



Affected area, Los Cedros community, Sucre state. Source: Venezuelan Red Cross, Sucre Branch

Appeal: MDRVE008	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 207,890	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 9,420 people	People Targeted: 4,125 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 10-07-2023	Operational End Date: 31-01-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months

Targeted Areas: **Apure, Aragua, Bolivar, Portuguesa, Sucre, Vargas**

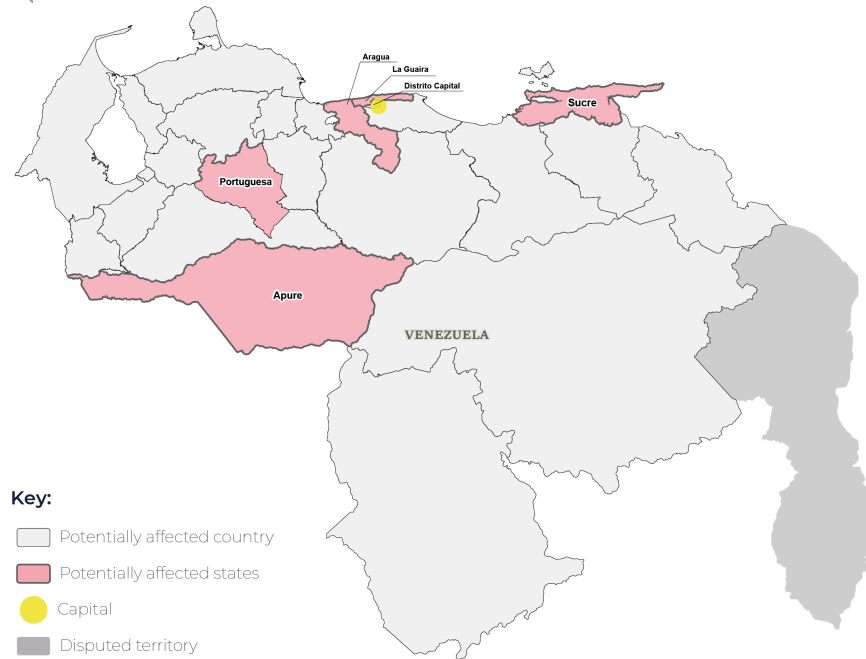
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Description of the Event



+CIFRC

Anticipatory Actions - Rains Venezuela - June 2023



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Map of areas potentially affected by heavy rains and targeted by Venezuelan Red Cross to conduct anticipatory actions. Source: IFRC

Date of event

31-10-2023

What happened, where and when?

On 10 July in response to alerts from INAMEH and the activation of a task force by national authorities to address the impact of heavy rainfall in the country, the Venezuelan Red Cross (VRC) launched the present operation. The objective was to implement anticipatory actions, including preparedness, pre-positioning, and early action activities, in the states of Apure, Aragua, La Guaira, Portuguesa, and Sucre. The National Society implemented anticipatory actions at both the institutional and community levels to mitigate the potential impacts of an emergency, based on lessons learned from previous operations. Planning this operation was significantly challenging due to limited official data. The selection of states was based on previous registered emergencies and the likelihood of impact based on available forecasts and the task force established by the national authorities.

On 19 August, Tropical Storm Franklin, previously known as tropical wave 31, caused damage in 20 sectors of Santa Elena de Uairén, Bolívar state. The Uairén River overflooded, triggering the activation of preparedness mechanisms. According to Civil Protection (CP) reports, 1,884 families were affected across various sectors. The municipal authorities, Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB, by its initials in Spanish), CP, and humanitarian agencies working in the area initiated the first response efforts. Santa Elena de Uairén is located two days' travel from the capital district and one day's travel from the nearest VRC response region (El Tigre), which presents challenges for response actions.

Despite this, the VRC deployed a field team to evaluate the context within the first days after the event, with the aim of assessing needs and evaluating the context. This assessment confirmed that 1,884 families were affected, of which 524 were at the greatest risk. The VRC provided aid to 200 families in the most affected areas, such as Francisco de Miranda, Los Pinos, Constituyente, Negro Primero, and El Merey.

Furthermore, on 31 October, heavy rains from tropical wave 49 affected the states of Sucre and Aragua, activating trigger 2 of the current



IFRC-DREF operation. On 2 November, the VRC sent technical teams to assess the effects of the situation. The teams identified 273 families in need of immediate assistance, with 225 in Sucre and 48 in Aragua. Consequently, the VRC proceeded to the response phase in these states.



Visit to the Bolivarian community, VRC national team, IFRC. Portuguesa State. Source: VRC



Volunteers trained in Emergency Water and operation of water treatment plants. Source: VRC



Risk map presentation. VRC volunteers. La Guaira state. Source: VRC

Scope and Scale

In 2022, Venezuela experienced a severe rainy season that affected approximately 1,400 homes and resulted in the unfortunate loss of 94 lives.

In order to mitigate the potential impact of the upcoming rainy season, and based on forecasts for early 2023, the Ministries of People's Power for Internal Affairs, Justice, and Peace (MPPRIJP, by its initials in Spanish) and Ministry of People's Power for Eco-Socialism (MINEC, by its initials in Spanish) implemented a risk management and climate crisis plan in 2023. Rain gauges have been installed in high-risk areas to enable the early activation of emergency measures. The Ministry of Environment has identified 394 vulnerable zones in the Capital District and coastal areas, where approximately 24,533 homes and 36,089 families are exposed to climate-related risks. According to assessments and population censuses carried out by the National Disaster Risk Management System (SGRD, by its initials in Spanish), as well as previous impacts, around 150,000 families are in risk of flooding in the five prioritized states (1).

The VRC monitored the situation in case the emergency phase was activated and recorded two instances of flooding.

On 19 August, heavy rains in Santa Elena de Uairén affected approximately 1,884 families, according to local CP (2). The most affected areas were: Francisco de Miranda, Quebrada Marumpa, Apamates, Calle Libertador, Callejón La Isla, Calle Roscio, Calle Bolívar, Kewey II Este, Calle Jerusalén, Negro Primero, Kewey II Centro, La Constituyente, Los Pinos, El Merrey, El Nazareno, Peimeru, Agropecuaria Brisas de Sampey, El Guayabal, Villa Heroica, Caño Amarillo and Brisas de Dios. CP and the VRC have identified the most urgent needs as access to safe water, maintenance of good hygiene practices, shelter, and food.

On 31 October, heavy rains affected the states of Sucre and Aragua. In response, the VRC teams were deployed to the affected communities to carry out rapid assessments, identifying 273 families in need of humanitarian assistance.

In the case of Sucre, three communities were affected: Los Cedros and Montalbán, which were part of IFRC-DREF anticipatory actions, while Valle Verde was affected by the landslide of Cerro Pan de Azúcar due to the heavy rains registered. The assessments highlighted that the flooding caused damage to the infrastructure of the houses, causing the deterioration of walls, damage to doors and windows, and leaks due to ruptures in some walls and ceilings. It was identified that household items such as mattresses, sheets, blankets, household cleaning materials and hygiene items were required. The most vulnerable population were children under five years old and the elderly. Livelihoods were also threatened, as these communities rely on agriculture as a source of income.

In the Aragua state, the Beisbol and Curiape communities reported affectations by heavy rains. The identified needs are similar to those in Sucre. However, coordinating assistance in Aragua is more challenging due to the area's complex context. Nonetheless, the VRC has

conducted rapid assessments.

Forecasts within the Venezuelan context remain a challenge. However, there is a need for the population to have better understanding of anticipatory actions and disaster preparedness actions to mitigate the possible consequences of different natural phenomena, especially floods.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. www.eldiario.com	https://eldiario.com/2023/08/20/casi-2000-familias-afectadas-lluvias-santa-elena-de-uaiaren/
2. www.elucabista.com	https://elucabista.com/2022/12/12/venezuela-esta-mas-vulnerable-menos-resiliente-y-mas-expuesta-a-los-impactos-del-cambio-climatico-advirtio-la-acfiman/

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	-

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	IFRC Delegation in Venezuela collaborated with the Regional Health, Disaster, Climate, and Crisis Unit to provide technical support and coordination to VRC. In September 2023, an Operations Manager was deployed for three weeks to support the National Society in successfully carrying out their actions.
Participating National Societies	The German Red Cross (GRC) supports the VRC emergency response plans as requested by the National Society. Based on previous experience, it provides funds for the logistical deployment of assessment missions and rapid response to emergencies. In branches with bilateral collaboration with the National Society, it can deploy health promotion and nutrition activities if requested by the VRC.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC Delegation, along with the VRC is in constant coordination with the Movement's partners in case any need arises in the prioritized states.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
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<p>National authorities</p>	<p>To effectively address the risks associated with heavy rainfall and the presence of the El Niño phenomenon, the Executive Branch formed a Presidential Commission led by the Vice-Presidency. The commission objective was to identify potential dangers and threats and to implement measures to mitigate them. Additionally, the National Government implemented the 2023 Rain Plan, which included the activation of Major Emergency States at the state and municipal levels. The plan aimed to coordinate the territorial defense system of the FANB with the National Risk Management System. It also aimed to involve firefighters, CP, volunteers, and other emergency response organizations.</p> <p>The "Los Andes 2023" task force plan was established, which had three main components: infrastructure and services, focusing on the recovery of roads, border repairs, and the activation of public services such as electricity and water in the Andean territories; a humanitarian task force responsible for assessing damage and analyzing needs; and the establishment of a Technical-Scientific Committee to evaluate the climate change crisis, with the main objective of studying meteorological phenomena, river sedimentation, and projects related to basins and tributaries.</p> <p>In response to the events in Santa Elena de Uairén events, local authorities activated the National Risk System and deployed specialized personnel to assess needs and conduct epidemiological surveillance for potential flood-related illnesses. The results indicated that they would provide support by delivering supplies, particularly to the most affected families.</p>
<p>UN or other actors</p>	<p>The UN system worked on an Interagency Protocol for Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans, as a first step towards achieving the objective of establishing procedures, actions, and responsibilities of agencies, funds, and programs in preparedness and response to natural, socio-natural or technological hazards.</p> <p>During the emergency registered in Santa Elena de Uairén, the Emergency Operations Command: COE - Humanitarian 2023 was in "Alert" mode, and the contingency plan was activated. A number of organizations, including UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, PAHO, and HIAS, were prepared to respond to formal requests from local authorities for assistance.</p> <p>UNHCR provided Gran Sabana CP with supplies for operational assistance in local emergency situations and has also assisted in the activation of shelters.</p>
<p>Are there major coordination mechanism in place?</p> <p>The National Society, in its auxiliary role, from its National Relief Directorate, participated in meetings with CP and local authorities to coordinate actions in the field in an emergency.</p> <p>The VRC coordinated with CP and the local health authority for the proper follow-up and implementation of response activities carried out in Santa Elena de Uairén.</p>	

Needs (Gaps) Identified



It has been documented that floods can increase the risk of vector-borne diseases and respiratory syndromes. In addition, contamination of water and food can affect consumption, domestic animals, and cause skin diseases, particularly in children under five years of age. Furthermore, health facilities may be impacted, reducing their operational capacity, which, in addition to the already affected Venezuelan health system, limits the attention that can be provided to the population. In the event of an emergency, there is a risk of increased psychological effects on health, which may manifest as stress, fatigue, headaches, changes in sleep and appetite, and emotional signs such as anxiety, depression, and manifestations of post-traumatic stress syndrome.

The Santa Elena de Uairen's unique health authority, in coordination with CP, identified the need for medicines such as antipyretics, antidiarrheals, antispasmodics, antiallergics, antiemetics, and amoxicillin after the emergency. This was due to an expected increase in



cases of acute respiratory infection, intestinal parasitosis, acute dermatitis, diarrheic syndrome, and urinary and vaginal infections caused by poor water quality. To enhance the health and well-being of the population, it was essential to address the ongoing humanitarian needs of Santa Elena de Uairen, especially in terms of healthcare access and medication. In emergency situations, these needs become even more urgent due to the heightened risk of contracting diseases caused by poor quality drinking water and inadequate hygiene practices.

The rise in the population of flies and mosquitoes in Sucre and Aragua increased the risk of malaria, dengue fever, as well as diarrheal and respiratory diseases. The health centers (Barrio Adentro) do not have the necessary supplies due to the strained health system. Patients with chronic disease reported losing their treatments and prescriptions, which has had adverse effects on their mental health such as anxiety and sleep disturbances due to the limitations in access back to their prescriptions.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Intense rainfall can result in landslides and floods, which can cause water systems to collapse and become contaminated. Such damage can alter the physical, chemical, and microbial parameters of the water, putting affected communities at immediate risk of waterborne diseases. Contaminated water sources can lead to skin mycosis and bacterial dermatitis. Moreover, rising river levels and resulting household damage can lead to increased accumulation of solid waste in the community.

The emergency in Santa Elena de Uairén has highlighted the limited access to treated water for the population. Floods caused by rising water levels have damaged many households, resulting in the loss of personal belongings and hindering personal hygiene and cleaning habits. It is important to note that the water supplied to the entire city of Santa Elena de Uairén is collected at the Wará Merú pumping station, which in turn collects water from the Wará stream. However, the pumping station does not provide any disinfection, coagulation, or flocculation of the water distributed through pipes, resulting in people consuming untreated water.

In contrast, the communities of Los Cedros and Montalbán in Sucre State collect water from Cerro Periquitos, situated in a mountainous area surrounded by three rivers. The water undergoes a natural filtration process, making it safe for consumption, despite the absence of treatment plants. Following the rainfall at the end of October, the VRC technical teams conducted a water analysis process and determined a turbidity result of 20 Nephelometric Turbidity unit (NTU).



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The vulnerability of affected populations, especially women, children and the elderly, is compounded by their lack of knowledge about emergency preparedness. Emergencies expose these vulnerable groups to a range of risks, including disappearances, family separation, gender-based violence, sexual violence within families, shelter risks, exploitation, sexual abuse and human trafficking.

To address these challenges, it is essential to provide PGI mechanisms for safeguarding. In this sense, a child protection risk analysis will be implemented to analyze and identify the level risk related to protection.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The SGRD, of which the VRC is a member, has identified through its operations the following gaps:

- i) Strengthening of response capacity (equipment, training);
- ii) Community approach to disaster risk management, especially in high-risk urban areas with a higher population density;
- iii) Support to other actors in planning and coordination for timely and efficient deployment of operations.

During the implementation of Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) tools at community level in the five priority states, it was found that communities are more likely to be affected by floods or droughts due to the zones' living conditions. Furthermore, it was also found that the living conditions and zones in which the communities are located put them at risk, as there are no emergency response mechanisms in place, and they do not receive guidance from CP or related national institutions. The national response system is designed to be activated only in an emergency, while communities have shown a need and interest in receiving early warning measures to reduce the consequences of emergencies. Given the complex context and reduced capacity of the national system, it is necessary to implement community actions focused on strengthening capacities in emergency, first aid, evacuation, coordination and emergency planning, and equipment provision, among others.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The VRC aimed to assist 825 families through the IFRC-DREF Plan of Action. This was disaggregated as follows:

- 500 families as part of anticipatory actions in Apure, Aragua, La Guaira, Portuguesa, and Sucre, with 100 families per state. The objective was to mitigate the potential impact of the rainy season on the initial target population.
- 200 families through the distribution of relief items as part of response to the floodings in Santa Elena de Uairen which were added through the Operations Update No. 1.
- 125 families as part of response phase activated in Sucre and Aragua states. Based on the needs identified, the VRC announced the activation of trigger 2 of the IFRC anticipatory actions in these states. As a result, the VRC aimed to reach 273 families (approximately 1,365 people) with the distribution of relief items during the response to flooding. 125 families were added to Sucre, while 148 families were already targeted as part of the anticipatory actions (100 Sucre and 48 in Aragua).

Operation strategy rationale

The VRC has a National Response Plan with three levels of alert (green, yellow, and red) to identify the appropriate time for anticipatory and response actions based on specific triggers. Trigger 1 is the yellow alert, which indicates readiness and early actions. When a phenomenon is perceived to have a moderate risk, it is declared as a preventive alert. The VRC began readiness and prepositioning activities when the initial IFRC-DREF request was approved. In addition, early actions were taken at the first signs of inundation in each state.

Trigger 2 is the red Alert, indicating response actions as the event has been declared as having the potential to affect the population. The emergency that occurred in Santa Elena de Uairén, did not activate trigger 2 because this state was not one of the five prioritized states. Therefore, Operations Update No. 1 only aimed to include the replenishment of the items distributed by the VRC to 200 families identified in the initial phase of response.

Furthermore, due to the impact of the heavy rains caused by Tropical Wave 49 in the states of Sucre and Aragua, the VRC activated trigger 2 and started the distribution of the relief items contemplated in this operation in these areas (jerrycans, buckets, water filters, and water purification tablets).

The summary of the intervention is as follows:

HEALTH

Trigger 1:

- Procurement and pre-positioning of consumables for first aid kits as a readiness measure to support first aid provision.
- At least 500 families reached with health prevention and promotion activities in Apure, Aragua, La Guaira, Portuguesa, and Sucre.
- Refresher training for Emergency Healthcare Response Teams (ERSE) volunteers to ensure the quality of interventions.

Trigger 2:

- 200 families reached with 600 mosquito nets in Bolivar.
- 225 families reached with 675 mosquito nets in Sucre state.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

Trigger 1:

- WASH promotion sessions for communities to 500 families to help them understand how to protect existing water sources and sanitation to prevent waterways from becoming blocked.
- Training of volunteers in emergency WASH and water treatment plants operation so that they know what to do and how to do it before the disaster.
- Procurement and pre-positioning of WATSAN2 kits for 400 families (2,000 people) as a readiness measure. The WATSAN2 kit contains 400 buckets, 400 jerrycans, 400 water sachets, 400 soaps, 50,000 water purification tablets for 10 liters of water, etc.
- Procurement and pre-positioning of 100 jerrycans for 100 families.
- Procurement and pre-positioning of water purification tablets for 100 families.
- Procurement and pre-positioning of 500 buckets for use with water filters for 500 families.



Note that the WATSAN2 kit only contains items for 400 families. Therefore, additional stock was budgeted so that the National Society could reach 500 families in the early stages of the response if required. In addition, while prepositioning of response items is not typical in IFRC-DREF operations, it is important to note that the VRC needed these items before the floods season to reduce the response time to a minimum possible. Based on experience, initiating procurement processes during the disaster would delay the response and limit the impact of anticipatory actions.

Trigger 2:

- Distribution of the stock prepositioned in branches. This was done in the states of Sucre and Aragua when the trigger 2 was met.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (DRR)

Trigger 1:

- Training of volunteers to participate in the community preparation phase of the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA).
- At least 500 families reached through DRR activities in Apure, Aragua, La Guaira, Portuguesa, and Sucre through elaboration of the EVCA in the identified and prioritized communities, elaboration and/or updating of community and family response plans.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI)

Trigger 1:

- Training for staff and volunteers of branches in priority states in PGI minimum standards, socialization of child protection policy, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, code of conduct, WASH with PGI approach, addressing Menstrual Hygiene Management needs.
- Educational sessions with the prioritized communities on identification and prevention of gender-based violence and risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, and key messages on PSEA policy.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA)

Trigger 1:

- Training of the VRC volunteers in priority states on community engagement and accountability, feedback mechanisms and the feedback cycle.
- Implementation of CEA feedback mechanisms where 500 families were reached.

Overall, the above strategy allowed the National Society to take action to reduce the impact of the floods on communities; while ensuring the institutional readiness of communities to receive the assistance they need shortly after the expected impact of the floods.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

By the end of the operation, a total of 825 families were reached through this intervention, as follows:

Anticipatory actions:

- 500 families targeted for the anticipatory activities, an average of 100 families per state. The target population was made up of people who were prioritized due to the potential impact and severity of an emergency in the states of Apure, Aragua, La Guaira, Portuguesa, and Sucre.

Response Actions:

- Given the emergency in Santa Elena de Uairén, an additional 200 families (beyond the 500 targeted in the anticipatory actions) were identified through initial damage and needs assessments and prioritized for the provision of relief items. These families were additional because Bolívar was not initially part of the states prioritized for anticipatory actions.
- Due to the emergency in Sucre and Aragua, an additional 125 families were included in the response phase in Sucre as part of activation of trigger 2.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The vulnerability criteria for the selection of families to be reached in the different intervention areas were:

- Families living in high-risk areas with the potential to lose their goods



- Families with children and/or elderly people
- Families with people with disabilities
- Families where the head of the family is a woman with children / pregnant women

The National Society conducted a pre-registration based on the above criteria, which was validated after trigger 2 to ensure rapid delivery of assistance to affected families.

Total Targeted Population

Women	2,105	Rural	20%
Girls (under 18)	370	Urban	80%
Men	1,402	People with disabilities (estimated)	5%
Boys (under 18)	248		
Total targeted population	4,125		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Limited access to fuel may limit activities in the field regarding mobilization for preparedness activities.	Coordination was maintained with local authorities to guarantee the fuel supply necessary to implement VRC operations. This was done ongoingly at the request of local authorities. VRC headquarters continues to work with national authorities to find a suitable national solution that can be rolled out to branches through HD.
The country's situation could affect logistics for this operation.	The IFRC logistics structure was in place to provide support to the National Society. A procurement plan was developed, and purchases and the availability of inputs were monitored. Local procurement was carried out wherever feasible.
VRC Restructuring Process could impact implementation of activities.	In accordance with its mandate, the VRC has identified the continuity of humanitarian operations as a priority and has taken steps to guarantee its continuation. To this end, an IFRC National Society Development team is present in the country to support the restructuring process, provide technical guidance to ensure proper follow-up and delivery of proposed outputs. Furthermore, the Programs and Operations team has collaborated closely with the technical teams of the VRC.
The event's onset is earlier than predicted.	The VRC has a response plan, with communication and activation chains in place. This allowed the correct activation of Trigger 2 and the response in Santa Elena de Uairén, Sucre and Aragua when required. In addition, the VRC is in the process of reviewing its contingency plans to fully ensure the relevance of the activation mechanisms. The VRC decided to continue working with the prioritized communities, supporting them before, during and after the event, as the event occurred while anticipatory actions were being implemented.



Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The main selection criteria for the implementation of this plan were operational security and vulnerability.

In September 2023, a national deployment of more than 11,000 police officers was carried out in Aragua with the aim of disarming illegal groups. This resulted in the rescheduling of activities in Aragua, including training mobilization water treatment plants.

The distribution activities in Santa Elena de Uairén were conducted under the close coordination and supervision of the VRC Branch El Tigre, given the challenging accessibility of the area.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Implementation



Budget: CHF 14,133

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 2,319

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of branches with first aid kits	5	5
# of volunteers trained in ERSE	100	112
# of people reached by health prevention and promotion	2,000	1,519
# of families reached with mosquito nets	424	425

Narrative description of achievements

Anticipatory actions:

Five first aid kits were procured and distributed to communities in the states of Apure (Mapora B), Aragua (El Béisbol), Sucre (Los Cedros), Portuguesa (Los Bolivarianos), and La Guaira (Marapa-Piache) to ensure first aid care in an emergency. In addition, preventive actions were effectively carried out through community visits and prevention and health promotion sessions. Educational sessions were developed for the population during response actions, reaching a total of 1,519 people across the five states as follows: 343 people in Aragua state, 373 in Apure, 477 in Sucre, 138 in La Guaira and 188 in Portuguesa.

In addition, the VRC demonstrated strong leadership by organizing the Emergency Health Response Teams (ERSE) at the branch level, which was made up of highly skilled volunteers. At the end of the process, 112 volunteers were trained, with 24 in Aragua, 24 in Apure, 34 in Portuguesa and 30 in Sucre. The trained volunteers were deployed internally to exchange skills and foster capacity building.

Response actions:

Following the VRC technical mission in Santa Elena de Uairén, 200 families were reached through the distribution of 600 mosquito nets in Francisco de Miranda, Los Pinos, Constituyente, Negro Primero and El Merrey sectors (3 per family). It is important to state that these 200 families (800 people) did not receive prevention and promotion and, thus, are not included in the number of people reached by this action but are taken into consideration in the overall number of persons assisted.

Furthermore, the VRC distributed 675 mosquito nets to 225 families in Sucre state in the communities of Montalban and Los Cedros. The



replenishment was requested as part of the Operations Update No. 2 and duly received by the National Society. It is important to state that these 225 families (900 people) did receive prevention and promotion and, thus, are included in the number of people reached by this action.

Lessons Learnt

The strategies implemented demonstrate the value of strengthening actions aimed at prevention and health promotion at the community level. They highlight the need to fully implement educational sessions at the community level on issues related to disease prevention, especially when distributing relief items. This is because people may be more exposed to risks and dangers if they do not have the knowledge and proper practices for their use. Therefore, this practice should be continued and strengthened as an integral part of interventions.

Challenges

- Needs at community level super pass operation scope in health.
- The target for health prevention and promotion activities presented a challenge for the implementing team due to the risk situations in Aragua state, which included clashes between armed groups and state security forces during the implementation period. These conflicts prevented access to communities.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 92,278

Targeted Persons: 3,000

Assisted Persons: 3,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached by WASH promotion sessions	3,000	3,500
# of volunteers trained in Emergency Water and Operation of Emergency Water Treatment Plants.	100	104
# of families reached with WASH items	825	425

Narrative description of achievements

Anticipatory Actions:

During the implementation of the anticipatory actions, comprehensive hygiene promotion sessions were held at the community level in the five states, covering topics such as vector control, waste management, and safe water management. These activities reached 2,500 people (500 families). Of these, 1,719 people received follow-up sessions when other activities were implemented at the community level.

Furthermore, a water emergency training exercise was conducted from 23-27 October in Turmero, Aragua state, with the participation of 30 volunteers. This exercise allowed the WASH technical team to improve their skills and learn in depth about the mobilization process of an OX-LMS plant. In addition, two online training courses were conducted for 74 volunteers on topics relevant to the WASH technical team.

The procurement and pre-positioning of the WATSAN2 kit was carried out in coordination with the VRC WASH technical unit, as well as the IFRC Procurement Officer and the Regional Logistics Unit. The kit was stocked at VRC priority branches to provide initial response actions if needed as part of Trigger 2. Drums, purification tablets and saw filter buckets were also stored both locally and internationally.

Response actions:

As part of the response phase triggered by the effects of Hurricane Franklin, the VRC carried out the following distributions in Santa Elena de Uairen, where a total of 200 families (800 family members) were reached: 200 hygiene kits, 200 cleaning kits, 400 jerry cans and



water purification tablets. These items were distributed following initial assessments carried out at the local level by a field assessment team from the Capital District and the El Tigre branch. The distributions were carried out in two phases. Initially, 100 hygiene kits and 100 cleaning kits were distributed with 200 jerry cans and water purification tablets. The remaining items were distributed subsequently. Additional coordination was carried out at the local level. The Director of the Rosario Vera Zurita Hospital and the field coordinator of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) monitored the water, sanitation and hygiene needs.

On the other hand, as part of the activation of Trigger 2 in the states of Sucre (Montalbán, Los Cedros and Valle Verde) and Aragua (El Beisbol), the distribution of the items acquired in the initial phase of the operation in Sucre and Aragua (jerry cans, water filters and water purification tablets) was carried out. This reached 225 families. In addition, hygiene kits, cleaning kits, blankets, and mosquito nets were distributed in Sucre according to identified needs.

All distribution activities were carried out in combination with hygiene promotion sessions aimed at educating and encouraging families to improve their hygiene practices and reduce waterborne diseases, especially in rural communities with limited access to safe water sources and storage. At all, these promotion hygiene activities reached 3,500 people (700 families), 2,500 (500 families) in anticipatory actions in the five prioritized states and 1,000 people (200 families) in response actions in Santa Elena de Uairén.

As Trigger 2 was only activated in two of the initial five States, the pre-positioned items were only distributed in those states as originally planned in the operation's strategy, resulting in an excess of 175 kits in the response phase which were safeguarded by the National Society in the branches of Apure, La Guaira and Portuguesa. They will be used in the case of a future emergency.

Lessons Learnt

- A standardized process and the simulation/camp format training facilitated the integration of all participants, contextualized processes, efficiently managed existing resources and allowed for effective team functioning.
- It has been evidenced that it is quicker and better to carry out the procurement process at the local level, as the registration and permissions for the goods are already in place. However, this could have a direct impact on budget costs, as local prices often double the prices of the Regional Logistics Unit in Panama.
- Even though standard items are going to be procured, goods need to be reviewed as laboratory tests of WATSAN kit 2 did not meet the technical requirements of the VRC WASH unit.

Challenges

- During the start-up of the operation, and especially during the execution of the training maneuvers of the water treatment plant, the team on the ground faced significant challenges. Multiple and constant power outages, interruptions in communication networks and shortages of fuel (petrol and diesel) needed for both vehicles and autonomous equipment (pumping systems) were experienced.
- Persistent rains in some cases, especially during community visits, forced the rescheduling or delay of planning.
- Timely procurement processes remain one of the main challenges in implementing response operations as the country context changes; although some suppliers are available, they often offer higher prices than the operation can afford, which increases costs. Hence, international procurement is undertaken, sometimes involving delays.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 2,878

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 2,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people with protection risks knowledge	2,000	2,000
# of volunteers trained/or refreshed in PGI topics	100	96



Narrative description of achievements

As part of actions, the VRC implemented an evaluation to analyze child protection risks based on the Child Protection Risk Toolkit with the aim to strengthen child protection practices and reduce the risk of harm to children. This was done by the PGI national focal point, who consolidated all the input from the branches and focused the training based on the findings. Findings allowed the VRC National PGI officer to identify key points in which the National Society could improve. It was identified that unlike the border states, the ones prioritized had less knowledge on PGI topics as they have a different context than border states.

Above all, despite volunteers understanding the delicate nature of working with children, it is still required to disseminate information regarding protection risks to diminish the risks to the VRC and ensure the protection of the communities that it serves. It was evidenced that protection issues still need to be addressed by the National Society despite training that has been carried out. As of January 2024, the VRC has not yet implemented mechanisms for the identification and referral of protection issues. Throughout the assessments, VRC volunteers were trained on specific topics like the code of conduct and PSEA. This training was coordinated with the PGI technical focal point of the VRC with the objective of strengthening their performance in emergency interventions.

During field missions, knowledge reinforcement was conducted at the PGI focal point. This included Code of Conduct, PSEA Policies and Introduction to PGI, and IM issues, with a review of data collection in Sucre, Bolivar and Portuguesa. Additionally, two initial online training courses were held on 30 and 31 August. As a result of these activities, 14 volunteers were reached in Aragua, 23 in Apure, 13 in Sucre, 14 in La Guaira and 32 in Portuguesa, for a total of 96 volunteers in the five priority states. Furthermore, two workshop sessions were carried out remotely on 30 and 31 August.

At the community level, each intervention session included protection, gender and inclusion topics as part of the comprehensive actions carried out by VRC branches. This resulted in the total initial target being reached in each state. PGI topics were applied and discussed but were not specifically recorded.

Lessons Learnt

- It is necessary to promote the participation of the gender and diversity priority line in the programs and projects of the VRC both in response operations and in disaster risk management.

- It is also necessary to outline the care and coordination route for channeling PSEA and other cases, both at the national and local levels, considering the legal framework and providing survivor-centered responses.

Challenges

Providing training and dissemination on gender equality in humanitarian action, using a gender analysis framework, the Minimum Standards for PGI in Emergencies, the Code of Conduct, the PSEA policy and the Children's Policy, was a major challenge. Community members find it difficult to address these community issues, as they feel that seeking solutions on a case-by-case basis can lead to conflict. However, they also recognize that not addressing these issues also brings its own challenges.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 22,303

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 3,896

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers who have strengthened their preparation skills	100	167
# of families with knowledge of early warning systems	500	974

Narrative description of achievements

Anticipatory Actions:

The VRC successfully conducted simultaneous training at the local level on Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, where previously trained volunteers conducted field training following the established methodology. As a result, 167 volunteers were trained, of which 27 were in Aragua, 61 in Apure, 27 in Sucre and 52 in Portuguesa.

At community level, the VRC carried out activities to increase knowledge of early warning systems. The implementation of EWS demonstrated the increasing need for communities to fully understand these topics, as there is no other institution that implements these kinds of actions. Despite the initial target of 100 families per state, the massive assistance and interest of communities led to the overachievement of this target. 974 families (3,896 people) received information and training on early warning systems, as follows: Aragua 364 families, Apure 62 families, Sucre 106 families, La Guaira 224 families and Portuguesa 218 families.

In some cases, such as in Sucre and Portuguesa state, neighbor communities to those prioritized requested the VRC to participate in information sessions, as they had also been affected by floods at some point. As this did not represent any additional costs and the communities had similar contexts, they participated in these sessions. This represented an overachieving of results.

Specifically, in the communities of Los Cedros and Montalbán in Sucre, all planned preventive actions were completed, including the development of a community plan, the formation of a community brigade, a simulation exercise and the provision of a community emergency kit. It is worth noting that the drill in Montalbán was led by members of Los Cedros who had already participated in their own exercise. This fostered the empowerment of communities to carry out their own actions and the exchange of good practices among their members. Furthermore, the anticipatory actions implemented by the VRC in Sucre demonstrated that when communities are aware of the risks, they can be better prepared for an emergency. This was the case on 28 November, when the risk of a river overflowing in Montalbán led to the activation of their evacuation plan, without causing any damage. The implementation of a community organization structure allowed for improved communication and timely notification of damage to the VRC.

Moreover, in La Guaira state, an early warning system strip was restored to measure the level of the river, with colour systems informing the community about the level of risk. In addition, murals were painted at three points in the community reflecting the risk map and its location. Educational sessions were held in the Mapara school, where a drill was carried out, promoting the importance of DRR activities. These activities in La Guaira made it possible to reach almost double the proposed goal for families with knowledge of early warning systems, where attendance at the training sessions was higher than expected.

Likewise, in the community of Los Bolivarianos, Aragua state, a model reflecting the risks in the community was created and placed in the community house as part of the awareness-raising activities on the importance of DRR. These activities were replicated in the states of Apure and Portuguesa, where community brigades were also formed and provided with community emergency kits containing reflective waistcoats, whistles, torches, safety helmets, rubber boots, safety or meat gloves, mackintoshes or ponchos, safety glasses, lamps and a basic first aid kit.

Lessons Learnt

- It demonstrated the need for local actions aimed at improving disaster preparedness. The activities carried out were highly appreciated by the communities and local authorities, contributing to the strengthening the resilience of individuals, families and communities to emergencies and disasters through prevention, mitigation and community preparedness actions.
- A significant increase in contributions to organizational development was observed, enabling the training and deployment of volunteers with the incorporation of new knowledge and enriching exchanges. The operation actively contributed to reducing the impact of emergencies and disasters on individuals and communities, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the first response.
- The intervention also focused on promoting the early recovery of communities affected by emergencies and disasters, increasing their preparedness and resilience to future adverse situations. The operation became a catalyst for comprehensive and sustainable development in the intervened areas, generating a positive impact on the communities' capacity to face future challenges.

Challenges

The VRC identified the need to institutionalize EWS and Anticipatory Action programmes that include risk management and community resilience. In this regard, VRC is reviewing possible advances to increase its capacities in these areas to comprehensively address the strengthening of resilient communities. This approach seeks to capitalize on the experience accumulated in DRR and transform it into structured programmes that benefit a greater number of volunteers and communities, thus ensuring a more significant impact at the local level.





Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 1,035

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 2,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained/or refreshed in CEA topics	100	51
# of people that participated in feedback mechanisms	2,000	2,000

Narrative description of achievements

The activities were planned with the technical focal points of the VRC on CEA. Branch volunteers received training during the operation to enhance their knowledge of IFRC-DREF operation activities, including DRR, WASH, PGI, CEA, and Health, significantly strengthening their capacities. Volunteers who participated in these trainings successfully replicated them at the community level, equipping themselves with the necessary tools to ensure the quality and relevance of activities on the ground.

In August, volunteers received two comprehensive training courses on the application of the community approach. They were trained in the use of CEA tools to fully understand the needs and expectations of communities regarding risk perception and early warning. To achieve this, they adeptly applied surveys, focus groups, and satisfaction surveys. However, it was noted that communities tend to not fully participate in feedback mechanisms when they are implemented only through surveys, as they feel questioned and fear that this information is going to be shared. In this sense, VRC constantly communicates the intention of collecting this type of information and disseminates the RCRC Fundamental Principles, especially those of Neutrality, Independence and Impartiality. For these reasons, more focal groups are usually carried out, especially when closing community activities as part of the closure of VRC actions.

At community level, the VRC held actions such as “Trapitos al Sol”, which is a feedback mechanism that allows for comments regarding activities held on a specific day. In total, 2,000 targeted people participated in these events. This forms part of the comprehensive approach in which branches implement actions at the community level.

The national CEA focal point conducted field visits to ensure the correct and effective execution of all activities. Before concluding the activities, community assemblies and focus groups were held to share experiences and lessons learned. CEA was applied in all community intervention activities and was recorded during each community session. Community members in Apure received training certificates during an event called Community Coffee. In Sucre and La Guaira, a community potluck was held where members shared their opinions and perceptions about the activities implemented by the VRC.

Lessons Learnt

The implementation of the community participation and community accountability approach enabled the early adoption of a strategy to strengthen the commitment of the people reached, prevent misunderstandings and local and community conflicts. This approach reinforced transparency and accountability channels through regular processes to inform communities about the development and evolution of the operation.

Challenges

Further strategies are required from VRC headquarters to increase the involvement of local volunteers, avoid the displacement of resources from other branches and ensure more solidly rooted support in the community.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 39,093

Targeted Persons: 0



Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of monitoring missions carried out	4	6

Narrative description of achievements

The IFRC Secretariat has supported the VRC in coordinating procurement, shipping and distribution processes. To this end, coordination was established with the relevant areas of the VRC and the head of logistics to ensure that the items to be procured were in line with what was requested. Despite the planning and monitoring of possible risks in the procurement process, there were delays in the receipt of supplies due to factors external to the regional logistics unit and the Venezuelan Delegation.

From 26 September to 17 October, an Operations Manager was deployed in Venezuela to support the VRC in the follow-up of IFCR-DREF actions for anticipatory actions, in coordination with the national relief director. During his visit, four field missions were conducted in Aragua, La Guaira, Portuguesa and Sucre, where support was provided to the VRC teams for developing activities implemented in the field. The IFRC IM Officer provided additional technical support.

Furthermore, on 25 October, the Operations Coordinator and the IFRC IM Officer conducted a brief visit to Turmero, Aragua state, to monitor the water and sanitation works being carried out. In addition, as part of the closure of activities, a field visit was made to Sucre state in January 2024. The prioritised communities carried out a community activity, which allowed them to analyse and reflect on the actions carried out in the previous months and to see future activities.

Finally, in January 2024, at the request of the VRC, the IFRC Senior PMER America's Regional Office Officer was deployed to accompany the development of a Lessons Learned Workshop with the participation of 16 people from the VRC and three from IFRC.

Lessons Learnt

- Constant communication with VRC team leaders has been the key to fully monitoring the actions and solving bottle necks and to coordinate with IFRC ARO technical teams to ensure actions are implemented timely.
- Improve the time between requests and reception of procurements to provide a more efficient response.
- Support National Society in its process of updating contingency plans and training sessions, so that more National Society personnel can guarantee an effective response and understand chain activation triggers.

Challenges

The receipt of procured items was delayed, which posed a challenge for the implementing team. This could significantly impact the quality of the response and the effectiveness of planned interventions, especially in emergency situations. Furthermore, the context's complexity and the articulation of actors involved posed a challenge for the execution of activities. The process of decision-making, development of deliverables and minimum required procedures took more time than was available in emergency situations. This highlighted the need to review standard procedures for emergency contexts and to streamline response times.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 36,151

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# of staff recruited	2	2
# of branches with reinforced communication systems	5	5

Narrative description of achievements

Through this Operation, an Operations Coordinator and an Administrative Assistant were hired, who provided constant support to the branches of the VRC in the execution of activities on the ground.

As part of strengthening communication and information systems, the VRC IM focal point provided support to five VRC branches to fully reinforce their capacities and update their capacities. Furthermore, two branches (La Guaira and Apure) received equipment maintenance used by relief volunteers when deployed to emergency response activities.

A communications plan was developed by the Communications Department of the VRC to provide visibility to the actions. This communication material is available on the social media channels of the VRC.

Lessons Learnt

- The responses deployed in Santa Elena de Uairén and Sucre allowed the VRC to expand its reach and consolidate institutional presence at the national level. Among the achievements, it is worth highlighting the efficiency and effectiveness in community training and responses to adverse events.
- The commitment shown by the volunteers and technical staff who collaborated within the framework of the DREF was fundamental for the project's successful implementation. The importance of having a focal point strictly responsible for monitoring expenses has been analyzed, as branches often require more support when executing the budget.

Challenges

- Timely reception of journals affected implementation of funds.
- Reduced access to fuel and other operative constraints continues affecting the implementation of activities at community level.
- It was evidenced that it is necessary to constantly disseminate contingency plans with local branches as it was found that at headquarters technical teams fully know the activation mechanisms but at local level not all volunteers know.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/7-2024/11	Operation	MDRVE008
Budget Timeframe	2023-2024	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 22/Jan/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRVE008 - Venezuela - Anticipatory Actions for Floods

Operating Timeframe: 10 Jul 2023 to 31 Jan 2024

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	207,890
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	117,771
DREF Response Pillar	90,119
Expenditure	-207,189
Closing Balance	701

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health	10,400	17,759	-7,359
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	95,520	97,324	-1,803
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2,639	2,468	171
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	26,723	26,488	235
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	968		968
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	136,250	144,039	-7,789
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	36,801	20,161	16,639
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	34,839	42,989	-8,150
Enabling Approaches Total	71,640	63,150	8,490
Grand Total	207,890	207,189	701

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

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 207,890 was allocated from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for the implementation of this DREF Operation. The Venezuelan Red Cross spent a total of CHF 207,189. The remaining balance of 701 will be returned to the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF).

The variation in the budget was mainly due to a restructuring process that created some challenges in the timetable, leading to delays mainly in the implementation of training activities. Consequently, more field activities and community work were prioritized.

Furthermore, some budget variances were due to allocation errors. For example, training materials for volunteers were mistakenly charged to 'Volunteers' instead of 'Training Materials'.



Contact Information

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[Click here for reference](#)

