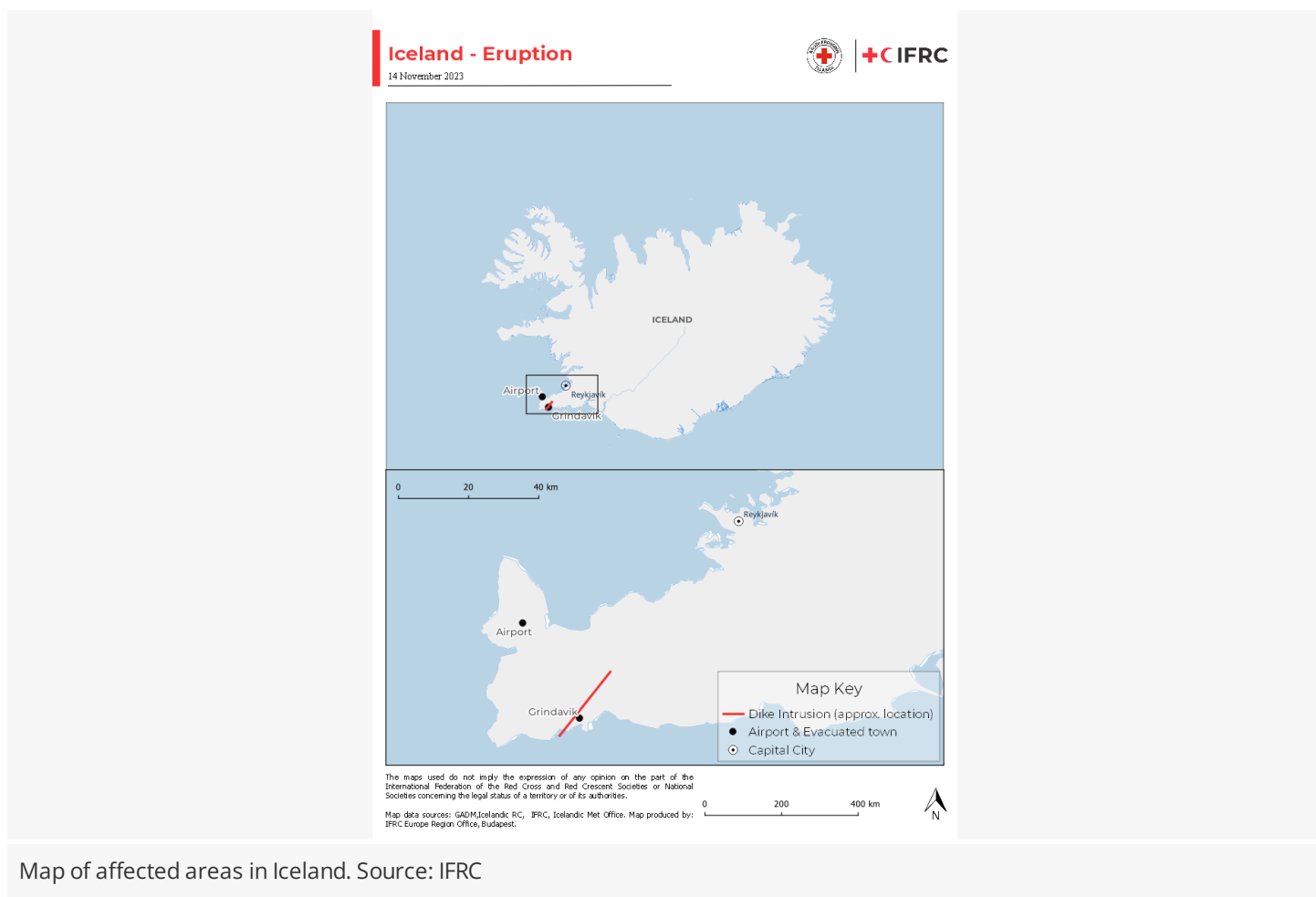




Grindavik - Rift valley forming 12 November 2023

Appeal: MDRIS001	Country: Iceland	Hazard: Earthquake	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 485,321	
Glide Number: VO-2023-000243-ISL	People Affected: 3,665 people	People Targeted: 2,500 people	
Operation Start Date: 2023-11-30	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 2024-05-31	DREF Published: 2023-12-01
Targeted Areas: Southern Peninsula			

Description of the Event



What happened, where and when?

Iceland is a volcanic island in the middle of the Atlantic ridge. Just under 400,000 people live on the island, with the majority living in the Reykjavik capital area. Volcanic eruptions are frequent or on average every 3 years somewhere on the island. The Reykjanes peninsula (sometimes referred to as Southern Peninsula), which is the area of events now, has been dormant from volcanic activity perspective since the 13th century.

Magma intrusion started in the Fagradalsfjall-volcanic system on the Reykjanes peninsula, close to the town of Grindavik in 2020. Three eruptions have already happened since. Geldingadalir eruption in 2021, Meradalir eruption in 2022, and Litli-Hrútur eruption in 2023. None of them had any significant impact, as they were located in a secluded mountainous area.

In late October 2023, magma intrusion started near Mount Thorbjörn, just north of Grindavik, close to the Svartsengi-utilities plant and Blue Lagoon tourist resort. Constant seismic activity followed, with hundreds to thousands of earthquakes every day, which are still ongoing. On 10 November, the magma intrusion suddenly moved under the town of Grindavik with serious earthquake activity in a matter of hours, which caused significant damage to infrastructure and caused fear among the residents.

Later that day the town of Grindavik (3,700 people) was evacuated.

A rift valley, which cuts through Grindavik, has been forming since 10 November. Half the town has dropped more than a meter and the deformation is still several centimetres every day. It is certain that residents of Grindavik will not be able to return home any time soon.

The Icelandic Met Office estimates that a volcanic eruption may be expected in the area any day now, as the magma seems to be just under the surface (500 metres or less).

If an eruption occurs in the area it can be considered a likely scenario that lava will cover the town of Grindavik which would

change the scope of the event. Residents would lose their habitat permanently. If a volcanic eruption would occur off coast, an explosive eruption might be expected with widespread ash distribution in South West Iceland.



Rift valley formation in Grindavik



Evacuation and rift valley formation



Rift valley formation in Grindavik

Scope and Scale

The earthquakes have already had significant impact on the residents' lives and livelihoods. They were forced to evacuate.

Initially many evacuated to evacuation centres but they have been closed as every evacuee has found some sort of accommodation, i.e. guesthouses, friends, and family.

Cracks have formed in the earth as well as a rift valley which have damaged buildings, roads, and infrastructure. The area is defined as a hazardous area. If an eruption happens in or near the town, 3,700 people may be left without homes and many without livelihoods. Every inhabitant of Grindavík is affected as all had to evacuate and leave their homes and most belongings behind, not knowing if they could ever return. However, low-income households and newcomers will have less capacity to cope. 24% of the residents of Grindavík are immigrants, many of whom with low income and limited social ties. The same can apply to the 88 single, mostly women-headed households, of which 137 children belong. 10% of the residents have members with a disability and may require special considerations when it comes to housing, medication, and care. Children are 26% of the population and 17 % of the population are over 60, both groups with specific needs to be considered.

Assessment is underway about primary needs, with special focus on temporary housing.

Previous Operations

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

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

Lessons learned:

Regular earthquake activities and three volcanic eruptions have occurred in the vicinity of Grindavík since 2020. This event is happening near and inside the town which has more significant impact on the community. No evacuations were needed in the previous events but the Red Cross stepped in with MHPSS-initiatives.

A joint contingency plan (authorities and RC) was drafted and approved in 2021. Two community meetings have been held with residents of Grindavík. Increased seismic monitoring led by the Icelandic Met Office. Improved early warning systems.

Current National Society Actions

<p>National Society Readiness</p>	<p>The Icelandic Red Cross responds to natural disasters and other small to large-scale events, on average 100-200 times every year. The National Society has a formal role in disaster management, according to the Icelandic Civil Protection Act and formal agreements with the government.</p> <p>The National Society has 98 staff, 2300 volunteers, of which around 700 are trained in disaster response.</p> <p>The National Society has specific roles in every official Contingency Plan in Iceland.</p>
<p>Coordination</p>	<p>The Icelandic Red Cross has representatives in the following coordination bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Local Coordination Centre in the area of events. -National Crisis Coordination Centre in Reykjavík -Temporary Civil Protection Service Centre
<p>Activation Of Contingency Plans</p>	<p>A contingency plan, which details the response of all first responders (including the RC), if an eruption occurs near Grindavík was finalized in 2021. It was activated once events started late October.</p>
<p>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</p>	<p>The Icelandic Red Cross is mainstreaming Protection, Gender and Inclusion concerns in its response. This includes assessing and understanding the different needs, risks and capacities of those affected and tailoring the response accordingly.</p>
<p>Community Engagement And Accountability</p>	<p>The Red Cross Helpline 1717 has received thousands of phone calls from the evacuees since Friday 10 November, where they register as evacuees and inform the RC about their temporary address and express their concerns.</p> <p>Community engagement and accountability is also provided in the evacuation shelters through service desks. The Icelandic Red Cross participated in a community meeting in Grindavik in October.</p> <p>The Red Cross is a hub for housing needs and supply.</p>
<p>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</p>	<p>Red Cross is the sole provider of shelter in Iceland. Three evacuation shelters were opened during the evacuation. They were closed by the end of November, as evacuees moved to other accommodations, i.e. friends and relatives, guesthouses etc.</p> <p>The Icelandic Red Cross has collected information about available housing in Iceland and is coordinating relocation efforts with local and national authorities. IRC staff is interviewing evacuees, finding places for them to stay, negotiating with landlords and assisting people with necessities. Many of those apartments/houses/summerhouses lack necessary items. At the moment 755 families require housing assistance according to the registration.</p>
<p>Migration</p>	<p>About 50 asylum seekers live in Grindavík, and the percentage of immigrant population is also higher in Reykjanes peninsula than in other parts of the country. They have been relocated to rural areas in West and South Iceland. Icelandic Red Cross asylum team is assisting them with primary needs.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>IFRC does not have a presence in country, but the Europe Regional Office HDCC and technical teams, PMER and finance teams are coordinating with the National Society from 10 November onwards in the preparation of the DREF and operations planning.</p> <p>The Icelandic Red Cross is a small but accountable national society with a finance department, fundraising and comms department, HR department and department of operations. Main offices are in Reykjavik (40 minute drive from Grindavik). Branch offices near the affected area are in Hafnarfjörður (25 minute drive from Grindavik) and Reykjanesbær (15 minute drive from Grindavik). Icelandic Red Cross logistics centre is in Hafnarfjörður.</p>
Participating National Societies	None

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC does not have a presence in the country.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	Icelandic Civil Protection authorities approve and encourage Icelandic Red Cross's application for DREF.
UN or other actors	N/A

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

National Crisis Coordination Centre (lead authority is Civil Protection Department): The Icelandic Red Cross provides representatives in the centre during emergencies, according to the Civil Protection Act.

Local emergency operations centre (lead authority local police commissioner): Icelandic Red Cross provides representatives in the centre during emergencies, according to the Civil Protection Act.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



The residents of Grindavik left their homes in fear. Requests for psychosocial interventions are rising. This can be seen through increasing requests for psychological first aid by hundreds of evacuees, every day. Other health needs are met by the Icelandic health service.

IRC is setting up mental health and psychosocial support initiatives for up to 2000 evacuees with special emphasis on vulnerable groups, including migrants.

IRC is conducting an assessment on psychosocial effects of a disaster is assessed through interviews in temporary service centres.

Priority groups are migrants, children and youth, seniors, migrants and women.

PFA interventions are taking place in temporary service centres and other strategic locations. Group sessions for priority groups and individual sessions for people at risk.

In addition, planning MHPSS training for evacuees and responders, MHPSS messages through media.



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Almost 600 families are homeless (up to 2,000 people) or living in accommodation that they can not stay in for long.

The aim is to solve housing needs for up to 2,000 evacuees, by identifying available housing in cooperation with authorities.

The NS collects data from residents of Grindavik about housing needs and matches the availability of needs in cooperation with Grindavik social service.



Multi purpose cash grants

Most businesses in Grindavik are out of business and people are out of work. Evacuees are still paying mortgages on their homes while having to rent for temporary accommodation. This leaves the evacuees in a dire situation with a lack of money for necessities. The cost of living is among the highest in the world in Iceland.

Cash grants are planned for up to 2,500 evacuees to cover their daily needs. The main focus is on low-income groups and migrants.

- Needs assessment is done through interviews in temporary service centres that the NS leads in cooperation with the Civil Protection Department and the municipality of Grindavik.
- Needs priorities: Food, medicine and health, MHPSS, wellbeing of children, recovery.
- The Grants Committee consists of representatives from the NS and Grindavik Municipality.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Residents of Grindavik are displaced and scattered in several locations in Iceland, most of them in Reykjanesbær and the Reykjavik area. The percentage of immigrants is relatively high and many of them are currently living in temporary housing. Children are out of school. Evacuees are struggling to get access to necessities that were left at home, such as medicine.

Effective PGI initiatives need to be established. Service centres in Reykjavik and Reykjanesbær for 3,700 people provide focused PFA to vulnerable groups, with special emphasis on migrants.

Currently, needs assessment in temporary service centres is being conducted by IRC PGI experts.

Priority needs are to address insufficient accommodation, risk of exploitation, women's and children's needs, and migrants' access to services (services provided in their native language).



Community Engagement And Accountability

Active means of communication need to be established with the evacuees, especially vulnerable groups. Evacuees need to have a role in all decision-making.

In order to have an active involvement of the local community in all decision-making, with representation from vulnerable groups, IRC is organising:

- Service centres led by the local community and supported by the Red Cross.

- Facilities for Grindavik community groups in host communities, i.e. children's and youth groups, sports, choirs, a support system for seniors, a support group for migrants, women's groups.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This DREF allocation aims at supporting 2,500 people in need affected by earthquakes and volcanic activity near Grindavik by providing shelter, temporary housing, MHPSS and cash in South West Iceland for 6 months.

Operation strategy rationale

To address the needs of the targeted population, this DREF will aim at covering

- replenishment costs of utensils in the initial evacuation shelters (have already closed and evacuees have moved to other accommodation.)
- Temporary housing, replenishment of beds and blankets, in several municipalities in South West Iceland.
- MHPSS in temporary service centres and other strategic locations. Red Cross staff and volunteers provide private and group sessions and training.
- Immediate needs of evacuees with cash, food items, and household items (i.e. kitchen sets). The transfer value of CHF 88 per person (one-off) covers approx. 50% of the monthly food needs in Iceland could be spent on anything needed.

The above are based on primary needs that have not been met by other responders and/or have been allocated to the Red Cross by Civil Protection Authorities.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

All 3,700 residents of Grindavik have been evacuated and are indirect beneficiaries as information services and evacuation support are provided to all evacuees.

Housing support as well as immediate needs support will be provided to approximately 2,500 people from low-income households, including migrants, single-headed households, families with children and people with disabilities.

approximately 1,000 children and people over 60 will be offered MPHSS group activities specific to their age groups while MHPSS services at service centres will be available to all evacuees in need. 50 Asylum seekers and others who do not speak Icelandic will receive targeted information support.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Living costs in Iceland are among the highest in the world. Housing costs constitute a big portion of the monthly expenditures of low-income households and are considered burdensome when they reach 40% of household income. Approximately 13% of households in Iceland had onerous housing costs, 9% of homeowners, and 27 % of households in rented housing. Low-income households will be targeted with housing support.

Multi-purpose cash grants will not affect social welfare/compensation payments and will not be subject to income tax or any other tax duties.

According to statistics in Iceland, immigrants receive on average lower salaries than their local counterparts and single-headed households are more likely to be burdened with housing costs. Low income limits the capacity to pay for accommodation outside Grindavik while also making housing loan payments or rent for housing in Grindavik. Special attention will be paid to those with potential intersecting vulnerabilities such as immigrants who may have limited access to support of extended family and friends in Iceland and less access to information and opportunities. Children are more vulnerable during the crisis, and therefore special attention will be given to low-income families with children, as well as elderly persons and persons with disabilities that may

require accessible housing and access to specialized services.

Based on the above, the targeted population is:

- Immigrants,
- Families with children who suffer from high mortgages and rent in two locations (Grindavik and host community).

Total Targeted Population

Women	800	Rural	0%
Girls (under 18)	400	Urban	100%
Men	800	People with disabilities (estimated)	10%
Boys (under 18)	500		
Total targeted population	2,500		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Sub-oceanic eruption (explosive eruption). Gas and ash distribution in South West Iceland, including the Reykjavik Capital Area.	Dissemination of preventive measures for up to 300,000 indirect beneficiaries.
Earthquakes (rift valley and cracks in the ground)	Evacuation
Volcanic eruption with lava flow in the vicinity of Grindavik.	Evacuation
Exploitation of evacuees, especially vulnerable groups.	Sufficient housing needs assessment, based on PGI analysis and subsequent appropriate housing provided. PGI training for staff and volunteers to raise awareness. Information on rights and available support services for survivors.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Different scenarios indicate that more serious events might be expected:

- Explosive sub-oceanic eruption (less likely). This would create ash in the atmosphere.
- Lava-forming eruption on land (more likely), that would mainly threaten the town of Grindavik.

Planned Intervention



Multi-purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 234,300

Targeted Persons: 2,500

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people receiving cash support	2,500

Priority Actions

- Cash distribution for vulnerable groups, up to 2500 people. Total grant for each evacuee is 88 CHF, which only covers a fraction of needs for the total operation, as cost of living in Iceland is among the highest in the world.
- Specific priorities for cash distribution: Food, medicine and health, access to MHPSS, wellbeing of children and recovery (establishment of new homes).
- Cash distribution is done with freshly produced non-personalized debit cards (for POS/shops only - no ATM use) in cooperation with Íslandsbanki with the specific amount. Self-Enrollment model Access RC will be used in cooperation with IFRC.



Budget: CHF 62,516

Targeted Persons: 2,500

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of evacuees and responders trained in MHPSS	100
Number of volunteers and staff trained in PFA	50
Number of people attending group MHPSS sessions and/or other PFA interventions	2,500

Priority Actions

- PFA interventions in temporary service centres and other strategic locations.
- Group MHPSS sessions for priority groups.
- Individual PFA interviews for people at risk.
- MHPSS training for evacuees and responders.
- MHPSS messages through media.
- PFA training for volunteers and staff.



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 161,348

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people provided with temporary housing	2,000
Number of people who have stayed at least one night at evacuation shelters	150

Replenishing of emergency cots/beds	200
Replenishing of emergency blankets	500
Kitchen sets and utensils	500

Priority Actions

Red Cross is the sole provider of shelter in Iceland. IRC staff is interviewing evacuees, finding places for them to stay, negotiating with landlords and assisting people with necessities. Many of those apartments/houses/summerhouses lack necessary items. At the moment 755 families need housing according to our registration.

The DREF operation will cover :

- The replenishment of emergency stocks (sheets and duvets and kitchen sets)
- Distribution of necessary household items to evacuees

Other activities will be covered from IRC own resources, namely:

- The opening of evacuation shelters for immediate sheltering needs from 10 Nov to 22 Nov. Evacuation shelters have been closed and residents moved to other temporary accommodation.
- Provision of temporary housing in cooperation with the municipality and the state. Mapping of temporary housing options, interviews with evacuees and linking housing solutions with requests.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 3,700

Indicators

Title	Target
CEA Rapid information needs assessment	1

Priority Actions

- CEA Rapid rapid information needs assessment to ensure the Icelandic Red Cross is sharing the information that people need.
- Establishment of temporary service centres in cooperation with local community (pas activity).
- Provision of facilities for community groups in host communities: Children and youth groups, sport, choirs, support for seniors, women's groups, support group for migrants.

These activities' are funded from own resources or donations.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 1,065

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of staff and volunteers trained in PGI	100
Number of people targeted through temporary service centres	2,000

Priority Actions

-In this area the National Society is conducting the following actions from own resources:

- PGI sensitive needs assessment
- Preventive measures for exploitation of women, children and migrants.
- Dissemination of existing referral pathways relevant for SGBV and child protection concerns.
- Information material on SGBV provided
- translation of information regarding Red Cross Services

The DREF will cover the costs for PGI training for volunteers (100 people altogether, 5 workshops with 20 participants at each).



Migration

Budget: CHF 18,105

Targeted Persons: 3,700

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of calls received by Red Cross helpline	10,000
Number of visits to temporary service centres	7,000

Priority Actions

- Operation of Red Cross Helpline, since the Red Cross helpline for evacuees is open 24/7
- Visits to communities and displaced people



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 7,988

Targeted Persons: 200

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of vests procured	200
Lessons learned workshop	1

Priority Actions

IRC is planning to procure

- Vests and badges for volunteers
- Lessons learned workshop at the end of the six-month period

About Support Services

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

These services will be covered from own resources. The operation will involve 50 staff and 150 volunteers with staff roles as follows:

- Coordination and admin staff
- Service Centre and 24/7 helpline
- Fundraising and finance staff
- Logistics focal points
- CEA, PGI, MHPSS focal points

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

Procurement will be done by the Icelandic Red Cross, with support from the IFRC logistic team whenever required. Distribution of cash and vouchers is done in cooperation with Íslandsbanki. Top-up cards will be distributed that can be used as debit cards. Íslandsbanki is one of three major banks in Iceland. It is jointly owned by the state and private sector. The CVA and procurement will be coordinated with the IFRC Regional Office CVA and Logistics teams.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Icelandic Red Cross will assemble a monitoring team that will work separately from the operations team. Monthly situation reports will be issued. A lessons learned workshop will be led after the six months period. A final report will be issued 2 weeks after the end of the operation.

Cash distribution will be monitored on a weekly basis by a grants committee, which consists of representatives from the Red Cross and the local municipality. Meeting minutes from the grants committee will be used for monitoring.

IFRC Europe Regional Office in Budapest will support in monitoring the operation from technical and timeliness aspects.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Domestic media inquiries will be handled by the Communications Manager, Oddur Freyr Þorsteinsson (oddurf@redcross.is), and the head of Marketing, Fundraising and Communications, Gylfi Þór Þorsteinsson (gylfithor@redcross.is).

Foreign media inquiries will be handled in cooperation with the Department of Civil Protection and Emergency Management, as well as the communications managers of relevant ministries of the government. They should be sent to: press@government.is

To date, in-country fundraising has been published on the IRC website and on social media and is aiming to cooperate with telephone companies for wider fundraising opportunities. IRC will probably also need to use reserve funds.

IFRC involvement or support from the communications team is not requested at this stage.

Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRIS001 - Icelandic Red Cross Volcanic and seismic activities (2023)

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	477,333
Shelter and Basic Household Items	161,348
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	234,300
Health	62,516
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	1,065
Education	0
Migration	18,105
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	7,988
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	0
National Society Strengthening	7,988
TOTAL BUDGET	485,321

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Contact Information

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

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IFRC Project Manager: Ágnes Rajacic, Sr Disaster Management Officer, agnes.rajacic@ifrc.org, +36709537710

Media Contact: Oddur Freyr Thorsteinsson, Media representative, oddurf@redcross.is, +3548659018

[Click here for the reference](#)