



Local authorities and Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) volunteers supporting people affected by the flash floods. Photo credit: GRCS

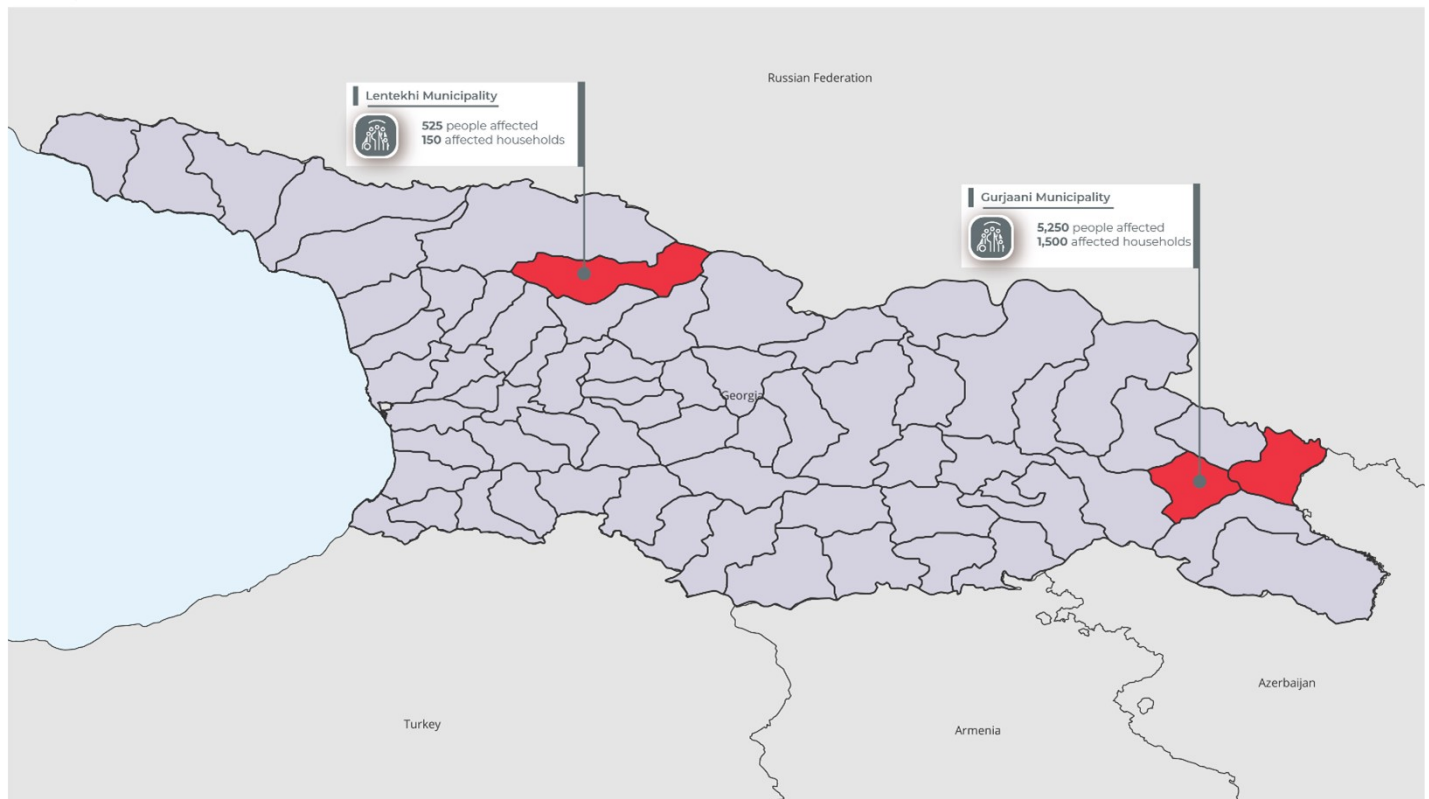
Appeal: MDRGE017	Country: Georgia	Hazard: Flood	Type of DREF Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 285,685	
Glide Number: FF-2023-000107-GEO	People Affected: 58,723 people	People Targeted: 5,775 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-06-29	Operation Timeframe: 4 months	Operation End Date: 2023-10-31	DREF Published: 2023-06-30
Targeted Areas:	Kakheti, Racha-Lechkhumi and Kvemo (lower) Svaneti		

Description of the Event

Affected Municipalities Georgia | Floods



Date produced: 22 June 2023



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities.

Data sources: IFRC GO Administrative boundaries, The Georgia Red Cross Society.
Produced by Information Management team - IFRC Europe.

What happened, where and when?

On 15 and 16 June, a significant disaster struck Gurjaani and Lentekhi municipalities in Georgia, as heavy rainfall, flooding, and hailstorms occurred. This calamity had widespread effects, impacting both urban and rural areas in Gurjaani and Lentekhi Municipalities – Kakheti and Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti regions, respectively.

The heavy rainfall led to the flooding of the central streets in Gurjaani municipality, including the surrounding areas of the central agricultural market, resulting in severe difficulties in transportation and mobility. Additionally, sudden mudflows and landslides caused the destruction of roads, blockages from fallen trees, and damage to vital infrastructure like bridges and power transmission towers. Specifically, the flooding affected several areas in Gurjaani municipality, including Gurjaani, Chumlaki, Tchandari, Vejini, Dzirkoki, Kolagi, Bakurtsikhe, and Kodalo.

In Lentekhi, which is one of the highest mountainous populated areas in Georgia, the storms affected Chikhareshi, Jakhunderi, Nakisheri, Skhedi, Upper Shkedi, Akhalsheni, Panaga, and Lekosadeni villages. State infrastructure such as bridges, in-land roads, and power transmission towers were also damaged.

Therefore, as farming plots have been damaged by the hail, floods and storm, longer-term food security of the socially vulnerable households is expected to exacerbate. In addition, according to the data from the national statistics of Georgia, every fifth person residing in the rural area is under the poverty line. Already existing vulnerability of this segment will be further increased due to the disaster-induced negative effect on their livelihoods.



Rehabilitation and recovery process will require comprehensive efforts to address the immediate needs of the affected population, including providing shelter, clean water, food, and medical assistance. Repairing and rebuilding damaged infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and power transmission towers will also be crucial, and will be undertaken by the authorities.

Long-term recovery efforts will focus on supporting the agricultural sector and assisting affected households in restoring their livelihoods. This may involve providing financial and/or agricultural assistance, and other forms of support to help farmers recover and rebuild their businesses.

Overall, the regeneration process will necessitate collaborative endeavours involving the government, humanitarian organizations, and the local community to ensure that the affected areas can recover and rebuild their lives after this devastating disaster.



Photo taken by GRCS volunteer showing the impact of the hail in center of Gurjaani

Scope and Scale

Georgia's population and economy have been vulnerable to recurring flooding and floods in the past decades. Flooding also has compounding effects in Georgia, via its impact on landslides and mudflows. The Georgian National Environmental Agency estimates that more than 70% of the country's territory lies in geological disaster risk zones.

Although Georgia is prone to flooding and hailstorms, it is worth noting that these kinds of floods are not common in either of these municipalities, as none of them are located in high-risk flash flood zones. It is the first time in recent decades that Gurjaani municipality faced such a disaster. Consequently, the population was not prepared for potential effects of this sudden disaster in the region. The disaster is found to have impacted a total of 58,723 people, of whom 5,775 people are in vulnerable situations and in need of humanitarian assistance.

The disaster had a detrimental impact on the local population's livelihoods, particularly in the agricultural sector. Flooding caused damage to agricultural lands and destroyed crops, which significantly affects the income of many households in Gurjaani and Lentekhi who rely on agriculture for their livelihoods.

During the disaster, the heavy flooding had a profound impact on affected households. Since families typically stored essential household items and food on the first floor, the floodwater caused significant damage to supply, appliances, furniture, and various household items. This loss further exacerbated the already challenging situation faced by the affected population.

In addition to the immediate disruptions, the disaster damaged the sewer system in Gurjaani, leading to a significant need for cleaning materials and a clean environment to ensure the affected households resume to their normal

lives shortly. Furthermore, local small shops and agricultural activities were also destroyed, further compounding the impact on the local population's livelihoods as they will not be able to access basic livelihoods in enclosed areas of their residences.

It is noteworthy that agriculture is the primary source of income for rural settlements in both municipalities.

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population groups?	No
Did the National Society respond?	Yes
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	No
If yes, please specify which operations	-

Lessons learned

Within the capacity of the Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS), it is worth noting that GRCS has accumulated vast experience and knowledge in responding to sudden emergencies and disasters, both at national and local levels in Georgia. Recent response operations have been concluded with efforts to measure i) lessons learned at National Society level, and ii) effectiveness, efficiency and relevance of response operations. In November 2019, IFRC facilitated a lesson learned workshop (LLW) in cooperation with the GRCS and the Austrian Red Cross, on two DREF operations in Georgia; i) Georgia – Floods (MDRGE012), and ii) Georgia – Demonstrations (MDRGE013). The LLW revealed some delays of procurement of non-food items (NFIs) for distribution under the DREF floods operation. Therefore, the GRCS decided to support the affected population with Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) within the operation's timeframe, which was found to be of great relevance for the needs of the affected population as other organizations did not respond in the targeted areas.

Current National Society Actions

Community Engagement And Accountability	The Georgia Red Cross Society (GRCS) has started the distribution of information materials on how to contact the GRCS, including information on contact details of the branches and the helpline service. Currently, the GRCS Helpline is operational and is handling calls from the affected population. Most calls are centred around requesting for support and information on support available for the affected households. The helpline service uses a feedback mechanism, which allows for efficient referrals to the branches, for any cases requiring support and follow-up actions.
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	The intervention will be based on the IFRC's minimum standards of Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) in emergencies. The distributions will be centred around dignity, access, participation, and safety (DAPS) principles. As there is a general lack of information about available support from the government and how to access it, information accessibility will be of key concern throughout



	the response, in parallel with Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). All data collected will be disaggregated by sex and age.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	GRCS volunteers are providing support to the affected households with cleaning, in particular to people in vulnerable situations, such as older people, people with disabilities.
National Society EOC	GRCS set up a regional crises management working group without full activation of the GRCS Emergency Operation Centre (EOC).
Activation Of Contingency Plans	The main needs of the GRCS were the elaboration of the contingency plan and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the better preparedness of the National Society (NS) during the emergency. This was achieved in 2018 and revisited several times in the subsequent years. In 2023, the Movement partners present in Georgia collaborated on the drafting of the Movement Contingency Plan for three main scenarios: Earthquake, Health, and Conflict. Due to this current disaster, GRCS has activated contingency measures on the district level, focusing on coordination and assessment, as well as on the local level for early actions by GRCS trained volunteers to support affected population.
Resource Mobilization	GRCS has mobilized a total of 80 volunteers in the Gurjaani and Lentekhi branches in the affected region to assess the situation at household level and to support the affected people, focusing on evacuations, psychosocial support of casualties, cleaning and disinfections.
Coordination	GRCS branch staff and volunteers are coordinating their activities with the local authorities. Based on the initial findings of the needs assessment and consultations with the local authorities, the local branches identified access to basic food, hygiene items, and vouchers for livelihoods as urgent needs of the affected households.
National Society Readiness	The GRCS operates branches in both of the affected municipalities, which also operate Disaster Response Teams. Through 14 - 16 June, local authorities of Gurjaani and Lentekhi municipalities officially approached the GRCS with the request to support the floods-affected population. Following the request of local authorities, the NS has mobilized a total of 80 volunteers in Gurjaani and Lentekhi Branches (please refer to section on "Resource Mobilization" for further information).
Assessment	A total of 80 volunteers were mobilized to support the data collection for the needs assessment, in coordination with the local authorities, to examine the most urgent needs of the affected population.

Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

	No actions are undertaken by the Movement partners outside the scope of this DREF Operation. The below presents the presence of the Movement partners in Georgia.
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IFRC	The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation operates from Tbilisi, Georgia. The delegation comprises of six international staff and four local staff: Head of Delegation, Programme Coordinator, Community Engagement & Accountability (CEA) Delegate, Cash & Voucher Assistance (CVA) Delegate, Education in Emergencies Delegate, Disaster Management Delegate, Informational Management Senior Officer, Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) Senior Officer, Health Officer, Finance Manager, and Finance & Admin Officer. IFRC focuses on Membership Coordination, National Society Development (NSD), and the provision of technical and financial support to the GRCS' emergency and disaster responses through its DREF and Emergency Appeal funding mechanisms. National Society Development is prioritized by Partnership Development and Resource Mobilization, and capacity building in the framework of Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response (PER approach).
ICRC	ICRC is not involved in the response. It is noteworthy that ICRC has been present in Georgia, including Abkhazia and South Ossetia since 1992. Currently, the office comprises of 89 staff members, of which 74 are national (Residents) and 15 internationals (Mobile).
Participating National Societies	No Partner National Societies (PNS) are involved in the response. However, Austrian Red Cross and Italian Red Cross are present in Georgia, and may be involved with monitoring, volunteer management, and evaluation of the response.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The ongoing heavy rain in the affected regions has prompted local authorities to prioritize the cleaning of the area and the pumping of water from the house basements. The focus is on addressing the immediate need to remove water and mitigate further damage caused by the flooding.
UN or other actors	No response has been identified from any of the UN agencies present in Georgia.
Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?	

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The overall objective of the operation is to provide rapid emergency assistance to the flood-affected people to address their urgent needs, mainly livelihoods and basic needs, with a timely cash and voucher assistance modality. The operation aims to cover 5,775 people (1,650 households) in total, i.e. 5,250 people (1,500 households) in Gurjaani municipality, and 525 People (150 households) in Lentekhi municipality. All targeted households will receive assistance. The GRCS has determined the amount to be assisted based on the initial figures provided by the local branches of the GRCS in coordination with the local authorities.



Operation strategy rationale

The strategy proposed by the GRCS is to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable households affected by the disaster in an efficient, appropriate and dignified manner. The strategy focuses on i) provision of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) to support people with the purchase of essential items and cover their immediate needs in a dignified manner, and ii) addressing psychosocial, health and hygiene risks arising as a consequence of the disaster. The following key points outline the strategy:

Finalization of assessments, plan and design: Conducting a needs assessment and working with local authorities and the affected population to determine the specific damages and assistance required. Finalization of lists of targeted individuals to ensure focused, transparent and effective relief efforts.

A Rapid Assessment for Markets (RAM): Conducting interviews with traders and vendors to assess the functionality and availability of commodities in the market. This helps identify and quantify the products needed by the affected population, including accessibility of the targeted people to the market by mapping protection and vulnerability risks.

Provision of Psychosocial Support (PSS), and health and hygiene promotion: Offering in-person consultations and targeted messages to provide emotional support to affected individuals, allow them to express their concerns, and strengthen their coping mechanisms. Community engagement activities will be conducted to mitigate the risk of exposure to health and hygiene risks after the flooding.

Response analysis and coordination: Conducting a response analysis in coordination with the IFRC and local authorities to support people with CVA.

Vendor contracts and selection of people assisted with CVA: Signing contracts with vendors to allow affected people to purchase basic and livelihood needs in exchange for value vouchers distributed by GRCS. Eligibility and selection focuses on the most affected households who lost their livelihood and had severe damage to their houses.

Voucher value calculation: The voucher value is based on the public authority-determined minimum subsistence allowance. The plan is to distribute vouchers valued at approx. GEL 360 (CHF 126) per household, considering the household size in the affected regions.

Previous experience and SOP: GRCS has experience in implementing CVA, including a previous operation in response to the Tbilisi flood in 2015. GRCS has developed a Standard Operating Procedure to guide CVA implementation in emergencies.

Monitoring and evaluation: Joint monitoring by IFRC and GRCS helps assess satisfaction levels and evaluate the quality of support provided. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) surveys are conducted to gather feedback and improve future operations.

Lesson learned workshop: Conducting a lessons learned workshop to evaluate the operation's effectiveness and efficiency, incorporating IFRC's Early Action Protocols for better disaster preparedness.

Community engagement and accountability: The intervention emphasizes community engagement and accountability, as well as protection, gender, and inclusion approaches to address the needs of communities and involve them in decision-making and risk prevention. This will particularly support the activities on psychosocial support, health and hygiene promotion, and planning and design of the CVA intervention.

Overall, the strategy aims to provide immediate assistance to affected households, alleviate their financial burden through value vouchers, and ensure that their most pressing needs are met while considering community engagement, protection, and inclusivity.



Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Gurjaani – 1,500 households (5,250 people) households and Lentekhi – 150 Households (525 people) region: Gurjaani and Lentekhi municipality whose houses were flooded, or affected by the landslide and strong wind. All targeted households will receive assistance. A particular attention will be devoted to people in vulnerable situations, taking into account the DAPS framework.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection criteria for the targeted population affected by the disaster in Gurjaani and Lentekhi are determined based on the geographical impact, severity of the disaster, loss of essential supplies, and vulnerability of specific sectors. The heavy rainfall, flooding, and hailstorms caused significant damage to urban and rural settlements, including central streets and surrounding areas. Mudflows, landslides, and infrastructure damage further exacerbated the situation. The floodwaters resulted in the destruction of roads, blockages from fallen trees, and damage to bridges, power transmission towers, and agricultural lands. Additionally, the loss of essential household items and food stored on the first floor of affected households added to their challenges. Special consideration may be given to households heavily dependent on agriculture, as the disaster had significant implications for their livelihoods.

Total Targeted Population

Women:	3,176	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	-	%	%
Men:	2,599	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	-	%	
Total targeted population:	5,775		

Risk and security considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
People are frustrated that they do not receive the support in time.	Clear targeting criteria will be communicated and coordinated through relevant and appropriate channels of communication. Clear communication will be maintained with communities to manage expectations. Immediate initiation of the procurement process.
Complaints towards GRCS is publicized in the media.	GRCS will systematically log feedback and complaints and will act accordingly on the sensitive complaints.
Community needs exceed the capacity of GRCS available funding.	Design and implement a communication plan to manage the expectations of the local population. Map other available services in the country to assure proper referrals if the identified needs exceed GRCS's capacity.



Planned Intervention

	Health	Budget	CHF 4,846
		Targeted Persons	3030
Indicators		Target	
Number of GRCS volunteers trained in PFA and hygiene promotion		30	
Number of people are covered by RCCE		3000	
% of people reporting that the assistance supported them in mitigating health and hygiene risks		85	
% of people reporting that the assistance improved the psychosocial conditions and consequences of the disaster		85	
Priority Actions:		• Population of target communities will be covered by Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) interventions via development and dissemination of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials with basic information about health, Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), as well as hygiene related problems and risks in the floods affected areas. The RCCE activities will also include targeted participatory sessions on MHPSS and Psychological First Aid (PFA), risk reduction and climate adaptation. To provide support to affected population GRCS volunteers who were not trained before will be covered by basic PFA training for responders. • The response will be initiated with community engagement activities, which will focus on health-related risks, to reduce the risk of exposure to contaminated water and food (health and hygiene), PFA activities, and information sharing on the support that may be expected from GRCS. Mobilization of PFA teams to the branches, to support the community outreach activities. • The GRCS branches are heavily involved in the cleaning of the affected areas, and this work will be supported by hygiene promotion and prevention.	

	Community Engagement And Accountability	Budget	CHF 10,064
		Targeted Persons	360
Indicators		Target	

% of people reporting satisfaction with vouchers support	85
% of people satisfied with the amount of information shared before receiving voucher assistance	85
Priority Actions:	• GRCS will conduct assessment of needs of affected population with the involvement of representatives of communities in the process of finalisation of the list of people assisted and identification of the best CVA model for affected communities. • Post-distribution monitoring will be conducted in one month after voucher distribution. 360 households will be interviewed. • GRCS will conduct a lessons learned workshop (LLW) with the involvement of communities to identify the best practices and ways for improvement for future

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 9,505
		Targeted Persons	
Indicators		Target	
Priority Actions:		IFRC will support GRCS with preparation of communication materials and personal stories about people affected by floods and who will be supported via DREF.	

	National Society Strengthening	Budget	CHF 35,076
		Targeted Persons	100
Indicators		Target	
Number of GRCS staff involved in the response		5	
Number of GRCS volunteers involved in the response		100	
Number of lessons learned workshop conducted		1	
Priority Actions:		• GRCS will provide covering GRCS volunteers by insurance, incentives and reimbursement of cost for communication and transportation and food. • 5 GRCS recruited staff will be involved in the operation	

	Multi-purpose Cash	Budget	CHF 226,194
		Targeted Persons	5775
Indicators		Target	
Number of households supported with vouchers		1650	
Number of people supported with voucher		5775	
% of households receiving CVA support that report being able to sufficiently meet their basic needs		85	
% of people reporting that the assistance was delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner		85	
Priority Actions:		• Provision of value vouchers to 1,650 households mostly affected by the flash floods to purchase the products they need the most. • Conduct rapid needs and market assessment, as well as a PGI survey to identify protection issues and accessibility limitation, in compliance with the DAPS framework. • Hold response analysis session with relevant stakeholders. • Selection and contracting of vendors. • Informing eligible and non-eligible people about the assistance • Distribution of value vouchers, and regular collection of feedback. • Post-distribution monitoring and evaluation. • Cross-cutting approach on MHPSS, CEA and PGI.	

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

5 GRCS Staff: DM Coordinator, DM Officer, two local coordinators, one CVA Officer.

100 Volunteers: Community Engagement activities, beneficiary registration, validation, monitoring.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

All procurements will be done by GRCS. GRCS has a procurement policy compliant with IFRC procurement requirements.

How will this operation be monitored?

The operation will be monitored and evaluated with a particular attention to i) relevance of the type of support provided, ii) efficiency, and iii) effectiveness.

The GRCS will conduct a post-distribution monitoring survey to examine the level of satisfaction among the targeted population. Apart from the quantitative indicators on how many people are supported throughout the operation, which will be collected by the volunteers, the operation will also accommodate two sets of community platforms for community meetings to review and validate the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the response. The

community groups established during the first phase of the operation will be utilized for evaluation purposes, to verify i) the findings of the post-distribution monitoring exercise, and ii) if the support fulfilled the communities' expectations in line with the information provided during the first phase.

The operation will be concluded with a lessons learned workshop to evaluate the performance of the operation as well as to document lessons, both for best practices and improvements in future operations.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.

IFRC will support GRCS with preparation of communication materials and personal stories about people affected by floods and who will be supported via DREF. IFRC has a CEA Delegate in the country who will provide direct support to the GRCS operational staff and volunteers.

The GRCS employs a Communication team, comprising of Communication Manager and Communication Officer. The operation will design a targeted communication plan for the response, with a close cooperation with CEA.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRGE017 - Georgia Red Cross Georgia - Flash Floods 2023

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	241,104
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	226,194
Health	4,846
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	10,064
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	44,581
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	9,505
National Society Strengthening	35,076

TOTAL BUDGET

285,685

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)





Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

