production of chlorine at the ERC National WASH Center.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion:

Being an intervention in different provinces with diversity of cultures, languages and customs, it was important to ensure that all activities carried out in the field included an approach of interculturality, inclusion, respect and protection. Likewise, due to the magnitude of the event, work was done to sensitize all key actors and institutional staff on protection and gender issues, in order to reduce the risks that could arise in crowded situations or during the distribution of assistance. Consequently, all intervention sectors were sensitized on the protection approach through three workshops with special emphasis on the prevention of gender violence in emergencies and RFL.

A workshop on the PGI approach was held to strengthen the capacities of the ERC personnel in the minimum standards of PGI in emergencies "Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS)" and RFL procedures.

Additionally, three 20-second micro spots on key messages for the operation and protection and prevention of violence in emergency situations were recorded and disseminated through ERC's social media.

RFL: Disasters correspond to one of the situations where family contact restoration services are activated. In the current context, this service was provided through the contracting of mass messaging via WhatsApp, which disseminated messages with self-care measures and the RFL national service number.

Community, Engagement and Accountability

As a transversal approach to all the activities of the operation, the CEA component worked hand in hand with the operating units to ensure that the messages disseminated were adapted to the community and adequately respond to its needs. For this reason, as part of the CVA programme, technical assistance was provided for the implementation of feedback mechanisms from and for the community. Additionally, as part of the feedback mechanisms, a final satisfaction survey was implemented at the national level, with random samples.



Having recognized in the IFRC-DREF for Assessment the need to foster the confidence of the population in the Ecuadorian Red Cross, messages focused on the role of the Ecuadorian Red Cross as an auxiliary to the State were disseminated, including: (i) Messages from the Red Cross as an auxiliary to the State, but as an independent body; and (ii) Messages about the ERC institutional work. Finally, staff were trained on CEA concepts, in order to keep volunteers and staff updated on the application of this approach.

National Society Strengthening:

The emergency operation facilitated the enhancement of the ERC through its Provincial Branches. Refresher workshops were organized on various topics associated with the implemented lines of action. Additionally, support was provided with uniforms for staff as part of the security component. Operational costs, including fuel, vehicle maintenance, food, and hydration, were covered for the National Society's staff involved in implementing and monitoring the activities.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

8,850 people affected by the effects of the rainy season, earthquakes, and floods in the provinces of El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Loja, Los Rios, Manabí, Santa Elena, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas. People whose homes or livelihoods were within the impact zone or who lost a family member due to the emergencies were intended to be assisted.

At the end of the operation, 8,500 people were assisted, comprising 1,959 families plus 664 people assisted individually (through individual health services).

Special attention was given to vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly. The national society has networks at the community level that allow it to identify these groups.

The logic behind targeting these particular groups was to ensure that assistance reached those who are most at risk and least able to recover from the disaster on their own. By prioritizing vulnerable households, marginalized communities, and individuals with specific needs, the National Society aimed to provide targeted and tailored support, maximizing the impact of the IFRC-DREF operation and promoting equitable relief efforts.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Criteria of vulnerability that allowed prioritizing assistance:

- Families with destroyed homes.
- Single-parent families.
- At least one member of the family has some type of disability.
- At least one member of the family is breastfeeding.
- Families with at least one person suffering from a chronic or severe illness.
- Pregnant women in the family.
- Families with elderly adults.
- Families with children under 5 years of age.

The following strategies were used to corroborate the lists of beneficiaries:

- Family information recorded in the survey conducted by the ERC or the General Secretariat of the Republic.
- Information validated with community leaders.

Total Targeted Population

Women	3,398	Rural	30%
Girls (under 18)	1,912	Urban	70%
Men	2,266	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	1,274		
Total targeted population	8,850		



Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Likelihood that volunteers and humanitarian personnel will be collateral victims of crossfire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apply the recommendations for safe behaviors. - Report security risks and incidents.
Limited access to affected areas, due to hazardous events related to the winter season (mass movements, flooding, structural collapse, and loss of roads).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent monitoring of the state of the climate and the state of the access roads to the affected areas. - Carry out permanent context analysis of security risks.
Transmission of vector-associated and water-borne diseases in ERC humanitarian workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivery of key prevention messages. - Delivery of disease prevention kits for dengue and COVID-19. - Verify that personnel have the corresponding vaccination schedule (Yellow Fever, Tetanus, Influenza and COVID-19).
Volunteers and humanitarian personnel could be victims of extortion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct ongoing security risk context analysis. - Apply the operational safety manual and recommendations for safe behavior.
Humanitarian personnel of the Ecuadorian Red Cross may be victims of sexual harassment or abuse during the operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make sure that the teams are mixed. In no case should they be all-female teams. - Before going out on the operation, recognize the location of the nearest Community Police Unit (CPU). - Respect the operating hours established by Operational Security. - In case of sexual harassment or abuse, individuals must (1) Immediately leave the area or place where the incident has occurred, (2) Immediately inform the Operational Security representative of their province, (3) Call 911 or go to the nearest Community Police Unit (CPU). - Ensure compliance with the PSEA policies of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, which are aligned with the IFCR guidelines: the Code of Conduct, which applies to paid and volunteer personnel, and the Internal Work Regulations for paid personnel.
Criminal violence in intervention zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Security protocol for the evaluation and distribution of humanitarian assistance. - Dissemination of the ERC safe behaviors booklet. - Form and train Red Cross community brigades as first responders to improve access, perception and acceptance of the ERC. - Constant security monitoring of volunteers and staff. - Organize and ensure the deactivation of personnel and volunteers involved in response actions when facing high risks.
Likelihood of aggression and retention of volunteers and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public campaign to disseminate the humanitarian role in emergencies and the auxiliary role of the ERC. - Application of ERC's safe behavior recommendations. - The CRE carried out permanent public campaigns to disseminate the humanitarian role in emergencies and the auxiliary role of the public authorities of the state. - The communication material of the campaigns We are not a Target, Good use of the Emblem and Identification for the proper use of the uniform was disseminated.
Robberies of volunteers and humanitarian personnel in mission activities	Application of the operational safety manual and recommendations for safe behavior.



Robberies of volunteers and aid workers in missionary activities

The implementation of the guidelines set out in the operational safety manual and recommendations for safe behaviour was monitored.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

During the implementation of the DREF Operation, Ecuador went through a complex scenario of criminal violence, and a social, economic, and political crisis, which generated a context of insecurity nationwide. According to information from the Ministry of the Interior of Ecuador, 2022 was one of the most violent years, ending with 4,450 homicide victims; with 30% of these murders occurring in the city of Guayaquil. During the first quarter of 2023, there was an increase in the rates of insecurity, organized crime, armed robbery, and kidnappings, among others, mainly in the provinces of Guayas, El Oro, Pichincha, Los Ríos, Manabí, Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Esmeraldas and Santa Elena, which has generated concern among volunteers and humanitarian personnel of the ERC.

According to the security assessment conducted, 14 security risks were identified, of which 8 were categorized with a HIGH potential risk level, among which the following stand out: Probability of criminal violence in the intervention zones, aggressions and retention of volunteer and hired personnel, robberies, extortion victim, collateral victims of crossfire, collateral victims of explosive devices, health affectations due to the lack of use of personal protective equipment in the face of active dangerous events and traffic accidents. For this reason, it was essential to continue raising awareness and improving the knowledge of volunteers and humanitarian personnel of the Provincial Branches that were exposed to the above-mentioned risks, through workshops, videos, and artwork with key messages to improve the understanding of the minimum operational security standards in the context of disasters and insecurity.

In addition, due to the violence, extortion, kidnappings, and homicides that occur mainly in the coastal zone, during the information gathering, families in the communities were not willing to share personal data such as telephone numbers, family data, economic activities, among others, due to the fear of being victims of the mentioned situations or putting their family members at risk. Because of this context, and as was done during the damage assessment and needs analysis process, the ERC continued to work in the following manner:

- With an operational response structure that included a mandatory field security officer.
- Socialization of safe behavior recommendations for personnel and application of a safety protocol for the assessment process.
- The operational security and access protocol was implemented.

Security context in Esmeraldas:

In 2022, the province of Esmeraldas was one of the most affected by violence in Ecuador. According to official statistics, 518 violent deaths were recorded, equivalent to a rate of 80 violent deaths per 100 thousand inhabitants. Of this total, 76.5% occurred in the canton of Esmeraldas. Within the Esmeraldas canton, the following neighborhoods stand out for their high level of danger: Valle Hermoso, El Arenal, La Tolita, Colectiva, Santa Martha, Bellavista Norte, Guacharaca, Aire Libre, Santas Vainas, Codesa, Esmeraldas Libre, Propicia and Cordero Crespo.

Political context:

On May 17, 2023, the President of the Republic of Ecuador, by Executive Decree No. 741, resolved to dissolve the National Assembly due to a serious political crisis and internal commotion and called for elections for the positions of President, Vice President of the Republic, and Assembly members. This political context kept the National Society on a state of alert, facing the possibility of social unrest. To mitigate the risks during CVA, it was necessary to take into account elements of security context, family needs, market conditions, and availability of financial providers, to establish the most appropriate mechanisms adapted to the safety of participants, volunteers, and hired personnel.

Important milestones

- On 17 May 2023, the President of the Republic of Ecuador, by Executive Decree No. 741, resolved to dissolve the National Assembly due to a serious political crisis and internal commotion, and called for elections for the posts of President, Vice-President of the Republic and Assembly members.
- According to the calendar approved by the National Electoral Council, the first round of elections was held on 20 August 2023 and the second round on 15 October 2023, with the delivery of credentials for the President and Vice-President taking place in November.
- To mitigate the risks during the distribution of CVA, the security component was strengthened, avoiding the dissemination of the activity, and prior awareness-raising sessions were held for volunteer staff and community members on the mechanism established for this purpose.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No



Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 57,807

Targeted Persons: 1,548

Assisted Persons: 1,548

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of families who receive training in proper use of toolkits and tarpaulines	387	419
Number of families who receive 1 toolkit + 2 tarpaulines	387	387

Narrative description of achievements

The distribution of the shelter kit consisting of 2 tarpaulins and 1 set of tools per family was achieved. The materials made it possible to provide protection from the rain, wind, cold and other factors associated with the rainy season. The tools were used to remove debris from houses affected by the seismic movement in the province of El Oro and the flooding and mud as a result of the heavy rains in the rest of the provinces where the DREF was implemented. The distribution of the 387 kits was carried out according to the following breakdown:

- Esmeraldas: 250 kits
- Santa Elena: 50 kits
- El Oro: 50 kits
- Loja: 37 kits

Prior to the distribution of the kits, the staff of the provincial branches organized training sessions on the proper use of the tool kits and tarpaulins for the people in the assisted localities, thus avoiding the misuse of the distributed items.

Lessons Learnt

Tool kits and tarpaulins are highly useful tools for families, who need to remove mud and debris from their homes after emergencies such as earthquakes and floods. However, the needs of each family vary, so it could be evaluated that families with needs for home repair or reconstruction be included in the multipurpose cash intervention, which would give them more freedom to purchase the tools or make the necessary paid repairs.

Challenges

Tarpaulins, an essential component of the emergency shelter kit, play a vital role. However, these items are not locally available and must be sourced from the IFRC's Regional Logistics Unit. This process extends the distribution timeline, making it challenging to procure additional products when budget allocations are made available. It is advisable to establish the corresponding analyses to explore alternatives to tarpaulins.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 189,730

Targeted Persons: 2,600

Assisted Persons: 3,216

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of families who receive Multipurpose Cash assistance to cover basic needs	650	804

Narrative description of achievements



- Under the modality of "cash over the counter", the field technicians sent the lists of beneficiaries so that the Treasury could manage with Banco Pichincha the respective activation of the accounts payable to the beneficiaries and they could withdraw the humanitarian assistance in cash directly at the bank. Distributions were carried out as follows (USD 240 per family/CHF 210 approximately):
- Direct collections: 727 people
- Indirect collections 77 persons
- Total number of families reached: 804.

In the post-distribution survey, executed five days after the cash distribution, the main results were:

- 59% of families mentioned that in case they had not received economic support, they would have used requesting loans as a survival strategy. It should have been considered that in most cases, families were not considered credit subjects; therefore, presumably, the sources of financing could have been informal.
- 57% of families mentioned that they had used all the monetary support to purchase food, buy medicines, have medical check-ups, and cover livelihoods. They also considered the delivery mechanism to be safe and accessible.
- 79% of the surveyed families affirmed that their family economy had improved significantly since the economic support was provided. 83% of respondents stated that the money received covered the most urgent family needs; moreover, 99% of the population indicated that participating in the project had not affected or put the family's integrity at risk.

Lessons Learnt

- The implementation of an optimal data validation process allowed resources to be targeted towards the most vulnerable participants.
- It was necessary for the personnel of the Provincial Branches in the field to reinforce selection criteria in communities and, in case of doubts, to have a designated person from CEA who could assist the community.
- This was the second time that the cash withdrawal mechanism through bank windows had been implemented; it had worked optimally, avoiding security risks for both volunteer staff and participants.
- Continuous training prior to distribution allowed volunteer staff to assist the families in a more agile and responsible manner.
- It was important to encourage community ownership and participation within the intervention; community participation in all phases of the program from selection, distribution, and monitoring allowed the intervention to meet established objectives and have greater acceptance by the community at large.

Challenges

The rainy season in the intervention area modified the schedule of post-distribution monitoring activities, so it will be necessary to anticipate the delivery of reports on dates that align with seasonal calendars in future interventions.



Budget: CHF 29,021

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Assisted Persons: 5,747

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people assisted through pre-hospital care and evacuation	100	128
Number of people who receive mosquito nets and training in vector-borne disease prevention	3,600	3,600
Number of people who receive health promotion	5,000	5,747
Number of people who receive MHPSS	1,000	1,272

Narrative description of achievements

As part of the response to the emergency, 128 individuals received assistance from pre-hospital care personnel using the resources of the local ambulance system. General health care was also provided in the eight provinces, health care included trauma injuries (multisystem or specific focus type, penetrating injuries, etc.) and clinical emergencies (respiratory disorders, diabetes, hypertension, etc.).



The National Society also conducted monitoring for respiratory diseases caused by temperature changes, skin diseases from contaminated water, and vector-borne diseases due to mosquito proliferation in poorly drained areas.

Additionally, mental health and psychosocial support services were provided to the population who were emotionally shocked by the emergencies that occurred, emphasizing those grieving the loss of family members and loved ones in emergencies. Priority was given to children and adolescents, with the National Society offering grief management techniques and psychosocial support while addressing the community's overall needs. Community members also received education on healthy habits related to health and nutrition.

Targets for pre-hospital and psychosocial care services were exceeded, with a combination of individual, group, and family care.

- 2,477 people were sensitized by volunteers on health promotion and healthy eating (108% of the goal of 2,502): Esmeraldas 1937, Santa Elena 58, Loja 51, El Oro 45, Santo Domingo 80, Manabi 125, Guayas 122, and Los Rios 59.
- 3,270 people received home health visits (131% of the goal of 2,500): Esmeraldas 2716, Santa Elena 57, Loja 52, El Oro 47, Santo Domingo 80, Manabi 137, Guayas 121, Los Rios 60.
- 1,272 people received mental health monitoring visits and psychosocial support (127% of the goal of 1,000): Esmeraldas 710, Santa Elena 105, Loja 85, El Oro 50, Santo Domingo 70, Manabi 116, Guayas 136.
- 2,700 mosquito nets were delivered for 3,600 people, who represented 900 beds; 1,500 people of the total were located in Esmeraldas. Also, eight kits for MHPSS were delivered to the provincial branches included in the operation.

Lessons Learnt

- From the beginning of the operation, it must be clear what types of equipment can or cannot be supported by the IFRC-DREF operation, especially when an evaluation is planned, and technological equipment is required to collect information.
- Carrying out an operational context analysis was crucial prior to the awareness-raising activities, as it allowed the community to allocate time for awareness activities, as well as for volunteers to organize, considering that the population could only attend from 6 pm or only on weekends in many cases.

Challenges

- There was a lack of medical supplies that limited the effectiveness of health services, increased the risk of transmission of contagious diseases, or aggravated the state of health of people without access to medicines for chronic diseases or specific treatments.
- There was saturation of health facilities due to the high demand for care and deployment of patients from rural or remote areas to medical units, in some cases exceeding the response capacity, requiring referral to other units with physical space and resolution capacity. In view of it, it was necessary to activate the public and complementary health network through the Ministry of Public Health.
- There were difficulties in the primary and secondary mobilisation of patients due to the level of road disruption. Blockages, damage, road closures and flooded stretches caused an increase in response time due to the need to find alternative routes, factors that triggered an increase in response times and the complication of people's health condition, making it necessary to use biomedical equipment, supplies, materials and devices that allowed for the approach, assessment, stabilization and transport of the affected people.
- Improve coordination with the IFRC team to address concerns and avoid delays in actions such as the procurement of pre-hospital care materials and equipment. A case study of what happened would be useful in order to seek improvements.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 14,298

Targeted Persons: 6,000

Assisted Persons: 6,164

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of sensitised families in proper use of safe water	1,500	1,541
Number of families who receive sodium hypochlorite	1,500	1,628

Narrative description of achievements

The activities under WASH focused on awareness-raising talks in the community and the distribution of sodium hypochlorite. One of the effects of the rainy season was related to the contamination of water sources, which led to an increase in health problems in the community.

The WASH technical teams of the provincial branches, with the technical support of the National Headquarters team, prepared the



sodium hypochlorite for distribution, which was duly labelled to prevent accidents, aspects that were addressed in the awareness-raising talks. This component was implemented as follows:

Esmeraldas 913 families
 Santo Domingo 150 families
 Manabí 150 families
 Guayas 265 families
 Los Ríos 150 families

Actions were implemented to address needs at two levels:

- Community: through activities and awareness-raising days on proper household water management and outdoor cleanliness.
- Institutional (Water Directorates and Autonomous Decentralized Governments): through the analysis of water quality, treatment and distribution systems, as well as strategic response planning for the provision of toilets and showers and sanitation facilities in temporary shelters.

The planned actions helped ensuring that the community has a safe water supply for human consumption, reducing the risk of contracting diseases. Thus, efforts were directed towards improving practices on safe water management measures.

Lessons Learnt

Actions developed on Water and Sanitation systems in emergency situations must be prioritized and immediate. It is necessary to strengthen the specialized teams to obtain an immediate response, including the actions that the WASH Training Centre can provide in this context.

The integrality of the WASH component goes hand in hand with health promotion actions and awareness-raising talks. Although the needs may be different in each locality, it is necessary to integrate them in order to strengthen the health component in emergencies.

Refresher training for volunteers and humanitarian staff is necessary prior to each activity, allowing the National Society to maintain a constant update and adaptation of teaching methodologies for the community to have mechanisms and tools for understanding key messages.

Challenges

Fluid coordination with the Autonomous Decentralized Governments became one of the most important challenges, considering the wide scope of competencies and the National Society's auxiliary role of the state powers in the humanitarian field.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 6,603

Targeted Persons: 200,000

Assisted Persons: 105,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people indirectly reached through the dissemination of self-care messages to prevent the breakup of family bonds (mass messaging)	200,000	76,200
Number of people indirectly reached through the dissemination of key messages with the PGI approach (3 microspots)	10,000	105,000
Number of volunteers trained in RFL procedures, PGI approach and minimum standards in emergencies (1 virtual workshop)	32	32

Narrative description of achievements

Protection, gender and inclusion

The protection, gender and inclusion approach was implemented as a mechanism to prevent actions that could violate the rights of people in emergency situations regardless of their origin. Through capacity building for humanitarian staff on issues such as prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), gender-based violence and DAPS minimum standards in emergencies.

Restoring family links



- Self-care measures were disseminated, providing recommendations to the population in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Guayas, Los Ríos, Loja, El Oro and Santo Domingo, generating resilience to each person.
- Socialization of the RFL Procedure in Disasters was carried out, an activity that allowed the strengthening of technical capacities of volunteers specialized in the subject at the level of the different Provincial Branches of the ERC.
- People reached through the dissemination of mass messages and videos to prevent the break-up of family ties distribution was:

Emeralds 10,000
 El Oro 10,000
 Guayas 13,100
 Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas 10,000
 Manabí 13,100
 Loja 5,000
 St. Helena 10,000
 Los Rios 5,000•

Lessons Learnt

It is important that PGI and RFL activities are more visible in the operations of the National Society, as they are important components of the Movement's rights-based approach.

Challenges

The ERC emphasizes the inclusion of cross-cutting approaches such as PGI. Strengthening the dissemination of this theme with trained personnel who can replicate the knowledge is necessary to increase awareness of minimum protection standards.

The key messages of Restoring Family Links (RFL) should continue to be disseminated even after the completion of the DREF operation. The challenge is to reach more people who are aware of the services provided by the ERC and how they function.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 4,260

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Assisted Persons: 16,062

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people who receive key messages focused on reinforcing trust in the Ecuadorian Red Cross	5,000	16,062
Number of families that participate in the implementation of feedback mechanisms from and for the community (CVA)	213	600
Number of volunteers and staff members trained in CEA approach (1 virtual workshop)	32	32

Narrative description of achievements

Key messages were delivered to enhance trust in the ERC. Feedback mechanisms were implemented to gather community sentiments and perceptions of ERC actions. Training sessions were conducted on sea approach topics, targeting ERC volunteers and staff.

The Communications Department, in coordination with CEA, designed audiovisual products on issues related to floods and the El Niño phenomenon. The materials were also reviewed by the technical team and then disseminated. The dissemination of the key messages was done through radio media and the dissemination through the social networks of the National Society and the Provincial Branches on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, which allowed reaching a high number of people who received the information. This allowed the ERC's humanitarian actions to be positioned at the national level and with the beneficiary communities.

The evaluation phase identified that, in the Provincial Branches of Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Guayas, Los Ríos, Loja, El Oro and Santo Domingo, communities still confused the Ecuadorian Red Cross as a state institution. In view of it, key messages were developed and disseminated on social media about the ERC's auxiliary role of the state, building trust within the communities which served to enable safer access.



Lessons Learnt

The context of each served community must be analyzed. The social, cultural, and economic diversity and dynamics of each site require specific activities. The same feedback mechanisms cannot be applied to all sites.

Challenges

The CEA approach, as well as the other approaches implemented in the Action Plan, needs to be strengthened. The ERC' staff performs CEA actions on a permanent basis, however, it could use more the information gathered considering the are reaching more people each time.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 20,129

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Monitoring visits	1	0

Narrative description of achievements

In the Assessment phase, a PMER Surge was deployed to support the National Society in the area of PMER and structure the corresponding report. The activities realized were the following:

- Data review and validation, database cleaning, identification of improvements for data collection.
- Gathering information from secondary sources, triangulation of information, design of report structure.
- Distribution of tasks for proposal design, elaboration of proposal sections DREF Response.
- Elaboration of key questions on the PMER side to develop the lessons learned workshop.
- Participation in the elaboration of the DREF Evaluation Report in coordination with the CCD PMER Senior Officer.

Lessons Learnt

As this is a new modality of operation globally, it will be important that some preconditions are clear before implementation. Among them, that IFRC has clear procedures for the implementation of the operation, as well as a specific format and quality criteria for the Evaluation Report. Also, having a Surge with an expert profile in previous evaluations is advisable in an DREF for Evaluation, which is why it will be important to consider a list of experts to be drawn up in advance of the operations.

Challenges

- Finding a suitable profile for Evaluation Surge is still a challenge in the region.
- IFRC staff monitoring visits could not be conducted due to the security context in the country.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 119,963

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers and personnel trained in the auxiliary role of the ERC in emergencies (2 workshops)	30	45
Lessons learned workshop	1	1
DREF Training	1	0



Number of staff and volunteers provided with uniforms and personal protective equipment	200	200
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Narrative description of achievements

- The National Coordination of the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values Programme organized a workshop on the Auxiliary Role of the ERC, where the participation in coordination spaces such as the EOC and the clarity in this regard at all levels (operational, management and government) was considered as a key point.
- The lessons learned workshop provided information about the opinion of stakeholders regarding the implementation of the DREF, which included the participation of the Provincial Branch delegates and the National Headquarters team.
- Socialization of the contingency plans was achieved in 6 Provincial Branches that participated in the DREF.
- The Provincial Branches were monitored for aspects related to Operational Security and Safer Access.
- Audiovisual material was disseminated through social networks, publicizing the aspects considered to prevent the effects of the El Niño phenomenon.
- Uniforms and overalls were distributed to ERC staff, strengthening identification and security-related aspects.
- During the Evaluation phase, 40 tablets were acquired to carry out the needs assessment.
- Personal protective equipment acquired for the operation included: flashlights, rubber boots, raincoats, backpacks, hats, shirts and whistles branded with the ERC logos.
- Office and IT supplies were also purchased for the implementation of the assessment phase. This included cell phone sim cards and flash memories for communication during the information gathering, and pelican backpacks for tablets protection.

Lessons Learnt

In the lessons learned workshop, the following relevant aspects were presented:

Positive aspects:

- Articulation of the operation through activation of the situation room.
- Cooperation with public and private institutions through prior coordination.
- Contact and coordination is maintained with community leaders for community organization and preparedness.
- The presence and support of ERC is recognized by the communities and there is good acceptance.
- Articulated and cooperative work between Provincial Branches improved response and communication capacity.

To Improve

- Problems to justify expenses in a timely and proper manner from the Provincial Branches.
- Little participation in community activities on weekdays.
- Socialization of planning and rescheduling of activities should be more frequent.
- Coordination with various recognized community leaders in the community.
- Difficulties in recovering economic resources invested in missionary activities.
- Promote spaces for care and self-care for staff engaged in activities.
- Lack of trained personnel in first response institutions for the collection of information.

Among the activities that need to be enhanced for future operations are:

- Maintain communication with community leaders to prepare communities and encourage their organization.
- Elaboration and socialization of contingency plans between institutions.
- Provide equipment and supplies for the emergency brigades, as well as for personnel deployed to the operations.
- Strengthen first response organizations for coordinated action.

Challenges

The DREF training could not be carried out, due to the recommendation of the IFRC security team. However, resources were used to socialize contingency plans in the Manabí, Santo Domingo, Santa Elena, Loja, Pichincha and El Oro branches.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDREC021 - Ecuador - Floods + Earthquake

Operating Timeframe: 06 Apr 2023 to 31 Oct 2023

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/4-2024/2	Operation	MDREC021
Budget Timeframe	2023/4-10	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 09/Apr/2024

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	441,810
DREF Response Pillar	441,810
Expenditure	-426,843
Closing Balance	14,967

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	57,807	53,931	3,877
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	189,730	191,071	-1,341
PO04 - Health	29,021	27,165	1,856
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	14,298	15,900	-1,602
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	6,603	6,581	22
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	4,260	3,995	265
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	301,719	298,642	3,076
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	20,128	6,600	13,528
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	119,963	121,600	-1,637
Enabling Approaches Total	140,091	128,200	11,891
Grand Total	441,810	426,843	14,967

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 441,810 was allocated from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for the implementation of this IFRC-DREF Operation. The Ecuadorian Red Cross spent a total of CHF 426,843. The remaining balance of CHF 14,967 will be returned to the IFRC-DREF.

The most significant variances in the budget versus the actual expenditure include:

I. Multipurpose cash

The transfer of funds for the CVA line had a positive currency exchange change, resulting in a total of USD 193,166.28. With the decrease in the amount to be delivered to each beneficiary family from USD 260 to USD 240 to align with the amount planned by other

organizations (governmental and non-governmental), the number of families to be assisted increased from 650 to 804; however, even considering this change, the total amount was 192,960.00 USD, leaving an unspent balance of 206.28 USD.

II. DREF Training

In the original proposal, the "DREF Training" activity was planned, which was not feasible to carry out by the IFRC team due to the security crisis context. The following activities were executed instead:

Refresher in EVIN developed in Manabí: Practical exercise of response team deployment in Pichincha. Taking advantage of the exchange rate differential, it was possible to execute the proposed activity, strengthening the different technical teams of the National Society.

II. WASH

With the balances from the WASH budget and in order to complement the health promotion activities, home visits, and mosquito net distribution, it was necessary to organize community "mingas" and refresh the knowledge of the National Society personnel. Additionally, the socialization of contingency plans considering that the main impact on communities was related to the rainy season.

III. Uniforms

Acquisition of emergency backpacks, vests, shirts, sweaters, and vests for response teams. The purchase of uniforms was made considering the security context and the need for correct identification of teams deployed to the field. The purchasing process was carried out with the budget balance and the budget adjustment for the exchange rate differential.

IV. Monitoring visits by IFRC staff

Monitoring visits to be realized by IFRC personnel were not carried out due to the security context. Funds initially destined for this activity were not transferred to the National Society.



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for reference](#)

