



Volunteer conducting community awareness. Ecuadorian Red Cross, 2023.

<b>EAP No:</b> EAP2020EC02	<b>Operation No:</b> MDREC023	<b>EAP approved:</b> 02/12/2020	<b>EAP timeframe:</b> 7 months
<b>Trigger date:</b> 05/08/2023	<b>EAP lead time:</b> Seasonal forecast: 3 months Sub-seasonal forecast: 1-month Midterm forecast: 5 – 7 days	<b>Operational timeframe:</b> 02/12/2020 – 31/01/2024	<b>Period covered by this report:</b> 05/04/2021 – 30/03/2024

**EAP BUDGET: 249,983 CHF**

Readiness: 60,116 CHF

Prepositioning: 75,449 CHF

Early Action: 114,418 CHF

**ASSISTED: 5,268 people**

# EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL SUMMARY

Back in December 2020, the IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocated CHF 249,983 for the Ecuadorian Red Cross to implement early actions to reduce and mitigate the impact of floods related to the El Niño phenomenon in Ecuador. The early actions to be conducted were pre-agreed with the National Society and are described in the Early Action Protocol: [EAP2020EC02Activation Ecuador Heavyrains.pdf](#)

## Summary

Ecuador has historically faced significant impacts from the El Niño phenomenon, with major recorded events in 1982-1983 and 1997-1998. These events led to human casualties, severe damage to housing and public infrastructure, economic disruptions, and health crises due to increased cases of dengue, malaria, Zika, and chikungunya. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the socioeconomic cost of the 1997-1998 El Niño reached US\$2.882 billion.

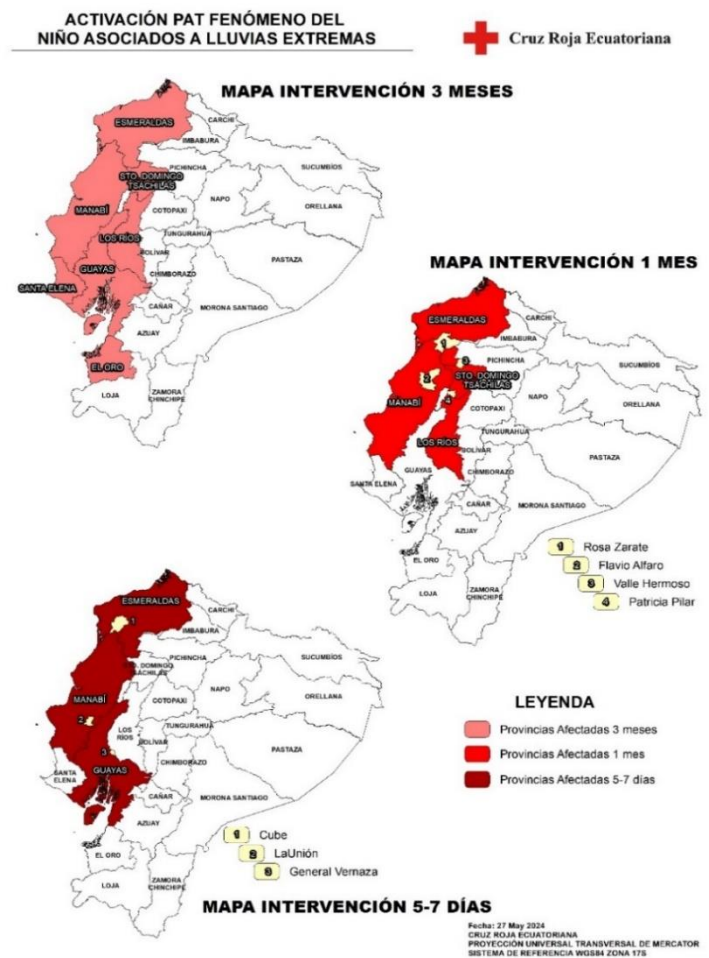
To mitigate the impact of extreme rainfall associated with El Niño, the Early Action Protocol (EAP) was developed in March 2020 using historical impact analyses, community assessments, and scientific forecasts. The plan used seasonal (three-month), sub-seasonal (one-month), and short-term (five to seven days) forecasts as activation triggers.

The activation was officially triggered on 05/08/2023, when the Regional Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (ERFEN) confirmed a 93% probability of El Niño conditions (Bulletin No. 08-2023), and the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI) forecasted precipitation probabilities above 70%. Subsequent triggers were met on 28/10/2023 (one-month forecast) and 03/02/2024 (five to seven days forecast), confirming extreme rainfall risks.

In response, the Ecuadorian Red Cross implemented early actions in three phases, reaching 5,268 people:

- **Pre-positioning (05/04/2021 – 02/08/2023):** Storage of cleaning kits, chlorinators, mosquito nets, and repellents in strategic locations.
- **Activation according to lead time (08/08/2023 – 29/02/2024):** Deployment of anticipatory actions, including distribution of hygiene kits, vector control materials, community awareness activities, and Cash Transfer Programmes.
- **Lessons Learned and Community Assessment (21/06/2024 – 28/06/2024):** Conducted with technical and financial support from the German Red Cross to evaluate impact and effectiveness.

Additionally, efforts were made to strengthen the Ecuadorian Red Cross's institutional capacity. This included training volunteers in the PHAST methodology, conducting preparedness workshops for local branches, and improving logistics and supply chain management to ensure timely distribution of humanitarian aid. The Society also coordinated closely with scientific institutions to refine early warning mechanisms and enhance decision-making processes.



Intervention Maps 2023- 2024. **Source:** Ecuadorian Red Cross.

# OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

## SUMMARY OF EAP IMPLEMENTATION

### Host National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) implemented the Early Action Protocol EAP2020EC02 in response to the increased likelihood of extreme rainfall associated with the El Niño phenomenon. This approach focused on pre-positioning essential supplies, providing cash assistance, conducting water and sanitation interventions, and raising community awareness to enhance preparedness and mitigate risks. Early actions were executed in alignment with forecast triggers, ensuring a proactive and timely response that protected lives, infrastructure, and livelihoods.

The selected intervention areas, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, are among Ecuador's most important agricultural and livestock production zones, covering 53,299 square kilometres and home to 5.59 million people. These provinces depend heavily on agriculture, fishing, and livestock as primary sources of income. However, their geographical location and reliance on natural resources make them highly vulnerable to extreme weather events. Historically, the El Niño phenomenon has caused severe economic losses, infrastructure damage, and significant disruptions to food security and public health in these regions.

### Implementation Phases

#### I. Preparedness and Pre-positioning (05/04/2021 – 02/08/2023)

To ensure rapid response capability, supplies were pre-positioned in warehouses across Guayas, Imbabura, and Quito. The ERC procured 1,450 cleaning kits, 4 chlorinators, 2,000 mosquito nets, and 2,450 repellents, ensuring their availability ahead of the rainy season. A total of 37 volunteers were trained in the Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation methodology, equipping them with the necessary skills to implement sanitation and hygiene interventions in at-risk communities. Additionally, awareness materials on safe water use, sanitation, and flood preparedness were produced and disseminated to improve community readiness.

#### II. Activation of Forecast-based Triggers

- **Trigger 1: Seasonal Forecast – 3 months (08/08/2023 – 29/08/2023)**
  - **Provinces covered:** Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, Santa Elena, Los Ríos, El Oro, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas.
  - **Anticipated risks:** Increased transmission of waterborne and vector-borne diseases such as cholera, leptospirosis, malaria, and dengue due to water contamination and vector proliferation.
  - **Actions taken:**
    - Deployment of pre-positioned supplies.
    - Training of community members.
    - Awareness campaigns on hygiene, safe water use, and flood preparedness.
- **Trigger 2: Sub-seasonal Forecast – 1 month (14/11/2023 – 28/12/2023)**
  - **Communities covered:** Rosa Zárate (Esmeraldas), Flavio Alfaro (Manabí), Valle Hermoso (Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas), Patricia Pilar (Los Ríos).
  - **Anticipated risks:** Heightened risk of water contamination and disease spread, as well as loss of crops and livestock.
  - **Actions taken:**
    - Water quality assessments and sanitation training.
    - Feasibility studies for the Cash and Voucher Assistance programme.
    - Establishment and equipping of community hygiene promotion brigades.
- **Trigger 3: Short-term Forecast – 5 to 7 days (16/02/2024 – 29/02/2024)**

- **Communities covered:**
  - Esmeraldas: Cúa Brabal, Tahuale, Plátano, Laguna de Cube, Bocana Guayllabamba.
  - Manabí: La Unión, Las Cumbres, Río Plátano, La Segua, El Mango, La Moroma, El Palmar.
  - Guayas: Durán de Abajo, Durán de Arriba, Hacienda Nueva, La Florida, Mastrantal, Santa Margarita.
- **Anticipated risks:** Increased health risks from cholera, leptospirosis, malaria, and dengue, as well as further damage to crops and livestock.
- **Actions taken:**
  - Deployment of WASH volunteers and technical staff.
  - Distribution of essential supplies.
  - Implementation of cash transfers via secure banking mechanisms.
  - Aerial surveys for real-time risk mapping.
  - Coordination with local authorities.

### III. Lessons Learned and Community Assessment (21/06/2024 – 28/06/2024):

Between 21/06/2024 and 27/06/2024, community assessments, surveys, and focus group discussions were conducted to evaluate the impact of early actions. The evaluation process, along with the lessons learned workshop held on 28/06/2024 to analyze findings and refine future anticipatory strategies, were financially supported and technically assisted by the German Red Cross.

#### Prioritization Criteria

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) applied an intervention mapping methodology to ensure assistance was directed to those most at risk. This approach considered hazard exposure, response capacity, and socio-economic vulnerability to strategically prioritize communities and households requiring early action.

Flood-prone areas were identified using meteorological data from INAMHI, historical flood records, and precipitation indices. Within these areas, priority was given to populations dependent on agriculture and livestock, as well as communities with limited access to safe drinking water, healthcare, and essential services. Households facing a high risk of displacement, economic instability, or health problems exacerbated by extreme rainfall were also prioritized.

To optimize resource allocation, feasibility assessments for cash and voucher assistance (CVA) were conducted to ensure that selected households could securely access financial aid. This process enabled a strategic and equitable distribution of assistance, strengthening preparedness and response capacities in the most vulnerable communities.

#### Impact of Early Actions and Community Perception

The timely implementation of early actions played a key role in mitigating health risks, ensuring access to safe water, and stabilizing household economies. The rapid distribution of hygiene kits, mosquito nets, and repellents helped control disease outbreaks, while water chlorination and hygiene promotion improved water safety. Cash assistance to 416 households covered urgent needs and reduced reliance on negative coping mechanisms. Even where extreme flooding did not occur, these actions strengthened institutional coordination, enhanced preparedness, and reinforced community resilience.

Community members highlighted the added value provided by early actions, particularly the role of cash assistance in covering essential expenses and the effectiveness of hygiene supplies in preventing disease outbreaks. The ERC's proactive response was widely recognized for improving local preparedness and response capacities, reinforcing trust in its ability to provide timely humanitarian assistance. The post-distribution CVA survey reflected these positive outcomes.

## Red Cross Red Crescent Movement

During the implementation of the Early Action Plan (EAP), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the German Red Cross provided critical technical and financial support. Their contributions ensured efficient coordination, rigorous monitoring, and a structured evaluation process, strengthening the overall implementation of early actions.

The IFRC's Climate Centre played a key role in monitoring and analyzing the ocean-atmospheric event, offering technical guidance in the interpretation of meteorological data from INOCAR and INAMHI. This analysis was instrumental in preparing notification reports for each trigger, enabling timely decision-making. Additionally, the IFRC provided financial oversight by reviewing and approving budget allocations for the procurement of cleaning supplies and authorizing the reallocation of surplus CVA funds, which allowed economic assistance to be extended to 416 families. Further support was provided in financial coordination, ensuring the availability of funds and facilitating the execution of planned interventions.

The German Red Cross led the evaluation and learning process, coordinating the community assessment and the Lessons Learned Workshop. The evaluation was conducted in the communities of Salitre, Guayas, while the workshop gathered volunteers, institutional representatives, and community members from the Provincial Branches of Esmeraldas, Manabí, and Guayas. Their involvement extended from the EAP's preparation phase, offering continuous technical support throughout its execution. Additionally, recognizing the need for further preparatory work, they provided financial support for the evaluation and workshop, as these activities exceeded the initial implementation timeframe.

## Overview of non-Red Cross Red Crescent actors in country

The implementation of anticipatory actions was conducted at the community level in coordination with the National Secretariat for Risk Management and the Decentralized Autonomous Governments of Quinindé (Esmeraldas), Santa Ana (Manabí), and Salitre (Guayas). These entities provided logistical support to ensure the availability of safe and accessible spaces for the distribution of cleaning kits, mosquito nets, repellents, and cash and voucher assistance (CVA).

## OPERATIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES

- **Date National Society requested the Preparedness and Pre-positioning funds: 18/02/2021**
- **Date National Society received the Preparedness and Pre-positioning funds: 07/04/2021 and 11/10/2022**
- **Date National Society requested the Early Action Funds: 08/08/2023**
- **Date National Society received the Early Action Funds: 31/08/2023 and 15/02/2024**

## Request and transfer of funds

For the pre-positioning and preparedness phase, fund allocation was based on the Funding Agreement for the EAP ENOS, issued on 01/02/2021. The IFRC carried out two transfers, on 07/04/2021 and 11/10/2022, to support these preparatory actions.

On 08/08/2023, the notification report for activation and implementation of anticipatory actions, as outlined in the EAP ENOS, was submitted. Following this, the IFRC made two additional transfers on 31/08/2023 and 15/02/2024. These funds were allocated to execute activation-phase actions, covering Trigger 1 (three-month seasonal forecast), Trigger 2 (one-month sub-seasonal forecast), and Trigger 3 (short-term forecast of five to seven days).

To support the implementation of activities during the activation phase, Amendment No. 1 to the Funding Agreement for the Early Action Protocol was developed. This amendment aimed to reassign the budget initially allocated for IFRC-led CVA execution to the Ecuadorian Red Cross, ensuring efficient management of financial resources.

## **Logistics and supply chain**

As part of the pre-positioning of supplies under the EAP ENOS, on 28/09/2021, the IFRC facilitated the procurement and shipment of 2,000 mosquito nets. These were strategically pre-positioned in Ecuadorian Red Cross warehouses to ensure timely distribution during the activation phase.

## **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)**

The monitoring process covered the period from the activation trigger to the completion of early actions. The Lessons Learned Workshop, led by the Ecuadorian Red Cross Planning Department, provided an opportunity to assess strengths and areas for improvement from both community and institutional perspectives. Additionally, a community evaluation was conducted to measure the impact of interventions in the targeted areas.

With technical support from the German Red Cross, the evaluation applied a comparative quantitative and qualitative methodology. Data collection included surveys to analyze the cause-effect relationship of the implemented actions, complemented by individual interviews, focus groups, and field data collection in intervention communities in Guayas. Household selection for the evaluation was based on those receiving the same type of assistance, including CVA, cleaning kits, mosquito nets, and repellents.

A key area for improvement is the need to institutionalize a structured monitoring mechanism and its corresponding tools for anticipatory action operations and its revalidation processes, covering from planning to implementation. This process should be coordinated between implementation teams, the Planning Department, and the PMER focal point of the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

## **CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

During the implementation of the EAP ENOS, the following aspects were identified as challenges, areas for improvement, or key considerations for future operations, identified at both institutional and community levels across the three implementation phases.

### **Key considerations**

#### **1. Pre-positioning**

- Establish clear procedures for the immediate replenishment of EAP supplies if they are used for emergency response.
- Strengthen coordination between logistics and finance teams to pre-identify appropriate storage space for pre-positioned materials and supplies.
- Ensure the procurement of protective equipment for humanitarian personnel to enhance safety during operations.

#### **2. Preparedness**

- Continue awareness-raising activities on the EAP for authorities and institutional representatives to support its periodic review and updating.
- Maintain regular event monitoring by the Ecuadorian Red Cross Situation Room, using INAMHI data to enhance coordination and decision-making.
- Conduct simulation exercises and drills to validate and refine the anticipatory actions outlined in the EAP.

- Review and update activation triggers, thresholds, and forecasts based on advancements in forecasting methodologies and the use of new software by INAMHI.

### 3. Activation

- Conduct security risk assessments in each intervention area to safeguard humanitarian personnel and the communities receiving assistance.
- Coordinate with banking institutions to ensure ATMs have sufficient funds for cash assistance withdrawals. Given travel distances and ATM cash capacity, distributions may need to be conducted in smaller groups over additional days.
- Anticipate and address potential operational challenges within communities before activities begin, ensuring a timely and effective response.
- Strengthen communication with community leaders to enhance preparedness and promote local organization.
- Ensure the availability of pre-printed distribution forms to prevent delays in case of power outages or lack of printing facilities.
- Improve access to safe drinking water, as existing sources were found to be contaminated.
- Adjust the distribution of mosquito nets and repellents, considering that most households have four to five members.
- Assess the feasibility of extending intervention activities by one or two additional days to better meet community needs.
- Equip volunteers and technical staff with protective gear and necessary supplies for field operations.
- Improve coordination with local organizations and institutions to enhance the effectiveness of interventions in targeted areas.

### Challenges

- Forecast uncertainty was a key challenge. INAMHI advised adjusting activation timeframes since the three-month seasonal forecast had a low reliability, making planning difficult.
- Ensuring that preparedness actions targeted the most affected areas also remained a challenge.
- Operational readiness required at least 20 active volunteers from the National Headquarters and Provincial Branches.
- Accessibility issues, including road conditions, weather impacts, and socio-political disruptions, risked delaying assistance.
- Security concerns in some areas led to adjustments, such as using vouchers for CVA and arranging safe transport for recipients.
- Financial coordination was critical to ensuring funds were available within 48 hours. Although CVA vouchers facilitated withdrawals, pre-assessments were needed to confirm ATM cash availability and secure access.
- Changes in monitoring tools made planning more complex, as INAMHI no longer used the CPT statistical tool, limiting the ability to cross-check seasonal forecasts.

### Corrective Actions

- **Logistics and transport arrangements:** Measures were taken to ensure the safe transport of individuals collecting cash assistance from ATMs, prioritizing security and guaranteeing that funds were used to address household needs. This measure was not initially planned but was implemented in Guayas due to security risks, where transportation was provided from the parish.
- **Budget review and reallocation:** A reassessment of the activation phase budget allowed for the identification of unused funds, which were reallocated to extend CVA assistance.
- **Adaptation of reporting and forecasting mechanisms:** Direct coordination with INAMHI facilitated the adjustment of reporting mechanisms, forecasts, and thresholds as outlined in the EAP, enabling the development of more precise intervention maps.
- **Lessons learned and community assessment:** The lessons learned workshop held on June 28 and the community assessment were financed with funds from the German Red Cross Pilot Programmatic Partnership

Project. Future monitoring, evaluation, and lessons learned activities will be led by the Planning Department, ensuring a structured approach from the revalidation to the activation of the EAP ENOS.

## Community Assessment

The community assessment, conducted from June 21 to 27, was financed by the German Red Cross through the Pilot Programmatic Partnership (PPP) and achieved the following objectives:

- To gather the experiences of families and assess the relevance of the anticipatory assistance provided in the targeted sectors during the implementation of early actions under Trigger 3 (short-term response within 5 to 7 days).
- To compare the experiences of households that received anticipatory assistance with those that did not, in order to identify the potential benefits of anticipatory action and improve future interventions.


**Table 1. Community data analyzed**

Community	Total Families	Sample Size	% of Families Surveyed	% of Total Sample
Durán de Arriba	35	22	62.9%	14.9%
La Florida	53	33	62.3%	22.3%
Mastrantal	110	68	61.8%	45.9%
Santa Margarita	40	25	62.5%	16.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100%</b>

The German Red Cross (GRC) and the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) are responsible for processing the results, which will be used to support the improvement and revalidation of the ENOS Early Action Protocol (EAP), as well as contribute to the global database on anticipatory action activations and implementation.

**Date of the impact of the hazard/disaster: 09/02/2024**

## AREAS OF FOCUS

 <p><b>Livelihoods and basic needs</b></p>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 51,700.00
	<b>Budget executed</b>	CHF 50,122.88
	<b>Balance</b>	CHF 1,577.12
<b>Target families:</b> 300 <b>People approx.:</b> 1,200	<b>Families reached:</b> 416 <b>People approx.:</b> 1,664	
<b>Women:</b> 600	<b>Women:</b> 848	<b>Girls &lt;18:</b> 161
<b>Men:</b> 600	<b>Men:</b> 816	<b>Boys &lt;18:</b> 155
<b>Percentage of activities implemented in this sector before the impact of the hazard:</b> 95%.		
<b>Indicators:</b>		

- 300 assisted families have sufficient income to cover their main needs and protect household finances before the emergency.
- Number of volunteers trained in CVA.
- Number of communities targeted for CVA interventions.
- Number of surveys conducted for identified families in each community.
- 300 families trained on the benefits of CVA.
- 300 families receiving cash assistance.
- The National Society has an evaluation report on CVA distribution.

#### Early actions:

- Training of National Society volunteers in CVA.
- Identification of intervention areas.
- Field data collection.
- Deployment of the CVA team to provide training to assisted families.
- Registration and distribution of CVA to the most vulnerable households.
- Evaluation of the intervention.

#### Narrative description of achievements

The anticipatory actions under this component were implemented from the second trigger of the activation phase, beginning with a market analysis to determine the most effective CVA delivery mechanism. This process ensured that cash assistance could be efficiently and securely distributed to the most vulnerable households before the emergency.

Initially, the EAP planned to assist 300 families with CVA. However, after reviewing the budget, conducting market studies, and gathering field data in each intervention province, the Ecuadorian Red Cross requested IFRC approval to extend support to an additional 116 families. This was made possible by reallocating unspent funds from the activation budget, allowing a total of 416 families to receive financial assistance.

To ensure a fair and transparent selection process in Salitre, a committee was formed, including community members, representatives from the Guayas Provincial Branch, and technical staff from the National Headquarters. This committee applied a structured evaluation process, prioritizing families based on two key criteria:

- **Essential Criteria:** Families living in areas at very high risk of flooding or other impacts associated with the El Niño phenomenon (ENOS).
- **Vulnerability Criteria:**
  - Families experiencing overcrowding.
  - Limited access to water, food, and basic services.
  - Households with elderly individuals, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, or members of the LGTBQ+ community.
  - Families with children under five years old.
  - Single-parent households.
  - Families with more than five members.
  - Female-headed households.
  - Small-scale farmers with two to three hectares of cultivable land.
  - Households earning below the minimum wage.
  - Families relying solely on self-employment or small-scale commerce as their primary income source.

By the end of the intervention, 416 families (approximately 1,664 people) in Salitre, Guayas Province, had received CVA amounting to USD 150 per household. This assistance enabled them to meet essential needs and stabilize their household economies before the emergency. The cash transfer was provided as an unconditional and unrestricted (multipurpose) grant, allowing families to prioritize their most urgent expenses. The selected delivery mechanism, cash withdrawals via bank codes at Banco Pichincha ATMs, ensured a secure and efficient distribution process, minimizing logistical challenges and ensuring accessibility for recipients.

**Table 2. Distribution of CVA Guayas – Salitre.**

Areas	Families	People approx.
Durán de Abajo	35	140
Durán de Arriba	47	188
Hacienda Nueva	117	468
La Florida	51	204
Mastrantal	123	492
Santa Margarita	43	172
<b>Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>1,664</b>

Source: ERC.

### Distribution Process

The distribution process took place on 26/02/2024 and 27/02/2024 and was structured into four workstations:

- **Registration and validation:** The identities of the assisted population were verified using national ID cards and access cards.
- **Training:** Information was provided on the transfer amount, type of cash assistance, withdrawal procedures at bank ATMs, and key messages.
- **Receipt signing:** The agreement document outlining the assisted population's commitments was read aloud before signing. A sealed envelope containing the withdrawal codes was then provided.
- **Exit survey:** After receiving the envelope, the assisted population participated in a survey to assess their satisfaction with the cash assistance process.

Due to the limited availability of financial institutions in the intervention area and to prevent issues with banking codes, transportation was arranged to take the assisted population to Daule canton for cash withdrawals.

Monitoring of the CVA distribution was conducted from 05/03/2024 to 07/03/2024, with 401 assisted people participating. A face-to-face survey was carried out to assess the effectiveness of the cash assistance, understand spending preferences, and measure satisfaction levels.

### Post-Distribution Survey

To evaluate the effectiveness of the cash assistance programme, a post-distribution survey was conducted with the assisted population. The survey aimed to assess how the funds were utilized, their impact on household economies, and perceptions of accessibility and security. The following results provide insights into key spending patterns, and overall satisfaction with the intervention.

### Use of Cash Assistance

- Women accounted for 53% of the assisted population receiving CVA that participated in the survey, with the highest participation (21.24%) in the 37–47 age group, followed by individuals over 65 years old (22.58%).

- 98% of families reported using all or part of the cash assistance, with only 0.75% opting to save funds for future contingencies.
- Among those who had not yet used the full amount, the remaining funds lasted an average of 5 to 8 additional days.
- Most families allocated the assistance to food and healthcare, followed by utility payments and livelihood investments.

### Impact on Household Economy


- 92% stated the amount was sufficient to sustain their households for 15 days.
- 97% of surveyed families stated that their household economy improved after receiving the cash assistance.
- 95% confirmed that the cash covered their most urgent household needs.

### Accessibility and Security

- 98% found the cash delivery mechanism safe and efficient.
- 1% expressed concerns about potential exposure to theft.

### Lessons Learned

- Working with forecast-based interventions requires flexible planning and logistics to ensure cash distribution aligns with the timelines established in the EAP.
- Cash assistance prevented the assisted population from adopting harmful coping mechanisms such as taking informal loans, selling assets, or migrating.
- Continuous training for volunteers before distribution improves efficiency and ensures a responsible and well-organized process.
- Community participation throughout the intervention, from selection to distribution and follow-up, strengthened programme outcomes and increased acceptance.

	<b>Initial budget</b>	<b>CHF 43,900.00</b>
	<b>Budget executed</b>	<b>CHF 42,156.37</b>
	<b>Balance:</b>	<b>CHF 1,743.63</b>
<b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>		
<b>Target families:</b> 1,000 <b>People approx.:</b> 4,000	<b>Families reached:</b> 1,263 <b>People approx.:</b> 5,052	
<b>Women:</b> 2,000	<b>Women:</b> 2,577	<b>Girls &lt;18:</b> 490
<b>Men:</b> 2,000	<b>Men:</b> 2,475	<b>Children &lt;18:</b> 470
<b>Percentage of activities implemented in this sector before the impact of the hazard: 80%.</b>		

#### Indicators:

- 1,000 families assisted with water, sanitation, and hygiene supplies.
- Number of National Society volunteers trained in PHAST.
- Number of awareness-raising tools developed.
- Number of people reached through awareness and/or training sessions.

#### Early actions:

- Capacity building for volunteers in the PHAST methodology.
- Development of awareness-raising tools (PHAST).
- Training of community brigades.
- Distribution of cleaning kits, mosquito nets, and repellents.

#### Narrative description of achievements

The implementation of early actions followed a phased approach, aligned with forecast-based triggers to ensure a timely and effective response. These interventions focused on preparedness, risk mitigation, and addressing potential impacts of extreme rainfall linked to the ENOS phenomenon.

Under WASH, 1,225 families (approximately 4,900 individuals) received assistance, with each family receiving 1 cleaning kit, 2 mosquito nets, and 2 repellents to reduce health risks associated with rainfall and flooding. The primary risks addressed included:

- Waterborne diseases caused by contaminated water sources.
- Vector-borne diseases such as malaria and dengue due to increased mosquito proliferation.
- Damage and loss of crops, affecting household livelihoods and food security.

Additionally, four chlorinators were deployed by the National Society to facilitate access to safe drinking water in affected communities (2 in Guayas, 1 in Manabí and 1 in Esmeraldas). These actions strengthened community resilience, reduced health risks, and ensured essential resources were available ahead of the emergency.

#### Community Capacity Building

As part of the community awareness and capacity-building process, various training activities were implemented, focusing on water care, risk prevention, and emergency preparedness. More than 1,373 community members were trained in these areas, with the goal of improving their preparedness and resilience in the face of adverse situations. The results achieved by activity type are detailed below.

- **Health Promotion and Water Analysis:** In the province of Manabí, 550 people were trained in Health Promotion and Water Analysis. These activities included the use of playful techniques and hands-on practices, which allowed for active participation from community members. Through practical exercises, participants learned how to collect water samples from key water collection points, properly dose chlorine, and apply this knowledge to ensure safe drinking water and prevent the spread of diseases. Additionally, environmental cleaning practices and the identification of potential focal points for vector-borne diseases were promoted, contributing to a greater awareness of the importance of hygiene for community health. Furthermore, 144 people from Esmeraldas also participated in this training.
- **Training in the PHAST Methodology:** In Santo Domingo Tsáchilas, 152 people participated in training on the PHAST (Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation) methodology. This methodology focused on identifying and adopting proper hygiene habits both at home and in the community as a key measure to prevent infectious diseases. The sessions included both informational components and

practical activities, allowing participants to understand the consequences of poor hygiene practices and learn practical ways to adopt good hygiene practices, essential for maintaining a healthy environment.

- **Risk Management and Family Plan:** In Esmeraldas, 671 people were trained in Risk Management and Family Planning, with a special focus on anticipatory actions. The training provided participants with tools and knowledge on how to identify risks in their communities and how to develop family contingency plans.

### **Seasonal Forecast (3-Month Trigger) -- 08/08/2023 – 29/08/2023**

During this phase, preparedness activities focused on capacity building and the pre-positioning of essential supplies:

- 37 volunteers from coastal provinces were trained in the PHAST methodology.
- Awareness materials were reviewed, reproduced, and pre-positioned.
- Essential items were stored in strategic warehouses in Zones 1 and 2, including:
  - 1,450 family cleaning kits (each containing 1 brush, 1 broom, 1 mop, 1 plastic shovel, 1 metal shovel with a wooden handle, 3 packs of garbage bags, 1 detergent, and 1 disinfectant).
  - 2,000 mosquito nets.
  - 2,450 disinfectants.
  - 2,450 detergents.
  - 4 chlorinators.

A budget review enabled the purchase of an additional 450 cleaning kits, 450 repellents, 450 disinfectants, and 450 detergents, which were later distributed to the assisted population.

### **Sub-Seasonal Forecast (1-Month Trigger) -- 14/11/2023 – 28/12/2023**

With an increased probability of extreme rainfall within one month, interventions were carried out in high-risk communities, including Quinindé – Rosa Zarate in Esmeraldas, Buena Fe – Patricia Pilar in Los Ríos, Flavio Alfaro in Manabí, and Santo Domingo – Valle Hermoso in Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, to strengthen preparedness and response capacity.

Key activities included:

- Awareness-raising activities
- Water quality assessments in four communities to identify contamination risks.
- Training and establishment of community brigades using the PHAST methodology.
- Distribution of information and tools to support hygiene promotion at the community level.



Community sensitization on Risk Management.  
 Santa Ana- Manabí, December 2023.  
**Source:** Manabí Provincial Branch



Community awareness on water, sanitation and hygiene issues  
 Santa Ana- Manabí, December 2023  
**Source:** Manabí Provincial Branch



Market research-analysis  
 Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, December 2023  
**Source:** Santo Domingo Provincial Branch



Market research-analysis  
 Manabí, December 2023  
**Source:** Manabí Provincial Branch



Water quality analysis  
 Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, December 2023  
**Source:** Santo Domingo Provincial Branch

### Short-Term Forecast (5 to 7 Days Trigger) -- 16/02/2024 – 29/02/2024

Based on INAMHI’s extreme rainfall forecasts exceeding 70% probability, meteorological warnings issued in bulletins No. 8 and 9 (03/02/2024 – 11/02/2024) indicated high to very high threats, with estimated daily precipitation surpassing 80 mm. As a result, the following immediate actions were taken:

- Awareness-raising activities
- Logistics and transportation of humanitarian assistance kits, including cleaning kits, repellents, and mosquito nets.
- Distribution of these kits in previously identified high-risk communities.

**Table 3. Distribution of Kits vs Assisted Families**

Province	Cleaning kits		Mosquito nets		Repellents	
	Quantity	Families	Quantity	Families	Quantity	Families
Guayas	400	396	800	396	798	396
Manabí	399	383	679	383	774	383
Esmeraldas	450	446	900	446	900	446
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,249</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>2,379</b>	<b>1,225</b>	<b>2,472</b>	<b>1,225</b>

Source: ERC.

**Note:** Some families could have received more than one kit/item due to their vulnerability status or the number of members in the family.



Information gathering  
Guayas- Salitre, February 2024  
Source: Guayas Provincial Branch



Information gathering  
Guayas- Salitre, February 2024  
Source: Guayas Provincial Branch



Distribution of Humanitarian Assistance  
 Manabí, February 2024  
 Source: Manabi Provincial Branch



Distribution of Humanitarian Assistance  
 Esmeraldas, February 2024  
 Source: Esmeraldas Provincial Branch

### Lessons learned

- Timely identification of available balances facilitated the management of additional cleaning kit purchases beyond those initially planned in the EAP. These kits were distributed to families in areas more susceptible to flooding.
- In the case of simultaneous deliveries, given the constraints of time, resources, and logistics, it is recommended that the personnel responsible for distributing the CVA be distinct from those involved in delivering humanitarian assistance. While infrastructure can be shared, the personnel should be specialized for each specific process.
- It is essential to develop and implement a procedure that ensures the timely replenishment of pre-positioned supplies in alignment with the provisions outlined in the EAP.
- Under the health approach, and in coordination with the Ministry of Health, consider including medical brigades' visits and the provision of basic medicines in the second phase of activations.
- Awareness campaigns on water purification should be managed, along with the provision of tools such as pumps for unclogging drains or wells. Many households rely on their own water wells, with an approximate cost of 100 to 200 USD. This initiative ensures access to safe water for each family.
- The acquisition of supplies, such as repellents and mosquito nets, should be managed according to family size, with a provision of five items per family.
- It is crucial to include the distribution of a comprehensive tool kit, containing materials such as ropes, shovels, wire, nails, hammers, leather gloves, 100m rolls of black polyethylene plastic, pickaxes, bars, 20m ropes, saws, and other necessary items. This kit should be accessible to the entire community for wall construction or to help them relocate materials and equipment to higher ground before floods occur.

## Strategies for Implementation



**Strengthen National Society**

<b>Initial budget</b>	<b>CHF 11,835.00</b>
<b>Budget executed</b>	<b>CHF 7,702.50</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>CHF 4,132.50</b>

## Percentage of activities implemented in this sector prior to hazard impact: 90%.

### Indicators:

- An Early Action Plan for extreme rainfall associated with the El Niño Phenomenon (Approved and/or activated).
- No. of bulletins and reports issued by ERFEN in which the ERC has participated as part of the information follow-up.
- Number of maps of potentially affected areas for decision making on activation.
- No. of family cleaning kits pre-positioned in strategic warehouses.
- No. of vector control kits and safe water prepositioned in strategic warehouses (repellents and mosquito nets).
- 1 Bulletin detailing rainfall forecasts and a map of flood zones on the Ecuadorian coast.
- No. of situation reports after receipt of 30d and 7d forecast from INAMHI.

### Early Actions:

- Review and follow-up of information issued by ERFEN and INAMHI.
- Mapping and capture of aerial images of areas likely to be affected by flooding.
- Prepositioning of humanitarian assistance kits in strategic warehouses.
- Review of INAMHI bulletin with rainfall forecasts and preparation of a map of flood-prone areas.
- Receipt and review of INAMHI bulletin and weather threat warning map.
- Coordination for the activation of early actions foreseen in the EAP.
- Coordination for the distribution of Humanitarian Assistance Kits and AVC in the intervened communities.

### Narrative description of achievements

The actions under this component were executed in the activation phase according to the three triggers:

#### Activator 1 - 3 months

The actions carried out under this trigger were focused at the institutional level:

- Acquisition of 300 T-shirts and 472 caps for volunteers from the Provincial Branches in which the ENOS EAP was activated and technical personnel from National Headquarters.  
Socialization of the actions outlined in the ENOS EAP, targeted at the Provincial Branches of the coastal region.

#### Activator 2 - 1 month

The actions established under this trigger were:

- Preparation of the pocket EAP and dissemination of key messages, reaching 21,749 views on ERC's main social networks.  
Links:
  - EAP pocket  
[Ecuadorian Red Cross Extreme Rainfall Pocket EAP\\_compressed.pdf](#)
  - Videos on key messages  
[https://youtu.be/QDbEFPXzg\\_U?feature=shared](https://youtu.be/QDbEFPXzg_U?feature=shared)  
<https://twitter.com/cruzrojaecuador/status/1722330646767624254?t=t7CEiFePCfmQ0QIWf8poC19>
- Risk analysis, follow-up and monitoring of the event (update, intervention maps).
- Acquisition and prepositioning of detergents, disinfectants and repellents, which were prepositioned in the strategic warehouse zone 2.
- Coordination of the actions established in the EAP in the intervened areas with local institutions.

#### Activator 3 – 5 to 7 days

Under the third activator, the following actions were carried out:

- Dissemination of key messages.
- Risk analysis (overflights and photogrammetry).
- Follow-up and monitoring of the event (update of intervention maps).
- Coordination of actions in the intervened sectors with local institutions.
- Mobilization of the technical team from National Headquarters to provide support and technical accompaniment in the development of activities at the local level (Guayas).

### Lessons Learned

- Following each activation, it is crucial to assess the feasibility of forecasts and triggers in collaboration with the technical teams from scientific institutions (INAMHI, INOCAR). It is essential to involve INAMHI and INOCAR, as part of the ERFEN, in the process of socializing, reviewing, and updating the ENSO EAP. This ensures the validation of the forecasts and triggers based on the methodologies and data provided by these institutions.
- Internal and external communication processes during the EAP implementation should be enhanced to ensure clarity and effectiveness in coordination.
- The intervention maps should be prepared using an updated database, reflecting the most recent and accessible information. This enables informed decision-making, particularly in identifying the communities in the most affected areas.
- Coordinating actions with institutions like SNGR, under the readiness approach, is crucial. There should be an analysis of the feasibility of using digital tools such as EVIN to collect and validate data. This data will help create a comprehensive database on the number of families and their needs during past emergencies.
- Consider implementing a digital registration and backup mechanism for the distribution of humanitarian assistance kits. This process will help systematize the information and make it accessible for subsequent evaluations.
- Budget items should allocate funds for EAP visibility actions, including printing, banner acquisition, and other materials, to enhance the communication and outreach of the plan.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

A total of **CHF 249,983** was allocated from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for the implementation of the Early Action Protocol (EAP), distributed as follows: **CHF 60,116** for **Readiness**, **CHF 75,449** for **Pre-positioning** of supplies, and **CHF 114,418** for the implementation of **Early Actions**. Of the amount allocated for **Early Actions**, **CHF 106,452** was effectively spent. The remaining balance of **CHF 7,966** will be reimbursed to the DREF.

### Budget Variations

The primary variations between the planned budget and actual expenditure during the activation phase are outlined below:

- **Livelihoods and Basic Needs:** The Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) component was expanded following the identification of a larger number of vulnerable households. Initially, the plan targeted 300 families; however, after conducting assessments in the communities of Salitre canton (Guayas province), it became evident that support was needed for 416 families, based on the intervention map and predefined selection criteria. This adjustment was possible due to the favorable exchange rate and the efficient management of resources during the activation phase, which allowed for the reallocation of available funds to reach a greater number of households.

- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):** Variations in this sector arose from the reallocation of unused funds originally intended for family hygiene kits and mosquito repellents. With prior approval from the IFRC, these balances were redirected to the CVA component. The reduction in input costs and favorable exchange rate conditions enabled the reallocation of funds without compromising the quality of the intervention.
- **Implementation Strategies:** No expenditures were reported under the lines for the lessons learned workshop and project evaluation, as these activities were not implemented using ENOS EAP funds. In accordance with IFRC regulations, the unspent balance will be returned to the DREF.

## Contact information

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

### In the Ecuadorian Red Cross:

- **Secretary General:** Juan Carlos Vizcarra, [jvizcarra@cuzroja.org.ec](mailto:jvizcarra@cuzroja.org.ec)
- **Operational coordination:** Roger Zambrano, PNGRED National Coordinator, [rzambrano@cuzroja.org.ec](mailto:rzambrano@cuzroja.org.ec), +593992437427
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### In the IFRC (CCD):

- **Head of Delegation:** Stephen McAndrew, [Stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org](mailto:Stephen.mcandrew@ifrc.org)
- **Program and Operations Coordinator:** Julian Perez, [julian.perez@ifrc.org](mailto:julian.perez@ifrc.org)

### In the IFRC (ARO):

- **Regional Head, Health, Disasters, Climate and Crisis - Americas:** Mariana Kuttothara, [marianna.kuttothara@ifrc.org](mailto:marianna.kuttothara@ifrc.org)
- **Operations Manager, Crisis and Disaster Evolution - Americas:** Maria Martha Tuna, [maria.tuna@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.tuna@ifrc.org)
- **Senior DREF Officer:** Santiago Rodriguez, [santiago.rodriguez@ifrc.org](mailto:santiago.rodriguez@ifrc.org)

## Reference



### Click here for:

- EAP Summary [Spanish Summary EAP El Niño Phenomenon.pdf](#)
- EAP Activation Notification EAP [Activation Report EAP ENOS.pdf](#)
- Previous reports and/or reports [EAP activation notification reports ENOS](#)

# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/8-2024/12	Operation	MDREC023
Budget Timeframe	2023-2024	Budget	APPROVED

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 24/Mar/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDREC023 - Ecuador - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 23 Aug 2023 to 30 Mar 2024

## I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>114,418</b>
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	114,418
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-106,452</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>7,966</b>

## 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	55,061	66	54,994
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	44,411	17,321	27,090
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	5,895	88,713	-82,818
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>105,366</b>	<b>106,100</b>	<b>-735</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services			0
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	9,053	352	8,700
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>9,053</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>8,700</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>114,418</b>	<b>106,452</b>	<b>7,966</b>

# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/8-2024/12	Operation	MDREC023
Budget Timeframe	2023-2024	Budget	APPROVED

## FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 24/Mar/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDREC023 - Ecuador - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 23 Aug 2023 to 30 Mar 2024

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>72,000</b>	<b>17,653</b>	<b>54,347</b>
Teaching Materials	1,000	739	261
Other Supplies & Services	26,000	16,914	9,086
Cash Disbursement	45,000		45,000
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>9,200</b>	<b>929</b>	<b>8,271</b>
Distribution & Monitoring	500	729	-229
Transport & Vehicles Costs	8,700	201	8,499
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>14,410</b>	<b>1,968</b>	<b>12,442</b>
National Society Staff	14,410	565	13,845
Volunteers		1,403	-1,403
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>8,300</b>	<b>5,383</b>	<b>2,917</b>
Workshops & Training	8,300	5,383	2,917
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>3,525</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>3,503</b>
Travel	525		525
Financial Charges	3,000	22	2,978
<b>Contributions &amp; Transfers</b>		<b>74,000</b>	<b>-74,000</b>
National Society Expenses		74,000	-74,000
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>6,983</b>	<b>6,497</b>	<b>486</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	6,983	6,497	486
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>114,418</b>	<b>106,452</b>	<b>7,966</b>