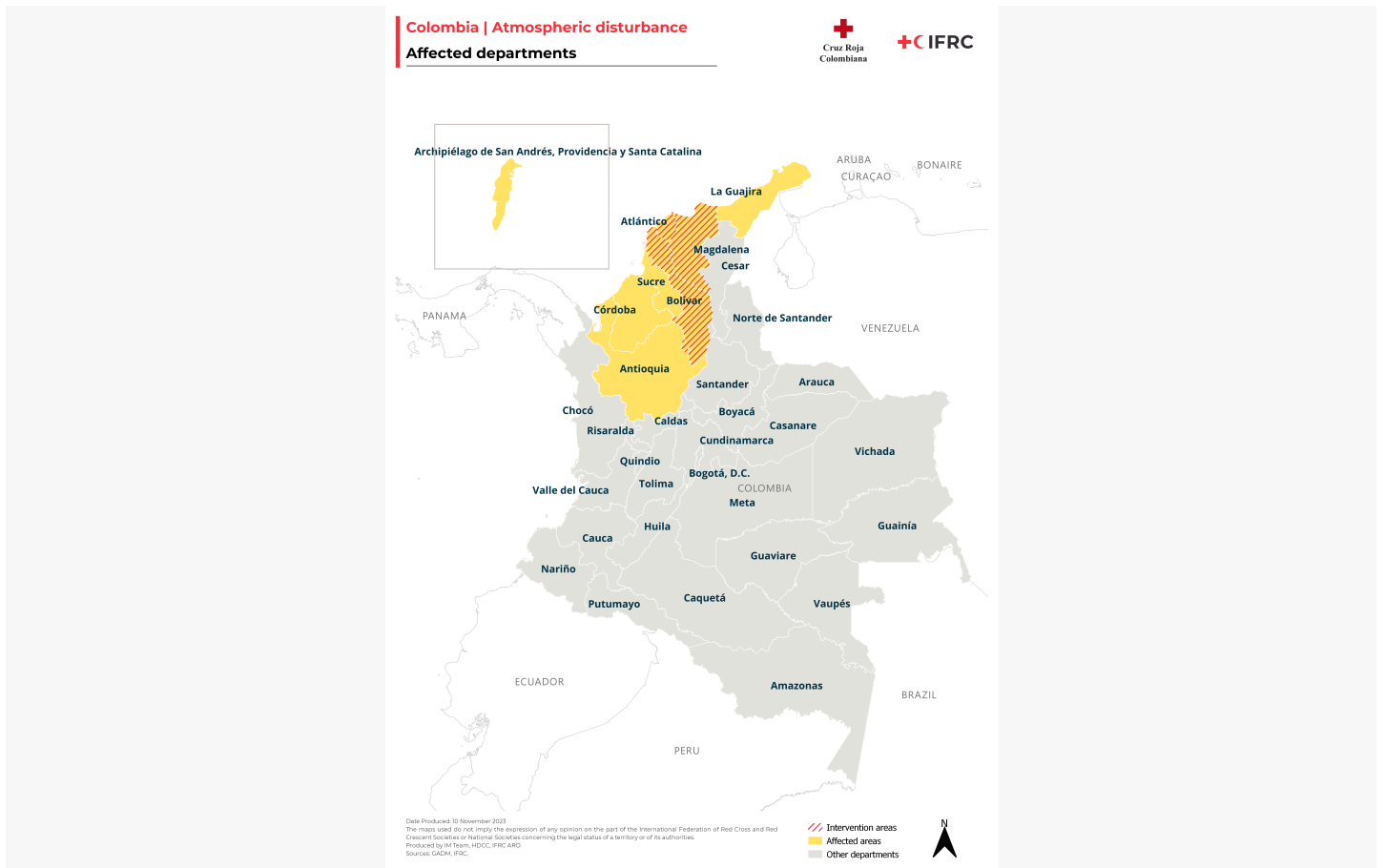




Severe flooding in Cartagena. Source: Blue Radio. November, 2023.

Appeal: <b>MDRCO024</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 151,832</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Flood</b>
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>41,088 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>4,350 people</b>	People Assisted: <b>5,137 people</b>
Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>17-11-2023</b>	Operational End Date: <b>31-05-2024</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>6 months</b>
Targeted Areas: <b>Atlantico, Bolivar, Magdalena</b>			

# Description of the Event



Map 1. Map of affected areas and areas prioritized by the Colombian Red Cross Society. Source: Colombian Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies. IDEAM. Updated to 11 November 2023.

## Date of event

02-11-2023

## What happened, where and when?

Due to the effects caused by the Atmospheric Disturbance (AL97), on 2 November 2023, the Mayor's Office of Cartagena de Indias declared a state of public calamity in the district, through Decree No. 1441 (1). On the same date, the Municipality of Zona Bananera, Department of Magdalena, issued Decree No. 410, extending the Declaration of Calamity the municipality, previously issued by Decree No. 085, indicating recent affectations caused by heavy rains (1).

Since October 30, heavy and prolonged rains were recorded in the Colombian Caribbean, which affected the north of the country, especially in the coastal area, with greater intensity in the departments of La Guajira, Bolivar, Magdalena, and Atlántico. According to the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD, by its initials in Spanish), the rains caused multiple floods, landslides, communication problems and families affected by the effects of Atmospheric Disturbance (AL97), which was a weather instability that altered atmospheric conditions and caused strong winds and rainfall (2).

The Colombian Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies (IDEAM, by its initials in Spanish) issued a cyclone warning on 30 October, through Special Communiqué No. 1, by which it activated the National Tropical Cyclone Warning Protocol and alerted government authorities and the National System for Disaster Risk Management (SNGRD, by its initials in Spanish) on the possibility of the development of a tropical cyclone that would cause increased rainfall, winds and thunderstorms. These effects were manifested in the west of the Caribbean Sea during the following days, affecting, with heavy rains wide sectors of the northern of the country, especially in the coastal area of the Caribbean Sea (3).

On 3 November 2023, the IDEAM issued Special Communiqué No. 009, warning that the atmospheric disturbance would continue and would keep generating heavy and moderate rains in the northwestern Caribbean Sea, including electrical activity over the center and

west of the maritime area. This situation caused intense and continuous rains for more than 7 days, causing soil saturation, mass movements, blockage of roads, flash floods, gales, winds, and increased levels of water sources, this caused flooding in the city of Cartagena de Indias, in the department of Bolivar; in the Municipality of Zona Bananera, in the department of Magdalena; in the Municipality of Soledad, in the department of Atlántico; and in the Municipality of Manaure, in the department of La Guajira (4).

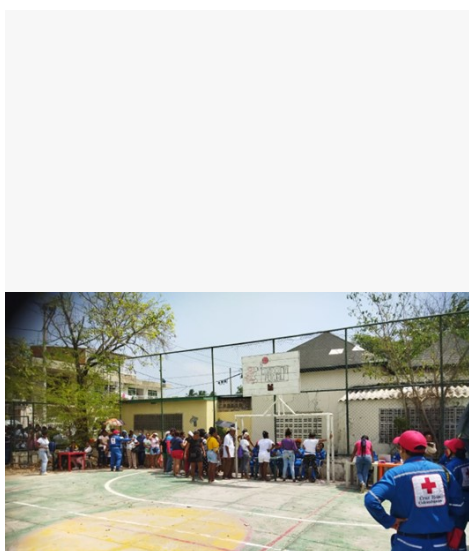
According to the reports consolidated by the regional offices, around 13,696 families (41,088 people) were affected by the emergency, with damage to their homes, limited access to drinking water, and livelihoods affected. Of these, 600 families were in the department of Atlántico, 10,200 families in the department of Bolívar, and 2,896 families in the department of Magdalena (5).

Chronological summary of events:

- 30 October 2023: The Colombian Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM, by its initials in Spanish) issued a cyclone warning through Special Communiqué No. 1, through which it activated the National Tropical Cyclone Alert Protocol and alerted government authorities and the National System for Disaster Risk Management about the possibility of the development of a tropical cyclone that would cause increased rainfall, winds, and thunderstorms.
- 30 October 2023: Heavy rains begin on the Colombian Caribbean coast.
- 2 November 2023: The Mayor's Office of Cartagena de Indias declared a state of public calamity in the District, by Decree No. 1441 (1).
- 2 November 2023: The municipality of Zona Bananera, department of Magdalena, issued Decree No. 410 extending the Declaration of Calamity in the municipality, previously issued by Decree No. 085.
- 3 November 2023: IDEAM issued Special Communiqué No. 009, warning that the atmospheric disturbance continued and would continue to generate heavy and moderate rainfall in the northwest Caribbean Sea, including electrical activity over the center and west of the maritime area.
- 11 November 2023: Start of IFRC-DREF operation in the Colombian Caribbean coast to support people affected in the departments of Atlántico, Bolívar, and Magdalena.



Food kits distribution. Source: Red Cross Atlántico Branch, 19 February 2024, Villa Merly community, municipality of Soledad-Atlántico.



Characterization workshop, Source: Red Cross Bolivar Branch. 19 February 2024, Nuevo Paraíso community, Cartagena - Bolivar.



Socialization with the community on the proper management of water filters. Source: Red Cross Magdalena Branch. 21 February 2024, Ciudad Perdida community, Zona Bananera - Magdalena.



Food kits and family hygiene kits distribution, Source: Red Cross Bolivar Branch. 22 February 2024, La Boquilla community: Cartagena - Bolivar.

## Scope and Scale

In the department of Magdalena, the Governor's Office reported the greatest damage in the municipality of Zona Bananera, with a total of 2,896 families affected in November 2023, due the damage caused by the flooding of the Ariguari River in the central sub-region and widespread damage to intercommunication roads. Similarly, flooding was recorded in the Sampués and El Tigre rural areas of the department. Finally, public calamity was also declared in the municipality of Aracataca.

In the department of Bolivar, the Advisory Office for Disaster Risk Management (OAGRD, by its initials in Spanish) and the local Mayor's Office reported that the rains caused a significant number of emergencies, mainly in the capital, Cartagena de Indias. According to the consolidated report of the OAGRD and relief agencies, between 29 October and 2 November, 123 emergency reports were received, including damage to housing infrastructure, 91 reports of flooding, 7 fallen trees, 9 landslides, 5 collapsed housing structures, 8 reports in educational infrastructure, 10,200 families affected, and two fatalities. There were also 91 sectors and neighborhoods with reports of flooding, as well as other areas affected by landslides, especially on the slopes of La Popa and Albornoz (6)(7).

On 7 November 2023, the Mayor's Office of Cartagena adopted the Specific Action Plan (PAE) for the public calamity caused by rains in the city between 29 October 2 November 2023, which included immediate response actions with comprehensive intervention to the 15,000 families affected. At the time, it allocated \$35,000 million COP in the delivery of 15,000 humanitarian aids, 5,000 kitchen kits, 2,000 mattresses and fiber cement roof tiles, economic support for 500 temporary rental subsidies, installation of community kitchens, pedagogical actions and infrastructure recovery. As part of this work, \$3.5 billion COP was invested in machinery for maintenance, clearing and cleaning of canals.

On 14 January 2024, the Specific Action Plan (PAE) for public calamity due to rains in the city was terminated.

In the department of Atlántico, there was a considerable increase in rainfall, which caused the overflowing of the Platanal and Salado streams in the city of Barranquilla, affecting approximately 2,000 people, according to initial estimates by the Mayor's Office of Barranquilla and the Governor's Office of the department (8).

In February 2024, the last monitoring of the situation was carried out, where it was evident that the floods generated in November 2023 had caused damage in the population. This situation was supported by the Risk Management entities at the departmental and national level, who showed the importance of having received support from the Red Cross for Emergency Humanitarian Aid for the people affected by this event.

## Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Decree N° 410	<a href="https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/IFRCSharing/EXRWHYSPf7hKlBIDNXDKd8lBaZmm6FFDvl7Ne8uN1a-ryHw?e=gEDr3Q">https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/IFRCSharing/EXRWHYSPf7hKlBIDNXDKd8lBaZmm6FFDvl7Ne8uN1a-ryHw?e=gEDr3Q</a>
2. Special Comunicqué No. 1. IDEAM	<a href="http://www.pronosticosyalertas.gov.co/documents/78690/126335395/Comunicado+Especial_001_AL95.pdf/f89b09f1-9e03-4ea6-ae3b-eccc9bb39839?version=1.0">http://www.pronosticosyalertas.gov.co/documents/78690/126335395/Comunicado+Especial_001_AL95.pdf/f89b09f1-9e03-4ea6-ae3b-eccc9bb39839?version=1.0</a>



3. Special Communiqué No. 9. IDEAM	<a href="http://www.ideam.gov.co/documents/78690/126414152/Comunicado+Especial_009_Perturbacion+%28AL97%29.pdf/a1bee50e-2429-4f7c-b5c3-6e62f68ed9da?version=1.0">http://www.ideam.gov.co/documents/78690/126414152/Comunicado+Especial_009_Perturbacion+%28AL97%29.pdf/a1bee50e-2429-4f7c-b5c3-6e62f68ed9da?version=1.0</a>
4. Reports consolidated by the regional offices	<a href="https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:f/s/IFRCSharing/EsrxN7ibYBZLjJlM3srGmlMByiiAKU-qHRQ5ajdpk5lh0w?e=9yguiX">https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:f/s/IFRCSharing/EsrxN7ibYBZLjJlM3srGmlMByiiAKU-qHRQ5ajdpk5lh0w?e=9yguiX</a>
5. Families affected in Cartagena. Caracol Radio	<a href="https://caracol.com.co/2023/11/02/10200-familias-resultaron-afectadas-por-fuerte-lluvia-en-cartagena/">https://caracol.com.co/2023/11/02/10200-familias-resultaron-afectadas-por-fuerte-lluvia-en-cartagena/</a>
6. Mayor Dau issues decree declaring public calamity due to heavy rains in Cartagena (impact figures included)	<a href="https://www.cartagena.gov.co/noticias/alcalde-dau-expide-decreto-que-declara-calamidad-publica-fuertes-lluvias-cartagena">https://www.cartagena.gov.co/noticias/alcalde-dau-expide-decreto-que-declara-calamidad-publica-fuertes-lluvias-cartagena</a>
7. 2,000 people affected by the rains in the Atlantic during the last week	<a href="https://caracol.com.co/2023/11/07/2-mil-damnificados-dejan-las-lluvias-presentadas-durante-la-ultima-semana-en-el-atlantico/">https://caracol.com.co/2023/11/07/2-mil-damnificados-dejan-las-lluvias-presentadas-durante-la-ultima-semana-en-el-atlantico/</a>
8. Link to the folder of emergency photos:	<a href="https://ifrcorg-my.sharepoint.com/personal/edwin_armenta_ifrc_org1/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fedwin%5Farmenta%5Fifrc%5Forg1%2FDocuments%2FIFRC%20COL%2FDREFs%2FDREF%20AL97%2FACTUALIZACION&amp;ga=1">https://ifrcorg-my.sharepoint.com/personal/edwin_armenta_ifrc_org1/_layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fedwin%5Farmenta%5Fifrc%5Forg1%2FDocuments%2FIFRC%20COL%2FDREFs%2FDREF%20AL97%2FACTUALIZACION&amp;ga=1</a>
9. Decree N° 1441. State of Public Calamity in Cartagena de Indias	<a href="https://noticiasvital.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/1441.pdf">https://noticiasvital.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/1441.pdf</a>

## National Society Actions

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

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>For the formulation of this IFRC-DREF Action Plan, technical advice was provided by the IFRC's Programs and Operations Coordination, Finance, and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) areas, with whom the information was updated and the DREF application was formulated.</p> <p>The IFRC team provided continuous support to the Colombian Red Cross Society in the technical-operational, administrative, and financial procedures related to the implementation of the operation.</p>
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	The German Red Cross supported some actions developed by the Colombian Red Cross Society to provide emergency support to 12 Wayuu communities affected by acute water, sanitation, hygiene, and food security crises in La Guajira. Additionally, after a meeting with the Movement's partners and with the support of the German Red Cross,



150 food kits, 150 hygiene kits, and 72 blankets were delivered to the community of Palenquillo (Puerto Bello) in the city of Cartagena, with supplies that were in the warehouse of the Norte de Santander Branch. Through this IFRC-DREF operation, logistical expenses were covered only for shipping, which does not imply duplication of deliveries.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross currently not implemented any actions related to the present emergency, as the effects have been caused by a natural phenomenon that produces climatic changes in the region and the ICRC carries out actions in the Colombian territory in areas affected by the Internal Armed Conflict and other situations of violence.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<p><b>Government has requested international assistance</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>National authorities</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The National Tropical Cyclone Warning Protocol was activated.</li> <li>- The National Tropical Cyclone Response Plan was activated.</li> <li>- The government suggested to the Departmental Disaster Risk Management Councils (CDGRD, by its initials in Spanish), the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Councils (CMGRD, by its initials in Spanish), and operational entities of the National Information System for Disaster Risk Management (SNGRD, by its initials in Spanish) to activate protocols, contingency plans, and all monitoring and surveillance actions in terms of prevention and preparedness for the northern and central coast of the Colombian Caribbean Sea.</li> <li>- The government supported response actions with technical teams from the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) in the departments of Bolívar, Atlántico, San Andrés, Providencia, and Santa Catalina.</li> <li>- The government delivered food and non-food assistance in risk areas and technical and manpower support, in the departments of Magdalena and Atlántico.</li> <li>- Unified Command Posts (UCP) monitored, recorded, and coordinated humanitarian actions in the affected areas.</li> <li>- Damage Assessments and EDAN Needs Analysis of the affected communities and monitoring of the state of emergency were carried out by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, with the support of teams from the Fire Department, the Civil Defense, and the Colombian Red Cross Society in the departments of Bolívar, Magdalena, Atlántico, and La Guajira.</li> </ul> <p>Through the Advisory Office for Disaster Risk Management of Cartagena (OAGR), the Mayor's Office of Cartagena conducted the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the families most affected by the rains that occurred in the city since 27 October 2023.</p> <p>According to the last report, the OAGR delivered humanitarian aid to 660 families throughout the city. The aid consisted of food assistance, hygiene kits, cooking kits, mattresses and in some cases, fiber cement roofing tiles, depending on the level of affectation.</p> <p>Humanitarian aid was delivered to families who suffered housing collapses, landslides and flooding in some sectors. The teams were present in areas of Boston, Cerros de Albornoz, La María sector Los Corales, some families in Fredonia, Nelson Mandela sector Los Deseos, Henequén, La Campiña, Urbanización Simón Bolívar, San Fernando, Tierra Baja and El Pozón.</p> <p>Source:          (1) District of Cartagena continues to deliver humanitarian assistance to those affected by</p>



rains, 2023. <https://www.cartagena.gov.co/noticias/distrito-cartagena-continua-entrega-asistencia-humanitaria-afectados-lluvias>

#### UN or other actors

Coordination was developed with Local Humanitarian Team (LHT) focal points, in particular with the WASH cluster, which is led by UNICEF and Action Against Hunger, to expand and share information on the scale of the emergency.

#### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The emergency was monitored by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, through the Departmental and National Unified Command Posts (PMU, by its initials in Spanish), in which the Colombian Red Cross actively participated, allowing the identification of needs and lines of action to be implemented in this DREF Operation. In addition, work was carried out with the Departmental Disaster Risk Management Councils (CDGRD, by its initials in Spanish) and operational entities of the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD, by its initials in Spanish) for the activation of protocols, contingency plans, and all monitoring and surveillance actions to prepare for a possible increase in rainfall and waves in the north of the Colombian Caribbean during this event.

The Colombian Red Cross Society, through the Atlántico, Bolívar, and Magdalena branches, coordinated the process of characterization and subsequent delivery of the Emergency Humanitarian Aid with the Departmental and/or Municipal Disaster Risk Management Councils, according to the censuses that were carried out just after the emergency occurred.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The events related to the Atmospheric Disturbance (AL97) generated major flooding in different areas of the departments of Magdalena, Bolívar, and Atlántico, where high water levels have caused losses in the most vulnerable families, affecting livelihoods, especially agricultural activities, such as temporary and permanent crops, and the loss of many species of animals (cattle, pigs, poultry, and fish farming). Houses and belongings were also affected, and several roads were damaged and closed, aggravating the food security situation by making it impossible to move around to buy food.

Based in reports consolidated by the regional offices, around 13,696 families (41,088 people) were affected by the emergency, with damage to their homes, limited access to drinking water and affected livelihoods. Of these, 600 families were in the department of Atlántico, in addition, 10,200 in the department of Bolivar and 2,896 families in the department of Magdalena.

According to information provided by the Colombian Red Cross Society branches in the affected departments and the Unified Command Posts, the requests made by community leaders and mayors of the most affected populations were for the delivery of basic food kits, as they were facing serious difficulties in accessing food due to the flooding caused by abnormal rainfall.



### Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The water collection, treatment and distribution infrastructure of municipal and local aqueducts in the areas impacted by heavy rainfall were affected, resulting in a shortage of water for the development of activities related to basic needs, such as food, hydration and implementation of personal and domestic hygiene practices. The affected people had to look for ways to access water for consumption, resorting to dangerous practices for health, such as drinking raw water directly from water sources that could have contamination indicators such as pathogens and chemicals that represent an affectation to human health, as well as exposure to diseases caused by the spread of vectors and the lack of basic sanitation.

The Caribbean coast region presented several flooded areas affected by the combination of sewage and rainwater, which caused damage to homes of entire communities, losing most of their belongings, livelihoods and adequate conditions of basic sanitation systems (aqueducts and sewers). The floods meant that the inhabitants of these areas were unable to travel to buy food and hygiene items, so the municipal governments requested support with the supply of personal hygiene items and items for cleaning their homes, in order to meet the minimum needs of their families.

In the department of Magdalena, Civil Defense and Firefighters indicated that not only were families affected by the floods, but also drainage channels silted up, which was aggravated by the overflowing of rivers, such as the Sevilla, Frío and Tucurina rivers, which increased their flow and dragged materials causing considerable material losses. For this reason, the Magdalena Branch identified the need to deliver water filters, as they indicated that the quality of the water and the conditions of the water distribution systems had



deteriorated considerably.

According to reports consolidated by the regional offices, around 13,096 families (39,288 people) were affected by the limited drinking water supply. Of these, 10,200 families in the department of Bolívar and 2,896 families in the department of Magdalena.

During the first two weeks of February 2024, the field teams of the three Regional Offices (Atlántico, Bolívar and Magdalena) conducted a characterization (survey) of the population that received Emergency Humanitarian Aid and water filters. In these sessions it became evident that the needs persisted in the communities, as they did not receive any other type of assistance from other entities, in addition to the fact that 90% of the beneficiary population of the intervention presented difficulties in the supply of water in conditions suitable for human consumption.

Mainly in the department of Magdalena, the communities affected by the floods of November 2023 had problems in obtaining drinking water and the water to which they had access did not meet the necessary health conditions. Therefore, it was essential to deliver the water filters that were acquired through contracts with suppliers.

## Operational Strategy

### Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF Plan of Action, the Colombian Red Cross Society provided humanitarian assistance to 1,450 families (4,350 people) affected by the Atmospheric Disturbance (AL97) in the departments of Magdalena, Bolívar, and Atlántico, through the implementation of response actions in the areas of WASH and Livelihoods.

At the end of the operation, the Colombian Red Cross Society was able to provide assistance to 5,137 people who are part of the 1,450 families affected by the floods generated by the Atmospheric Disturbance (AL 97). With the above, it can be concluded that the initial objective and scope was to benefit 4,350 people and at the end of the project the scope was 5,137 people, which means that 118% was reached.

### Operation strategy rationale

The operational strategy was designed based on coordination with members of the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD, by its initials in Spanish) and the Colombian Red Cross Society's branches in Atlántico, Bolívar and Magdalena, prioritizing the communities that required immediate attention and avoiding duplication of actions with other institutions.

The assistance modality was established in response to the needs identified in the affected areas and to the request of local authorities and community councils, with whom the urgency of delivering food kits, family hygiene kits and water filters to ensure access to drinking water was highlighted and the affected families were identified. These activities were accompanied by awareness-raising sessions for the community on hygiene and disease prevention measures.

The departments of Magdalena, Bolívar and Atlántico were prioritized due to their high degree of affectation, the lack of humanitarian assistance in the area and the reports of affectation and needs issued by departmental and local authorities.

The operational strategy considered two areas of support:

#### LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS:

1,450 families (5,137 people) were served through the purchase and distribution of food kits, consisting of non-perishable foodstuffs in less than 6 months, such as rice, flour, beans, pasta, sugar, panela, canned fish, oil, coffee and chocolate. The contents of the kits were standardized by the Colombian Red Cross, in accordance with the Esfera Manual and the Colombian Manual for the Standardization of Emergency Aid, issued by the National Disaster Risk Management Unit. A single delivery of food kits was made, as priority was given to immediate relief, while complementary assistance was managed by government entities such as municipalities, police and other humanitarian organizations. Through the delivery of food kits, 300 families were assisted in Atlántico, 700 in Bolívar and 450 in Magdalena.

#### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

1,150 families (3,897 people) corresponding to 700 in Bolívar and 450 in Magdalena, were assisted with the delivery of family hygiene kits, due to the consequences of flooding in homes located in these areas, who also received water awareness, care, disease prevention and hygiene measures. Also within the same group, 450 families from Ciudad Perdida in the municipality of Zona Bananera in Magdalena, received home water filters to guarantee access to drinking water, due to the serious affectation of the water systems in the area, it should be clarified that these families are the same as those reported in the aid delivered in livelihoods and basic needs.



All of the distributions were made with the support of the Magdalena, Bolivar and Atlántico branches, after a close coordination was established with local authorities and community leaders, respecting their customs and local leadership.

Given that the aid provided by the government was not sufficient to meet the needs of the affected population, the work of the Colombian Red Cross Society was based on assisting some of the families who had not received aid during the emergency. The delivery of the Emergency Humanitarian Aid took place at strategic points previously agreed upon with community leaders and representatives of local entities to ensure the safety of all staff and easy movement to and from their homes.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who was targeted by this operation?

Through this project, the Colombian Red Cross assisted 1,450 families (5,137 people) affected by the emergency caused by the Atmospheric Disturbance (AL 97) in the departments of Bolivar (City of Cartagena), Atlántico (Municipality of Soledad) and Magdalena (Municipality of Zona Bananera). The families assisted were distributed as follows:

- Atlántico: 300 families (1,240 people).
- Bolivar: 700 families (2,576 people).
- Magdalena: 450 families (1,321 people).

The municipalities benefited were the most affected and the prioritized families were calculated according to the information provided at the time by the Regional Offices in coordination with the local authorities.

The following is a breakdown of the results generated in the process of characterization in the KOBO Collet application by gender and age of the people benefited in the 3 Red Cross branches with the delivery of Humanitarian Aid in Emergencies, these results are described below. Based on the characterization carried out by the Colombian Red Cross, it was found that in Atlántico 1,240 people were reached, of which 586 are men and 654 are women, in Bolívar 2,576 people were reached, of which 1,210 are men and 1,366 are women, and in Magdalena 1,321 people were reached, of which 619 are men and 702 are women, for a total of 5,137 people (2,415 men and 2,722 women).

The results described above can be detailed on the following link: [https://ifrcorg-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/personal/edwin\\_armenta\\_ifrc\\_org1/\\_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B11731A99-D0E6-453C-8EF3-00B83EDC5A63%7D&file=Consolidado%20beneficiarios.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true](https://ifrcorg-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/r/personal/edwin_armenta_ifrc_org1/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7B11731A99-D0E6-453C-8EF3-00B83EDC5A63%7D&file=Consolidado%20beneficiarios.docx&action=default&mobileredirect=true)

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The families that received humanitarian aid were identified through the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (EDAN, by its initials in Spanish) carried out by the local Disaster Risk Management authorities and/or through the census of the affected population organized by the Territorial Councils in coordination with the territorial authorities and the Atlántico, Magdalena and Bolívar Red Cross Branches. The criteria for prioritizing the population served were as follows:

- Families with children under 5 years old.
- Families with women or teenagers pregnant or in breastfeeding period.
- Families with members with disabilities (physical, mental, sensory or intellectual) or with chronic or degenerative diseases that prevent them from working. .
- Households with two or more dependents per adult of working age and able to work (dependency ratio of 2 or more): dependents are those under 18, over 60 and persons with disabilities.
- People exposed to protection risks (due to armed conflict)
- Adults, single heads of household with dependent children.
- Unaccompanied senior citizens (over 60 years old).
- Migrant population in conditions of vulnerability

The selection of the municipalities and communities was based on the census carried out by the departmental and municipal disaster risk management offices in order to prioritize the most affected and those that could not be supported by the initial response of the Government.

In order to identify the people most affected at the community level, the Colombian Red Cross National Society conducted a characterization by family in order to identify more precisely the family composition, for example; the number of men, women, pregnant



women, the presence of affected minors, people with disabilities, if there are internally displaced persons in the family, the economic capacity of the family, the type of housing, if the family has previously received government assistance, among other questions.

The KOBO Collect survey was used to characterize the people targeted, which was applied in the communities of the 3 Branches as follows:

**Atlántico:**

- 5 February: 82 characterizations to the Villa Merly community (Soledad).
- 7 February: 60 characterizations to the La Floresta community (Soledad).
- 20 February: 105 characterizations to the 12 de Octubre community (Soledad).
- 22 February: 53 characterizations to the Las Colonias Etapa 1 community (Soledad).

**Bolívar:**

- 19 February : 216 characterizations to the Nuevo Paraíso and Bendición de Dios communities (Cartagena)
- 20 February: 156 characterizations to the Zarabanda and Playa Blanca communities (Cartagena).
- 21 February: 238 characterizations to the La Puntilla community (Cartagena).
- 22 February: 90 characterizations to the La Boquilla sector Manglar community(Cartagena).

**Magdalena:**

- 2 February: 165 characterizations to the Ciudad Perdida communities (Zona Bananera).
- 6 February: 133 characterizations to the Ciudad Perdida communities (Zona Bananera).
- 8 February: 134 characterizations to the Ciudad Perdida communities (Zona Bananera).
- 23 February: 18 characterizations to the Ciudad Perdida communities (Zona Bananera).

Some of the challenges of the characterization were the identification of the prioritized communities in coordination with the local risk management authorities and the pre-carnival and carnival season in the case of Atlántico.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	1,743	Rural	36.3%
Girls (under 18)	485	Urban	63.7%
Men	1,660	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	462		
Total targeted population	4,350		

## Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Health risks due to exposure to vectors result in tropical diseases such as Dengue, Zika and Chikungunya, as well as contaminated water due to the combination of rainwater and sewage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strict use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staff supporting the operation.</li> <li>- Compliance with public health and self-care measures by National Society staff.</li> </ul>
Risk of damage to infrastructure due to increased river flows, such as the destruction of roads, bridges, public infrastructure, community aqueducts, and loss of housing, limiting mobility and movement in some areas.	Prevention actions and frequent monitoring of weather conditions are coordinated with the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management and the Territorial Disaster Risk Management Councils.
The presence of heavy rains, hailstorms, massive evictions, and overflowing rivers limits the mobility of the field team, causing delays in the execution of some planned actions or activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Timely coordination and projection of transport and logistics according to the current characteristics of the territory.</li> <li>- Coordination with authorities operating in the area and with the</li> </ul>



	National Unit for Disaster Risk Management and the territorial Risk Management Councils.
Financial risks due to possible delays in the receipt of funds	- Planning of activities considering reasonable timeframes for the preparation of letters of understanding, necessary documentation from the branches and funding application processes.
Exchange rate volatility risk	- Timely identification of surpluses in order to make the repurchase or extension request at no cost to the implementation of the surplus.
Technical risk due to supplier or supply chain non-compliance	- Performance policies subject to contracts, in terms of stock. - Implementation of effective monitoring processes.
Insufficient or unavailable trained personnel to implement the planned response plan.	Enlistment of staff and volunteers trained in emergency response.
Risk of looting during aid delivery	- Aid distribution points should be different from collection points. - Security measures will be implemented such as: institutional identification and visibility with the appropriate use of indicative emblem, lighting, camera control, private surveillance and alarm systems.
Low community participation in the activities planned	- Reprogramming of the calendar of activities that involve the communities. - Greater articulation with volunteers
Extreme temperatures (high temperatures during the day) due to the presence of the El Niño phenomenon	Keep staff who will be supporting the delivery of Emergency Humanitarian Aid hydrated, using sunscreen, and ensuring that their heads are covered and that they are in the shade for as long as possible.

### **Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation**

In addition to the natural risk factors that characterize the Caribbean region, there is also the influence of organized armed groups that dispute the control of drug trafficking routes and other associated protection risks, mainly in rural territories.

During the course of a characterization day in the community of Ciudad Perdida in the municipality of Zona Bananera (Magdalena), an illegal armed group had contact with the director of Disaster Risk Management of the Colombian Red Cross Magdalena Branch, who was in charge of the mission, where they wanted to know about the activities being carried out by the Red Cross.

Although the Colombian Red Cross Society enjoys credibility, acceptance, and respect in the region, and in its humanitarian actions, including emergency response, the branches maintain security and protection measures, through the exclusive use of institutional transport and the participation of Red Cross personnel uniformed and identified, with the appropriate time restrictions that apply within the framework of operations in the metropolitan areas of Barranquilla, Cartagena, and Santa Marta.

Taking advantage of inter-institutional relations, the National Society coordinated with the National Police through the Disaster Risk Management Advisory Office to accompany a characterization day in one of the communities of the city of Cartagena (Bolívar) where public disorder situations sometimes occur.

Given that some deliveries were made in urban areas with a high population index, and that the aid delivered to affected and already identified families, and not to the entire population in general, the team followed any situations of public order and/or riots due to the agglomeration of people who received aid during the delivery of the Emergency Humanitarian Aid. For this reason, through the Advisory Office for Disaster Risk Management, the support of public order management institutions was coordinated, such as the National Police or the National Army.

**Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?**

No



# Implementation



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 37,483

**Targeted Persons:** 4,350

**Assisted Persons:** 5,137

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families reached with food kits	1,450	1,450

### Narrative description of achievements

- Identification of the needs of the affected people (characterizations through the completion of a survey in the KOBO Collect application). In addition, the National Society developed the next activities to achieve the indicator: Process of contracting, purchasing, shipping and reception of supplies; Coordination with community leaders and representatives of local entities to make deliveries; Awareness-raising and deliveries of Emergency Humanitarian Aid. At the end, The NS was able to deliver food kits to 1,450 heads of household.
- Thanks to the optimization of resources, the National Society was able to reach more people than planned by acquiring kits at a better price. This made it possible to surpass the indicator proposed for the sector and exceed the number of people expected to be reached under the operation.
- This delivery covered the basic food needs of the affected people and also complemented the response of the National Disaster Risk Management System, which for this event had limitations to reach the entire population. Thus demonstrating the importance of the humanitarian action of the Red Cross in response to emergencies.

### Lessons Learnt

- Receive maximum support from the administrative team such as purchasing, treasury and accounting areas to reduce purchasing, delivery and payment times in order to speed up the processes.
- The database of the Single Registry of Disaster Victims (RUD, by its initials in Spanish) shared by the municipal administrations was useful for timely coordination with the affected communities, since it contains the data of the people affected by emergencies.
- Prior coordination with community leaders made it possible to have adequate and safe spaces for the distribution of humanitarian assistance.
- Had the final list of beneficiaries, and socialized them with the delegates of the Advisory Office of Disaster Risk Management - OAGRD and community leaders, allowed a better organization, so that only the people who would be assisted would arrive at the meeting place.
- The timely presence of the public security forces made it possible to control the population in the only sector where there was unrest.

### Challenges

- Deliver humanitarian assistance in an affected sector where the population is higher than the amount delivered.
- Clarify to the beneficiary population that the aid is provided with the Red Cross' own resources and that it is not part of the current government or political sectors, since it was identified that local government officials were indicating to the community that this aid was achieved through their own efforts.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 58,308

**Targeted Persons:** 3,450

**Assisted Persons:** 3,897



## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families receiving family hygiene kits	1,150	1,150
# of families sensitized on water care and hygiene measures	1,150	1,150
# of families receiving water filters	450	450

## Narrative description of achievements

- To carry out these activities, the National Society developed: Identification of the needs of the persons targeted (characterizations through the completion of a survey in the KOBO Collect application); Process of contracting, purchasing, shipping and reception of supplies; Conducting a basic Water, Sanitation and Hygiene workshop for volunteers and employees of the Bolivar and Magdalena Sections, so that they can later replicate the information; Coordination with community leaders and representatives of local entities to make deliveries; Awareness-raising and delivery of Emergency Humanitarian Aid.

- A basic Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) workshop was held in the Bolivar and Magdalena branches with the participation of 46 people, including volunteers and employees of the Colombian Red Cross, who replicated this socialization with the community at the time of delivering the Emergency Humanitarian Aid.

- Delivery of family hygiene kits and water, sanitation and basic hygiene awareness talks were given to 1,150 heads of household, as follows:

BOLÍVAR (700):

- 19 February: 216 people from the Nuevo Paraíso and Bendición de Dios communities (Cartagena).
- 20 February: 145 people from the Zarabanda and Playa Blanca communities (Cartagena).
- 21 February: 235 people from the La Puntilla community (Cartagena).
- 22 February: 104 people from the La Boquilla sector Manglar community (Cartagena).

MAGDALENA (450):

- 21 February: 212 people from the Ciudad Perdida community (Zona Bananera).
- 23 February: 238 people from the Ciudad Perdida community (Zona Bananera).

Furthermore, in this community of Magdalena 450 water filters were delivered.

- The information collected from the characterization allowed to identify that the number of people who were part of the beneficiary families was higher than projected. This allowed to exceed the proposed persons targeted in this sector.

- The actions of this sector made it possible to generate awareness and capacity in the population affected about the importance of proper water management through the delivery of kits that strengthened the knowledge provided.

## Lessons Learnt

- The importance for volunteers to be trained in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, in order to have qualified personnel for future interventions.

- Receive maximum support from the administrative team such as purchasing, treasury and accounting areas to reduce purchasing, delivery and payment times in order to speed up the processes.

- The distribution of Red Cross personnel to carry out specific delivery tasks allows each person to assume his or her role upon arrival at the site and ensure that the delivery is carried out in a timely manner.

- Having previously worked in the area allowed for a closer relationship with community leaders and neighborhood committees for emergencies, allowing for better coordination.

- Prior coordination with the leaders made it possible to have adequate and safe spaces for the distribution of humanitarian assistance.

- The timely presence of the public security forces made it possible to control the population in the only sector where there was unrest.

- Study in the market the existence of water filters more resistant to the usual ones used, to prevent their premature deterioration.

## Challenges

- Deliver humanitarian assistance in an affected sector where the population is higher than the amount delivered.

- Understanding on the part of the assisted families that this delivery is related to an event that happened almost 4 months ago and that at that moment there is a different situation.





## Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 6,710

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Monitoring visits	1	1

### Narrative description of achievements

- A monitoring visit was conducted on 13 March 2024 by the National Society Development Coordinator of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to the community of Ciudad Perdida in the municipality of Zona Bananera - Magdalena.
- This monitoring visit gave greater visibility to the IFRC's role in the country and allowed for coordination meetings with the National Society at the local level, as well as first-hand knowledge of an operational context of great importance due to the hurricane season that occurs every year in the country.



## National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 49,331

Targeted Persons: 60

Assisted Persons: 60

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Lessons Learned Workshop	1	1
Volunteers and staff equipped with institutional uniforms	60	60
Monitoring visits	3	3

### Narrative description of achievements

The first follow-up visit was carried out from 23 to 27 January to the 3 regional offices, where the objective was to conduct the basic workshop on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene - WASH - and training in KOBO COLLECT application to volunteers and employees, in addition to defining details of characterizations and deliveries with the Disaster Risk Management directors.

The second follow-up visit was carried out from February 19 to 23 to the 3 regional offices, where the objective was to monitor and support the delivery activities of Humanitarian Emergency Aid.

In February 2024, 20 uniforms were delivered to each of the 3 regional offices (2-piece uniform, T-shirt, belt, cap).

ATLÁNTICO: Delivery 28 February 2024.

BOLÍVAR: Delivery 29 February 2024.

MAGDALENA: Delivery February 29, 2024.

The Lessons Learned Workshop was held on Thursday 14 March and 15 Friday March 15 2024 in the city of Santa Marta at the Best Western Plus Santa Marta Hotel with the participation of 33 people.



It is important to mention that the activities proposed for this sector allowed the following achievements:

- Provide security to the operation's field team through visibility equipment/institutional uniform.
- Provide support in coordination and deliveries in field to the Red Cross Sections involved, through personnel from the National Headquarters.
- Construction of knowledge at the local level for the sustainability of human resources of the Red Cross branches.

## **Lessons Learnt**

- If possible, send to the Branches the reference uniforms with the actual sizes of the manufacturer on duty for measurements, because in some cases the sizes requested did not coincide with what normally corresponds.
- To have the possibility of accompanying all the Branches during the beginning of the process of delivering supplies to the communities, in order to reduce the possibility of incorrectly filled out forms by the people who carry out this task, since doubts in the filling out of the forms can be corrected at the beginning of the process.

## **Challenges**

- Guarantee the attendance to the lessons learned workshop of community members and governmental entities, since at the last minute 2 people cancelled their attendance due to work reasons.
- Change of hotel availability option for the event, because on two occasions the hotel had to be changed because it did not have all the spaces required.
- There were delays in the generation of the invoice by the hotel where the lessons learned workshop was held.



# Financial Report

## DREF Operation

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

#### MDRCO024 - Colombia - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 17 Nov 2023 to 31 May 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2023/11-2024/12	Operation	MDRCO024
Budget Timeframe	2023-2024	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 10/Mar/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>151,832</b>
DREF Response Pillar	151,832
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-141,958</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>9,874</b>

### II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods	37,483	35,959	1,525
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	58,308	56,078	2,230
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>95,791</b>	<b>92,036</b>	<b>3,755</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	6,710	3,360	3,350
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	49,331	46,562	2,769
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>56,040</b>	<b>49,921</b>	<b>6,119</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>151,832</b>	<b>141,958</b>	<b>9,874</b>

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

## Please explain variances (if any)

The main reason for the remaining funds is due to the fact that the National Society team was able to optimize the resources of the Livelihoods and WASH lines. In this way, the National Society was able to acquire more products at a better price. For the Secretariat Services and NSD lines, savings were achieved in monitoring visits and material procurement.

# Contact Information

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

**National Society contact:**

Marilyn Bonfante, Director of the Social and Humanitarian Development Unit, marylin.bonfante@cruzrojacolombiana.org, +573232217761

**IFRC Appeal Manager:** Tiziana Bonzon, Head of Country Delegation, tiziana.bonzon@ifrc.org

**IFRC Project Manager:** Edwin Armenta, Operations and Programs Coordinator, edwin.armenta@ifrc.org

**IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Edwin Armenta, Operations and Programs Coordinator, edwin.armenta@ifrc.org

**Media Contact:** Susana Arroyo, Regional Communications Manager, susana.arroyo@ifrc.org

[Click here for reference](#)

