

<b>Emergency Appeal №: MDR43008</b> <b>Emergency appeal launched:</b> 29 July 2022 <b>Operation Strategy published:</b> 2 September 2022	<b>Glide №:</b> N/A
<b>Operation Update № 5</b> <b>Date of issue:</b> 29/09/2023	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> 29 July 2022 to 31 August 2023
<b>Operation timeframe:</b> 15 months (29 July 2022 to 31 December 2023)	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 210,000
<b>Financial requirements (CHF):</b> IFRC Secretariat funding requirement: 18 million CHF Federation-wide funding requirements: 28 million CHF	<b>Total DREF Allocation:</b> CHF 1,010,229 <b>Additional allocation requested:</b> CHF 60,229

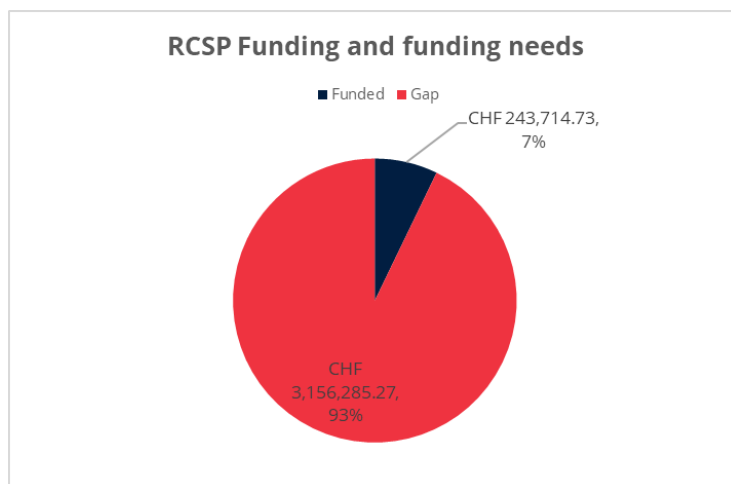
To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks 18 million CHF, is **13 per cent funded**. Further funding contributions are needed to enable the National Societies in the region, with the support of the IFRC, to continue with the preparedness efforts of and provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move. Click [here](#) for the donor response. The funding needs for the Red Cross Society of Panama are 3.4 million CHF, of which so far only 7% has been funded through donors and DREF loans.



*Migrants arriving after crossing a river in the Darién Gap. Source: IFRC.*

An Emergency Appeal for **18MM CHF** ([MDR43008](#)) was launched on 29 July 2022 aimed to increase the reach of the Red Cross Societies of Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico to scale up assistance to 210,000 people to provide humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move along migratory routes, including through more effective preparedness and responses, strengthened capacities, and risk reduction.

The EA was launched as a trigger to facilitate immediate actions to address the humanitarian needs of migrants, returnees, and host communities. It was launched under the Global Program to address the significant increase on people in transit and returnees throughout Central America and Mexico. As 31 August 2023, the [coverage](#) of 13% equivalent to 2,293,368 CHF. Taking in account 1,000,000 CHF correspond to the loan of DREFs. The Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP) has received so far 7% of the funding requirements set forth in its operating strategy.



Over the past two months, the Red Cross Society of Panama (RCSP) and the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Central America have closely monitored the exponential increase in migration flows through the Darien gap. On September 21, [official figures](#) for the month of August were released, revealing an unprecedented high of 81,946 individuals entering the country. As such, this Operation Update aims to inform about an additional contribution of 60,229 CHF from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to support the efforts of the Red Cross Society of Panama in addressing the growing influx of migrants and bridging the funding shortfall during the months of September and October 2023. These additional funds are only aimed to the RCSP as all other National Societies that are part of this Emergency Appeal continue to provide assistance to migrant population either through the remaining funds to be implemented from the Appeal or through other bilateral programs and contributions. The RCSP will also continue to provide assistance through its National Migration Programme, however a detailed analysis of the different contributions and their approval stages has shown that the National Society has a funding gap between the months of September and October, which historically are the peak months in migration flows. That is why and additional support is needed in the field to address the high demand of humanitarian services.

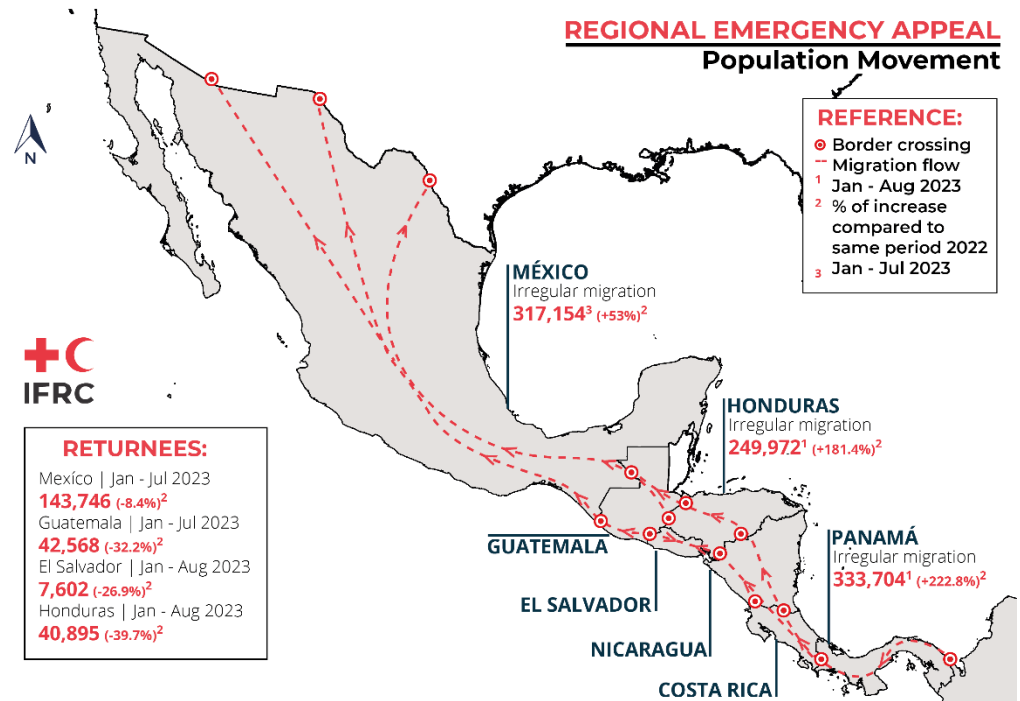
# A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

## Description of the crisis

The Americas region is home to complex and mixed migration, which takes place both within and beyond the region. Many migrants<sup>1</sup>, refugees, and returnees move through irregular pathways driven by persecution, violence, disasters, or a desire for better opportunities. Central America has become, in recent years, one of the busiest transit routes to the United States.

Unlike in the 1990s, when most migrants were of Central American nationalities, and there was evidence of a growing south-north migration, today migrants come from multiple regions and continents. Many are from very different nationalities, and often use Panama as the first point of passage to continue to the United States and Mexico. The mixed flows trigger multiple groups and profiles of migrants travelling in Central America by different routes and at various stages of the journey in the same region. For example, migrants from Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, which are countries of both origin and return, are vulnerable since, among other things, they have often been displaced due to violence, poverty, lack of employment or other threats such as disasters.

Since the launch of the Emergency Appeal (EA), migration flows through the Darién have increased significantly. By the end of 2022, more than 248,000 people had arrived in Panama through the Darién to continue their journey primarily to North American countries. **Panamanian authorities have reported 333,704 arrivals by the end of August<sup>2</sup>, representing a 134% increase from last year's total and a 323% increase from the same period in 2022.** Furthermore, there are indications of modifications in the flow patterns.



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Data source: government data sources, R4V, CA National Societies, OIM, IFRC. Produced by IFRC CA Country cluster IM team, September 2023.

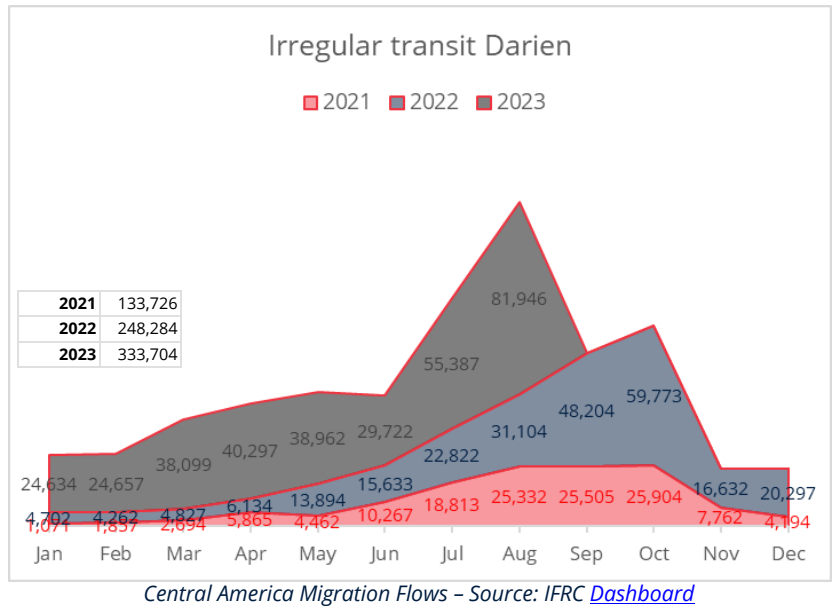
January-December 2021	January-December 2022	January-August 2023
Haiti	Venezuela	Venezuela
Cuba	Ecuador	Ecuador
Chile*	Haiti	Haiti
Brazil*	Cuba	China
Venezuela	Colombia	Colombia

<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the IFRC's 2009 Policy on Migration, 'migrants' are persons who leave or flee their habitual residence to go to new places – usually abroad – to seek opportunities or safer and better prospects. This includes migrant workers, stateless migrants, migrants deemed irregular by public authorities as well as asylum seekers and refugees.

<sup>2</sup> [National Migration Service, Panama, Statistics.](#)

The United States of America government has adopted new immigration policies that aim to reduce irregular migration, with the implementation of programs to get easier entry conditions through the program for Venezuelans in 2022 and the new program for people from Venezuela, Nicaragua, Cuba, and Haiti. The termination of Title 42 as of 11 May<sup>3</sup>, the reinstatement of Title 8, the denial and expulsion of individuals who do not meet the asylum requirements, and the prohibition of subsequent entry for a specified duration. In addition, other measures have been taken through inter-governmental agreements to promote an orderly and safe migration (Colombia, Spain, Canada<sup>4</sup>, Costa Rica<sup>5</sup>). However, currently those measures have not shown a reduction in the flows in the region.

The scenario exercises propose, as the most probable scenario, an influx of **up to 750,000 individuals into Central America**. The primary factors underlying the vulnerabilities in the countries of origin, such as Venezuela and Haiti, as well as other scenarios such as violence, with the influx of **Ecuadorians surpassing 43,000 individuals in eight months**, compared to 29,000 in all of 2022. Additionally, the escalating number of **secondary movements (mainly Venezuelans) from South American countries** is primarily attributable to the complexities of integration in host countries, resulting from economic disparities and an increase in protection risks such as xenophobia. Potentially, crisis in progress in other regions may impact the flows in the coming months.



In addition, private companies' decisions might have an impact in migratory flows as is the example of the operator of the largest railway network in Mexico -FERROMEX- which suspended the activity of 60 freight trains due to the flow of thousands of migrants who use these vehicles to reach the border with the United States<sup>6</sup>.

In Panama, since the first weeks of September, there have been national protests organized by the Union of Construction Workers<sup>7</sup>, where they have closed streets and highways in different parts of the country, which can also affect the transfer from Darién to Chiriquí of migrants.

Furthermore, historically the months of August to October are the months of peaks of migratory flows, and that migrants could be held up at the Temporary Migratory Reception Stations (TMRS) in Darién and Planes de Gualaca in Chiriquí due to the uncertainty of being able to continue their journey, will bring with it a high demand for humanitarian attention services.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.state.gov/u-s-government-announces-sweeping-new-actions-to-manage-regional-migration/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/05/03/trilateral-statement-joint-commitment-latin-america>

<sup>5</sup> <https://cr.usembassy.gov/united-states-and-costa-rica-sign-migration-arrangement/>

<sup>6</sup> [https://twitter.com/GMexico\\_Prensa/status/1704229114029183193](https://twitter.com/GMexico_Prensa/status/1704229114029183193)

<sup>7</sup> <https://twitter.com/SuntracsPanama/status/1704646258885820554>

## Implementation Challenges

The Red Cross Society of Panama has a National Migration Programme financed by different bilateral donors such as ECHO-PP, AECID and PADF, however, most of these contributions are in different stages of being renewed and a detailed analysis of them has shown that there is a gap of funding during September and October, added to the increase of flows that are already happening with an influx of almost 82,000 people in August only.



*Migrants arriving at the Temporary Migration Reception Station (ETRM) in Lajas Blancas, August 2023. Source: RCSP.*

## Summary of response

### Overview of the host National Society and ongoing response



*Person receiving medical assistance after crossing the Darién River. Source: IFRC*

comprehensive care, based on the pathology detected. Likewise, safe water production, cleaning days, and hygiene promotion workshops (hand washing and delivery of supplies to the authorities to support hygiene in the stations). These services are complemented by cargo services, and requests for missing and deceased persons through the Restoring Family Links program.

On the other hand, case follow-up in the protection framework with the activation of safe referral routes to respond to the needs that people present. ETRM San Vicente, the services that continue to be provided are health, basic first aid, and maternal and child health. At the same time, they continue to respond with clean-up days, hygiene promotion, and the Program to Restore Family Links (RFL), cell phone charges, search requests for missing and deceased persons. In the Bajo Chiquito Community, they are providing maternal and child health and safe drinking water for the migrant community and the host community. On the other hand, in the community of Canaán, they continue with support to the Rural Water Supply Administration Boards (JAAR by its Spanish acronym), and tours for support in cleaning days. All these actions are complemented with the distribution of differentiated hygiene kits and dignity kits, located in the ETRMs. The CEA team conducts feedback surveys in the field aimed at people in transit, to have input when making decisions to improve services and the attention of those who carry out actions in the field.

The Red Cross Society of Panama in its response to the ETRM Planes de Gualaca, located in the Province of Chiriqui, provides health services through medical care, basic first aid, and maternal and childcare. These actions are complemented by the response through the Program to Restore Family Links, with Wi-Fi connectivity, battery charging, phone calls, and search requests for missing and deceased persons. Assessments are currently underway to complement water and sanitation actions in accordance with the needs and gaps identified. Likewise, in Paso Canoas, the border crossing point with Costa Rica, there is a service post to provide connectivity, phone calls, and basic information, which is requested by people prior to crossing the border.

## Needs analysis

In the current national context, the significant increase in irregular migration flows through the Darién Gap has exacerbated vulnerabilities and risks for both migrants and host and transit communities. The following needs have been identified at ETRMs and host communities:

- Health: Having more medicines and supplies to meet the needs. More human talent will be required to meet the demand (doctors, nurses, technicians, volunteers), as well as adequate spaces to provide better services.
- WASH: Expand water systems to cover the demand; increase number of kits and human resources (promoters, volunteers); increase the number of showers and toilets.
- PGI: Improve signage in Temporary Migration Reception Stations. Psychologists will be required to provide psychosocial support. Care for management staff and volunteers (MHPSS), increased referrals, adequate spaces to provide assistance, and more volunteers to impart safe information. Expand outreach with RFL, including equipment and human resources.
- CEA: Increase in surveys targeting migrants and other stakeholders, equipment and resources for implementation.
- Administrative: Mobilisation of staff to different points of care, storage space, emergency vehicle operators, reinforce security measures, increase and strengthen human resources.
- Intervention in host communities, mobilization to the communities where the activities of the different areas mentioned above are also carried out.

## Operational risk assessment

The rapidly changing situation of migrants constantly on the move requires a continued dynamic process of planning that responds to the needs of the affected people and that can be adjusted when needed. Different scenarios are being considered for planning so that the National Society can adapt their services to accommodate the affected populations. This includes the constant adaptation and prioritization of actions defined in the National Society's Operational Strategy.

Currently, the RCSP is focusing its actions mainly on covering the most urgent needs, which leaves out many of the National Society's strengthening actions that were initially set out in its Operational Strategy.

Changes in regulations in transit and destination countries can lead to a backlog of migrants at the Panama – Costa Rica border and Temporary Migratory Reception Stations, both in Darién and Chiriquí provinces, causing dissatisfaction, insecurity, and insufficient delivery of essential services. The RCSP coordinates its efforts with other agencies on the ground and national authorities to monitor these regulations to cope with changes. In the IFRC, regional teams responsible for migration and communications monitor and communicate any changes to the National Society through the Central American Cluster Delegation.

The rainy season also brings risks not only in the ETRMs where the National Society provide services, but also in their own premises. Last August heavy rains flooded the RCSP office warehouse in Darien, damaging WaSH equipment and pre-positioned hygiene kits.

There is a risk of impact on the biodiversity of the Darien Gap that is reflected in contamination, as many of the migrants are sometimes forced to leave some of their luggage, clothing and personal items that later become garbage. This environmental damage affects the ecological integrity of the Darien National Park, as well as the host communities and communities near the ETRMs as high flow of migrants often makes it impossible to maintain adequate cleaning services and the generation and collection of waste is also affected, leading to sanitation implications.

During the crossing, migrants are confronted with sexual violence and dangerous animals, which increases the demand for health and psychosocial care services in the ETRMs and with the increasing number of flows, these services require more and more staff to avoid burnout of staff and volunteers on the field.

## **B. OPERATIONAL ESTRATEGY**

### **Update on the strategy**

As part of the Mexico and Central American Migration Crisis Emergency Appeal, the aim of the RCSP Operational Strategy is to address the vulnerabilities of 53,000 migrants in transit through humanitarian and protection assistance delivered mainly at humanitarian service points located along the route. The Secretariat is supporting the country's operations with a Regional Operation structure and with Information Management and CEA expertise and has set up a regional monitoring and evaluation framework to enable a coordinated and enhanced response.

This Operational Strategy is part of a Federation-wide approach, focusing on activities across the following priorities, with an overall focus on National Society Strengthening (NSS): a) Implementation and management of Humanitarian Service Points (HSPs), b) Cash and Voucher Assistance, c) Health and WASH assistance, d) Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), e) Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), f) Information Management and Digital transformation, g) Humanitarian Diplomacy, h) Membership coordination, i) Communication, j) Surge capacity, k) Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), l) Finance and Administration, and m) Logistics.

The additional income for the RCSP will serve to continue to support current actions and to reinforce the volunteer's Health and WASH teams, adding additional teams of volunteers to contribute to rotation and rest of the current teams which have been delivering humanitarian aid and services non-stop for months; to continue to provide cleaning supplies for basic maintenance in the ETRMs; to provide additional safe water storage for host communities with the purchase of water storage tanks as well as to contribute to the maintenance of current water supply systems with the purchase of chemicals; simple flip flops to distribute to people with feet lacerations after medical care; logistics expenses and self-care sessions for volunteers.

This operation considers the long-term impact on the National Society with a holistic approach and looks beyond the term of the operational strategy to sustainability. It also links with current programmes based on existing strategic frameworks, such as Strategy 2030, the Global Migration Strategy, and the Migration Action Plan in the Americas, reinforcing cross-border work to promote binational exchange of experiences.

The National Society will continue its work to assist migrant population under their National Migration Programme, with funding from donors such as ECHO-PP, AECID and PADF after the end of the EA. The actions carried out under the Emergency Appeal have served to expand the operation of HSPs, which have contributed to saving lives and reducing suffering along the migratory route and will continue to provide services beyond the scope of this Appeal.

## C.DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

### STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION<sup>8</sup>



#### Multi-purpose Cash

People reached: -

Objective:	<i>The most vulnerable people have their needs met through the use of cash.</i>			
Key indicators:	Indicator	NS	Actual	Target
	<i># of people reached with cash and voucher assistance</i>	Panama	-	200
	<i>Amount of cash distributed (in CHF)</i>	Panama	-	40,000
	<i># of volunteers and National Societies staff trained in livelihoods tools and Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)</i>	Panama	-	20
	<i>A feasibility study of CVA conducted in the host community (Yes/No)</i>	Panama	-	1
	<i>Created and implemented a CEA framework for cash transfers and livelihoods</i>	Panama	-	1

#### Progress towards outcomes

To date, the **Panamanian** Red Cross has not been able to carry out actions in this sector. This is because it has had to make certain prioritizations in its Operational Strategy, largely due to the increase and changing dynamics of migratory flows and the need to focus on addressing the priorities that this situation demands. Furthermore, it has been constrained by the availability of funds. Therefore, additional contributions are needed to support actions in this sector.



#### Health & Care

*(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)*

People reached: **21,740**

Objective:	<i>The most vulnerable people receive high quality health and care services, including MHPSS.</i>			
Key indicators:	<i>Medical Services</i>			
	Indicator	NS	Actual	Target

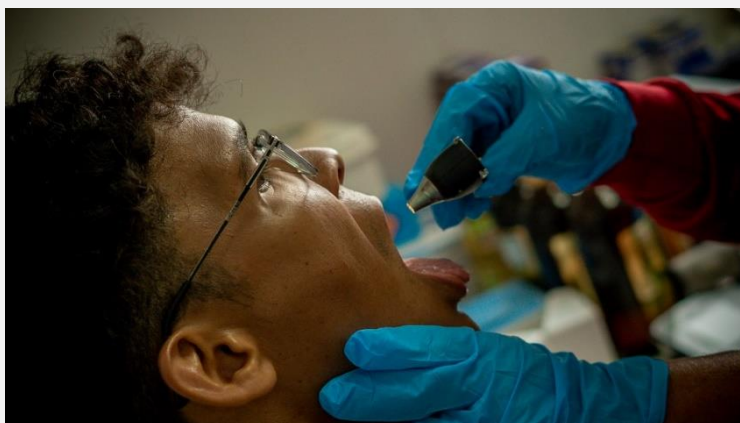
<sup>8</sup> The figures presented in each sector correspond to July 31, 2023.

# of people reached with targeted health services	Panama	21,740	5,000
# of volunteers and National Society staff trained in first aid	Panama	45	40
# of ambulances operated by the National Societies to provide medical transportation and pre-hospital care	Panama	-	2
% of migrants and people from host communities receive health sensitization.	Panama	-	30%
<i>Community health</i>			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
# of people reached with health promotion sensitization	Panama	481	1,000
# of Community based health and first aid (CBHFA) volunteers supporting the operation (includes first aid trained volunteers)	Panama	-	16
# of mosquito nets distributed for vector control.	Panama	-	1,000
<i>Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)</i>			
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
# of people reached by National Society mental health and psychosocial support services	Panama	1,392	3,000

### Progress towards outcomes

The total number of people reached in this sector includes people who received direct assistance to meet their health-related needs, including Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies (MHPSS).

**Panama:** With the steady increase in the influx of migrants, Panama Red Cross Society has focused on providing basic first aid services, maternal and child health, as well as medical care in the Darién region, which encompasses the two Temporary Migration Reception Stations (ETRM) of San Vicente and Lajas Blancas. Medical care is provided on an ongoing basis and a few recurrent illnesses have been identified, including acute diarrheal diseases, lower extremity wounds, common colds, high blood pressure, diabetes mellitus, skin abscesses, acute tonsillitis, among others. With the arrival of the rainy season in recent months, there has been an increase in cases of skin lesions and diarrhea.



Person receiving medical assistance by RCSP personnel. Source: IFRC.

In addition, cases of dehydration have been detected, and in collaboration with other partners, actions have been coordinated to distribute hydration kits, with a particular focus on the male population over 18 years of age, which

is the most served in this category. It has been observed that, in the Lajas Blancas ETRM, people from the local community have also sought medical attention.

At the same time, Mental Health, and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies (SMAPS) services have also been provided to migrants in transit, as well as to people from the host communities who have requested them. Care has focused mainly on providing short, individualized sessions.

In addition, as part of the Red Cross Society of Panama strengthening and continuous improvement initiatives, it has been promoting training and updating sessions on first aid. These sessions are mainly aimed at volunteers who play a key role in direct assistance to migrants, to ensure effective and timely care. This training not only enhances medical care capacity, but also instills a sense of security and confidence in both volunteers and migrants, contributing to the creation of a more humane and safer environment for all involved.

One of the most significant challenges that has arisen with the increase in migratory flows has been to ensure the availability of medicines and supplies in sufficient quantity to meet all medical needs in an immediate and relevant manner.



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

People reached: **24,553**

**Objective:** *Comprehensive water, sanitation and hygiene support is provided to the most vulnerable people, resulting in an immediate reduction in the risk of water-related diseases and improving the dignity of the target population.*

	Indicator	NS	Actual	Target
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<i># of people reached with safe water</i>	Panama	24,553	5,000
	<i># of personal hygiene kits distributed</i>	Panama	800	1,500
	<i># of liters of drinking water distributed through safe water supply</i>	Panama	13,211,700	1,500,000
	<i># of people reached by WASH assistance (vector control, hygiene promotion, solid waste management)</i>	Panama	-	1,500

### Progress towards outcomes

Comprehensive services have been provided, so the total number of people assisted in this sector includes people who received direct assistance through the distribution of safe water, as well as the distribution of individual hygiene kits.



Part of the tanks used by the RCSP to store and distribute safe water. Source: IFRC.

**Panama:** Red Cross Society of Panama continues with the distribution of safe water to the migrant population at the Temporary Migrant Reception Station (ETRM) in Lajas Blancas, people in the Bajo Chiquito host community, as well to people who have been assisted directly at the Humanitarian Service Point (HSP) and people who have been assisted with specific health services at different points.

Likewise, personal hygiene kits containing mainly (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, razor, soap, etc.) have been distributed. These actions have been complemented with hygiene promotion educational sessions (hand washing and delivery of supplies to the

authorities to support hygiene at the stations), as well as cleaning days.



## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached: **15,781**

### Objective:

*The different people affected are safe from harm, including violence, discrimination and exclusion, and their needs and rights are met.*

### Key indicators:

Indicator	NS	Actual	Target
# of sectoral or PGI assessments conducted using the PGI Minimum Standards	Panama	-	1
# of people reached by protection, gender, and inclusion services	Panama	7,159	500
# of people reached with RFL services	Panama	8,622	3,000

### Progress towards outcomes

Comprehensive services have been provided, so the total number of people reached in this sector includes people who have received Protection, Gender, and Inclusion services, including people who have been supported with RFL services.

**Panama:** The Red Cross Society of Panama has shared culturally sensible key messages through channels and mechanisms accessible to all people. It has also made safe referrals in coordination with other organizations and governmental institutions.



RCSP staff and volunteers sharing information and key messages to migrants. Source: IFRC.

At the same time, in relation RFL actions electric generators have been reinforced to ensure that all points have easy access to electricity. Likewise, migrants have been supported with access to spaces for charging cellphone batteries or other items that require it, as well as access to Wi-Fi signal, and in particular cases, to search for people.



**Community Engagement and Accountability**  
 People reached: **2,317**

**Objective:** *The diverse needs, priorities and preferences of affected people guide the response through a people-centered approach and meaningful community involvement.*

	Indicator	NS	Actual	Target
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<i># of National Societies with established feedback mechanisms</i>	Panama	Yes	Yes
	<i># of satisfaction surveys completed</i>	Panama	2,317	300
	<i>% of surveyed people reporting that they receive useful and actionable information through different trusted channels (broken down into digital and non-digital channels).</i>	Panama	70%	60%
	<i>% of affected people surveyed who report that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable and participatory manner.</i>	Panama	70%	60%

**Progress towards outcomes**

**Panama:** As part of its accountability mechanisms, the Red Cross Society of Panama has conducted satisfaction surveys directed to a random sample of people who have made use of the services offered. To date, the results



Staff and volunteers of the RCSP conducting satisfaction surveys on the services provided. Source: IFRC.

actor on the ground.

indicate that 70% of the surveyed population perceives that they have received high quality services adequate to their needs.

In addition, respondents have expressed additional areas of interest in which they would like more information, including how to contact family members, access food and health services, primarily.

The implementation of these satisfaction surveys has allowed the Red Cross Society of Panama to identify areas that require strengthening, needs for service expansion, adjustments to key messages, and ultimately improve communication of its role as a humanitarian



## Migration

People reached: **2,813**

### Objective:

*The specific vulnerabilities of migrants, refugees and returnees are analyzed and their needs and rights are met through targeted humanitarian assistance, protection and humanitarian diplomacy interventions, in coordination with relevant stakeholders and sectors.*

### Key indicators:

Indicator	NS	Actual	Target
# of HSPs created or reinforced	Panama	1	1
# of people reached through humanitarian service points (migrants and displaced people)	Panama	2,813	2,500

### Progress towards outcomes

**Panama:** The Humanitarian Service Point (HSP) is located at the Temporary Migrant Reception Station (ETRM) in San Vicente, which reinforces the attention to migrants by concentrating assistance capabilities in one place. Although this HSP has been very useful and has significantly supported the operations of the RCSP, in recent months it has experienced mechanical failures that have sometimes rendered it unusable.

In view of this situation and recognizing the importance of the HSP, the RCSP has undertaken various advocacy actions. Thanks to these efforts, in May 2023 a new HSP was acquired through funding from ECHO's Pilot Programmatic Partnership. This new HSP is providing services in the Lajas Blancas



People assisted at the Humanitarian Service Point (HSP) at the Temporary Migrant Reception Station (ETRM) in San Vicente. Source: RCSP.

ETRM, which has contributed to the RCSP continuing to strengthen its services in HSPs, including those specific to this Emergency Appeal.

## Enabling approaches



### National Society Strengthening

<b>Objective:</b>	<i>National Societies respond effectively to the broad spectrum of evolving crises and their auxiliary role in disaster risk management is well defined and recognized.</i>			
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	<i># of volunteers involved in the response operation that have increased their skills in response and management of operations</i>	Panama	-	75
	<i>National Society has identified learning mechanisms to assess the impact of the operation (Yes/No)</i>	Panama	Yes	Yes
	<i>NS capacities strengthened to provide services to the affected population (Yes/No)</i>	Panama	Yes	Yes

#### Progress towards outcomes

**Panama:** The Panamanian Red Cross has managed to maintain its key roles to ensure the effective coordination and execution of the migration program. These roles include the field coordination, the communications officer, and the logistics officer.

In addition, in response to identified needs, adjustments have been made to the office located in Darién. Furthermore, vehicles have been rented to facilitate the mobilization of personnel and the necessary resources to carry out the required actions. An additional vehicle has also been assigned to improve operations in the Darién and Chiriquí regions.



### Coordination and Partnerships

<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Expand the programmatic reach of National Societies and the International Federation to ensure a coordinated humanitarian response with other governmental and non-governmental agencies.</i>			
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Target</b>
	<i>Membership coordination meetings organized, and updates are provided to the Membership partners (Yes/No)</i>	Panama	Yes	Yes

	<i>Movement coordination meetings organized, and updates are provided to the Movement partners (Yes/No)</i>	Panama	Yes	Yes
	<i>Key partners meetings organized, and updates provided to all partners (Yes/No)</i>	Panama	Yes	Yes

### Progress towards outcomes

All the National Societies that are part of this Appeal, together with the IFRC, developed during the period October - December 2022 an assessment of the needs of the migrant population in the borders with Mexico and Central America, with the general objective of evaluating the humanitarian needs, information and access to basic services of the migrant population in the key borders of Central America, with special attention to shelter, health (including mental health), water, hygiene and sanitation, food security and protection; and thus have information that will help National Societies to strengthen their intervention strategies.

**Panama:** Inter-institutional coordination has been carried out through sub-groups dedicated to protection, WASH, health, human mobility, and the case desk in the Darién region. These coordinates were carried out in collaboration with other partners of the RCSP migration program, which has contributed to the strengthening of actions within the framework of this Emergency Appeal.

In addition, the RCSP has played a key role in coordinating and co-facilitating with other humanitarian institutions scenario planning exercises related to the migration crisis in the regions of Darién, Chiriquí and Panama City. The results of these exercises were presented at a high-level meeting with Panamanian authorities and relevant humanitarian agencies. These exercises have served to provide authorities and humanitarian agencies, including the RCSP, with crucial evidence to support the strengthening of their intervention strategies in response to the migration crisis.



### Secretariat Services

**Objective:** *IFRC supports capacity building of National Societies and leverages the strength of the communities they work with in the most effective and efficient way possible.*

	Indicator	NS	Actual	Target
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<i>Joint coordination tools and mechanisms are in use within the Membership response (Yes/No)</i>	Panama	Yes	Yes
	<i># of surge missions or deployments</i>	Panama	1	1

### Progress towards outcomes

#### Communications

425 media articles have been published on the migratory crisis in Central America and Mexico between 1 August 1 2022 and 3 April 2023. This is equivalent to investing \$26.2 million in media advertising. The coverage is mainly in Spanish and English and focuses on the route-based approach, the needs of migrants and the network of humanitarian service points. More information on the media coverage is [available here](#). 34 posts have been

published on the [@MKeaysIFRC](#) and [@IFRC\\_ES](#) Twitter accounts, and [@IFRC\\_ES](#) on Instagram. On Twitter, where the IFRC focused its content, and had an average of 2,015 [impressions](#) and an average of 94 [engagements](#) per post. [Videos from the field](#), and [testimonials](#) have the highest views, engagement, and impression rates. More information on the social media activity is [available here](#).

In the case of personnel deployed, there is currently one person as a delegate on behalf of the IFRC in Darién, who provides direct support to the RCSP, with the support of the Central America Cluster.

## D. FUNDING

As of 31 August 2023, 13 per cent of the Appeal’s funding requirements has been covered. The IFRC kindly encourages increased donor support for this Emergency Appeal to enable host National Societies to continue to provide support to the migrants and host communities, primarily in the process of attending their immediate needs for food, shelter, water, and livelihoods.

Click [here](#) for the donor response.

### Federation-wide funding requirement\*

<b>Federation Wide Funding Requirement including the National Society domestic target, IFRC Secretariat and the Partner National Society funding requirement</b>	<b>IFRC Secretarian Funding Requirement in support of the Federation Wide funding ask</b>
<b>28 million CHF</b>	<b>18 million CHF</b>

\*For more information on Federation-Wide funding requirement, refer to section: Federation-wide Approach in the Regional Operational Strategy.

# Breakdown of the IFRC secretariat funding requirement



## OPERATING STRATEGY

### MDR43008 – Mexico & Central America: Migration crisis

#### FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>12,119,346</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	321,308
Livelihoods	611,031
Multi-purpose Cash	845,013
Health	2,096,713
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	2,228,172
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	859,824
Community Engagement and Accountability	181,710
Education	116,856
Migration	4,643,033
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	191,586
Environmental Sustainability	24,100
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>4,782,061</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	2,381,340
Secretariat Services	29,829
National Society Strengthening	2,370,892
<b>TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS</b>	<b>18,000,000</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

## Contact information

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

### At the Red Cross Society of Panama

- **President:** Elias Solis, [elias.solis@cruzroja.org.pa](mailto:elias.solis@cruzroja.org.pa)
- **General Director:** Larissa Rodriguez, [larissa.rodriguez@cruzroja.org.pa](mailto:larissa.rodriguez@cruzroja.org.pa)

### At the IFRC Americas Regional Office

- **Head of Central America Country Cluster Delegation:** Nelson Aly; [nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org](mailto:nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org)
- **Head of Health, Disaster, Climate and Crisis:** Marianna Kuttothara, [marianna.kuttothara@ifrc.org](mailto:marianna.kuttothara@ifrc.org)
- **Operations, Evolving Crisis and Disasters Manager:** Maria Martha Tuna; [maria.tuna@ifrc.org](mailto:maria.tuna@ifrc.org)
- **Head of Partnerships and Resource Development:** Monica Portillo; [monica.portillo@ifrc.org](mailto:monica.portillo@ifrc.org)
- **Communications Manager:** Susana Arroyo, [susana.arroyo@ifrc.org](mailto:susana.arroyo@ifrc.org)
- **Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Manager:** Golda Ibarra; [golda.ibarra@ifrc.org](mailto:golda.ibarra@ifrc.org)
- **Logistics Coordinator:** Stephanie Murillo, [stephany.murillo@ifrc.org](mailto:stephany.murillo@ifrc.org)

### In the IFRC Geneva Headquarters

- **DREF Senior Officer:** Eszter Matyeka; [eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org](mailto:eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org)
- **Operations Coordination Focal Point:** Antoine Belair; [anotine.belair@ifrc.org](mailto:anotine.belair@ifrc.org)

#### Reference documents



Click here for:

- [Link to the Emergency Appeal and updates](#)

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

# Emergency Appeal

## OPERATION UPDATE FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	22/09-2023/8	Operation	MDR43008
Budget Timeframe	22/07-2023/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 29 Sep 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDR43008 - Central America & Mexico - Migration Crisis

Operating Timeframe: 29 Jul 2022 to 31 Dec 2023; appeal launch date: 29 Jul 2022

## I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Thematic Area Code	Requirements CHF
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	188,000
AOF2 - Shelter	343,000
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	1,381,000
AOF4 - Health	2,375,000
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	2,373,000
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	1,204,000
AOF7 - Migration	5,407,000
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	3,290,000
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	1,000
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	190,000
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	1,248,000
<b>Total Funding Requirements</b>	<b>18,000,000</b>
<b>Donor Response* as per 29 Sep 2023</b>	<b>1,344,774</b>
<b>Appeal Coverage</b>	<b>7.47%</b>

## II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Thematic Area Code	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction	12,060	5,307	6,753
AOF2 - Shelter	43,798	34,382	9,416
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	58,506	14,039	44,467
AOF4 - Health	372,503	427,165	-54,662
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	374,627	314,286	60,341
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion	245,958	264,869	-18,911
AOF7 - Migration	577,053	492,753	84,300
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	310,043	218,862	91,181
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management	84,255	35,559	48,696
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners	0	0	0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	194,860	209,693	-14,834
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,273,663</b>	<b>2,016,915</b>	<b>256,747</b>

## III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2023/08

Opening Balance	1,034,933
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	1,189,209
Expenditure	-2,016,915
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>207,227</b>
Deferred Income	67,086
Funds Available	274,313

## IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	1,060,229	Reimbursed :	50,000	<b>Outstanding :</b>	<b>1,010,229</b>
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# Emergency Appeal

## OPERATION UPDATE FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	22/09-2023/8	Operation	MDR43008
Budget Timeframe	22/07-2023/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 29 Sep 2023

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDR43008 - Central America & Mexico - Migration Crisis

Operating Timeframe: 29 Jul 2022 to 31 Dec 2023; appeal launch date: 29 Jul 2022

#### V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance							1,034,933
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income	
British Red Cross	198,435				198,435		
DREF Response Pillar				-50,000	-50,000		
Japanese Red Cross Society	-1,291				-1,291		
On Line donations	391				391		
Red Cross of Monaco	19,770				19,770		
Simón Bolívar Foundation/CITGO	159,383				159,383	67,008	
Swedish Red Cross	263,137				263,137		
Swiss Red Cross	100,000				100,000		
The Canadian Red Cross Society	143,595				143,595		
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	258,067				258,067		
UNICEF - United Nations Children's Fund	97,723				97,723	77	
<b>Total Contributions and Other Income</b>	<b>1,239,209</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-50,000</b>	<b>1,189,209</b>	<b>67,086</b>	
<b>Total Income and Deferred Income</b>					<b>2,224,142</b>	<b>67,086</b>	