

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL OPERATIONS UPDATE

Ecuador | Floods related to the El Niño phenomenon

January 22, 2024



Photo: Ecuadorian Red Cross 2023 Community Surveys.

EAP No: EAP2020EC02	Early action timeframe: 7 Months	EAP approved: 02/12/2020
Trigger date: 05/08/2023	Timeframe covered by this update: 05/08/2023- 22/01/2024	02/12/2020 – 31/03/2024

Budget: CHF 249,983
Early action budget: CHF 107,450
To assist: 1,000 families

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL (ACTIVATION)

SUMMARY OF REVISIONS TO THE OPERATION.

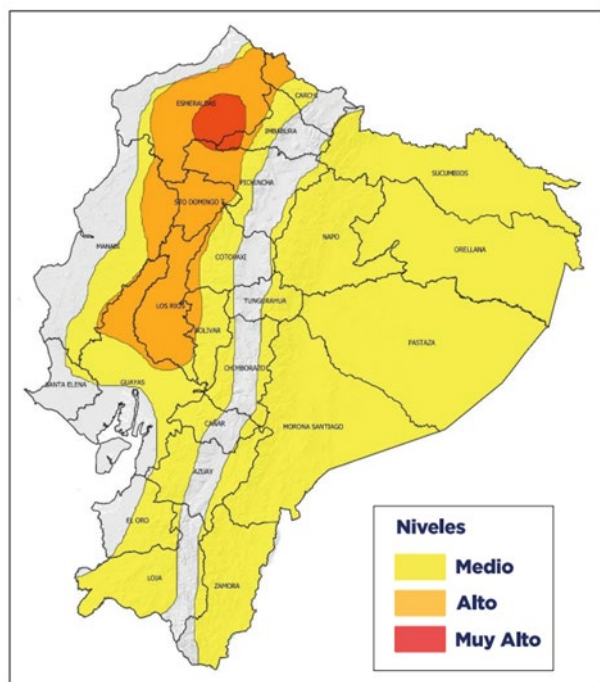


Figure 1 Levels of affectation due to ENSO. Source: ERFEN

Based on the bulletins issued by the National Committee for the Regional Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (ERFEN, by its initials in Spanish), which includes the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI, by its initials in Spanish) and the Oceanographic and Antarctic Institute of the Navy (INOCAR, by its initials in Spanish), the following El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) indicators have been reported from August to December 2023:

- On May 15, 2023, the Secretariat of Risk Management (SGR, by its initials in Spanish) of Ecuador, based on the information issued by scientific institutions and local monitoring models, determined the likelihood of the El Niño phenomenon starting in the second semester of 2023. As a result, the National Disaster Management Authority declared **A state of YELLOW ALERT due to the likelihood of the occurrence of the El Niño Southern Oscillation Phenomenon (ENSO) in the territories located at an altitude of 1,000 meters above sea level and an altitude equal to and lower than 1,500 meters above sea level, which includes 17 provinces (Resolution No. SGR-156-2023)**. Also, on June 23, 2023, **Executive Decree 784 El Niño Phenomenon** was issued by the SGR, stating as a national priority the implementation of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery actions to face the possible occurrence of El Niño Phenomenon in the territories identified with the highest incidence.

- The bulletins and rain forecasts issued by INAMHI in June 2023, carried out with the Climate Prediction Statistical Tool (CPT, by its initials in Spanish), stated a level of rainfall between 40 and 80% above normal, especially in the provinces of Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas. The parameters above resulted in the activation of the Early Action Protocol, notable actions related to the 3-month forecast.
- On October 28, 2023, the monthly forecast issued by INAMHI based on the CPT model showed that the level of precipitation remained between 40 and 80% above normal, especially in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, parameters that triggered anticipatory actions for 1 month.
- From December 2023 to the third week of January 2024, the ENSO has been monitored through INAMHI meteorological warning bulletins and the special bulletins generated by ERFEN, finding that the parameters for a 5- to 7-day forecast have not yet been met.

The evaluation of the El Niño event, being a natural process, needs to meet two parameters for its full development in the country:

1. A warm ocean off the coast of Ecuador.
2. A coupled atmosphere favors the generation of precipitation in the coastal region.

As of October 2023, a significant decrease in sea surface temperature was recorded in Ecuador, with records of 1° and 1.5° above normal averages. One of the main factors that influenced the decrease in temperature is the presence and interaction of the atmospheric system known as the **South Pacific anticyclone**, which has brought colder air and water from the southern part of the continent. The above has meant that the intertropical convergence zone (the main atmospheric system that promotes rainfall under an El Niño scenario) has not moved closer to the Equator, as was expected to happen by November and December. It is important to note that the atmosphere, being a complex and dynamic system, presents a significant constant variability, which has resulted in a change in the expected precipitation parameters.

Among the main activities generated from the Situational and Monitoring Room, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) is conducting regular follow-ups on meteorological parameters. If the parameters established in the EAP are met, the Ecuadorian Red Cross will run the activities anticipated for the 5- to 7-day forecast.


Up to this operational update, the 5- to 7-day forecast has not been met yet, which is the warning of a High Threat - red level alert concerning the level of precipitation due to El Niño (reaching a percentile of 90). However, based on INOCAR and INAMHI reports the highest concentration of rainfall is expected to occur in late February and early March of this year. As a result, the **ERFEN maintains the status of El Niño in Ecuador as Active, as well as the Orange Alert issued by SGR at the National level (Technical Boletín No.01-2024)**.


Considering the above, the Ecuadorian Red Cross needs to continue the regular monitoring of atmospheric conditions and support of vulnerable communities in coastal areas in Ecuador, especially in Manabí, Los Rios, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas Provinces, for the next two months, preventing major humanitarian consequences in the event of an increase in rainfall.

Early Action Overview

AREAS OF FOCUS

According to the triggers that have been met during the implementation of the EAP, the following anticipatory actions have been completed:

	Livelihoods and basic needs	Female:	750 people	(CHF) 55,061
		Male:	750 people	
Indicator planned:		300 families with sufficient income to meet their primary needs and protect their household economy before the emergency.		
Early priority actions:		Three-month forecast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-purpose Cash Assistance (MCA) training for volunteers. One-month forecast. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community trained in Multi-purpose Cash Assistance. Volunteers Mobilized for MCA training. 5- to 7-day forecast (Pending activation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training of prioritized families in MCA. Registration and distribution of MCA to the most vulnerable families Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) 		
Update on progress to date:				
One-month forecast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One market research and analysis conducted. A defined distribution mechanism. Community training on MCA (300 people). 				

	Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Female:	2,500 people	(CHF) 113,256
		Male:	2,500 people	
Indicator:		1,000 families assisted with WASH interventions in advance of a hazard		
Early priority actions:		Early action activities Three-month forecast <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training in Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) methodology for volunteers from the coastal provinces (3 months). One-month forecast.		

- Training and formation of community brigades (PHAST) (1 month)
- Equipping of community brigades (PHAST) (1 month)

5- to 7-day forecast (Pending activation)

- Logistics and transportation of humanitarian assistance kits.
- Deployment of WASH technical teams.
- Activation of community brigades.

Update on progress to date:

Three-month forecast

1. Training in PHAST methodology to 39 volunteers from the Litoral provinces.
2. Review, reproduce, and preposition awareness materials.
3. Prepositioning of humanitarian assistance kits in the strategic warehouses of zones 1 and 2.
 - 1,450 family cleaning kits
 - 1,000 safe water kits
 - 2,000 mosquito nets
 - 4 chlorinators

One-month forecast.

1. Water quality analysis (4 intervened communities)
2. Training and formation of community brigades (PHAST in the 4 communities intervened).
3. Community brigades equipped with awareness-raising material (PHAST).

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION



Influencing others as a leading strategic partner

SI Outcome 1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical, and financial foundations, systems and structures, competencies, and capacities to plan and perform.

(CHF): 75,383

Priority Early Actions:

1. Personal protective equipment (sweaters, raincoats, boots, and other supplies).
2. Logistics management to prepositioning supplies in strategic warehouses.
3. Transportation of humanitarian assistance from Ecuadorian Red Cross warehouses to the communities. Wash
4. Mobilize the technical team from headquarters to the intervened sectors.
5. Follow-up of activation activities
6. Evaluation of the intervention during activation
7. Lessons learned workshop.

Update on progress to date:

- Purchase of personal protective equipment (sweaters, raincoats, boots, and other implements - prepositioned in the strategic warehouse).
- Development of a pocketbook with EAP key information and dissemination of key messages, reaching 21,749 views on CRE's main social networks.
 - Links:
 - EAP pocket guide
[Ecuadorian Red Cross Extreme Rainfall Pocket EAP compressed.pdf](#)
 - Videos, key messages
https://youtu.be/QDbEFPXzg_U?feature=shared
<https://twitter.com/cruzrojaecuador/status/1722330646767624254?t=t7CEiFePCfmQ0QIWf8poCA&s=19>
- Risk analysis, follow-up, and monitoring of the event (update, intervention maps).

Link: https://cuzrojaecuadoriana-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/personal/xsampedro_cuzroja_org_ec/Documents/Predicciones%20Meteorol%C3%B3gicas-INAMHI?csf=1&web=1&e=vJqjwu

- Purchase and repositioning of detergents, disinfectants, and repellents (prepositioned in the strategic warehouse zone 2).
- Preparation and revision of cleaning, safe water, and vector control kits (prepositioned in the strategic warehouse zone 2).
- Coordination of actions in the intervened sectors with local institutions.

Financial Report

no changes of more than 10% between budget lines have been considered so far.

Contact information

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

At the Ecuadorian Red Cross National Society

- **General Secretary:** Dr. Juan Carlos Vizcarra, jvizcarra@cuzroja.org.ec
- **Essential Areas Manager:** Jorge Arteaga, jarteaga@cuzroja.org.ec
- **Operational coordination:** Roger Zambrano, GRED National Coordinator, rzambrano@cuzroja.org.ec, +593992437427
- **Operational technical support:** Sabina Ortiz, RRD GRED National Technician, sortiz@cuzroja.org.ec, +593984550236

At the IFRC

- **Head of Country Cluster Delegation:** Rubén Romero, ruben.romero@ifrc.org
- **Program and Operations Coordinator:** Julian Perez, julian.perez@ifrc.org

At IFRC Americas Regional Office

- **Regional Head, Health, Disasters, Climate & Crises- Americas:** Marianna Kuttothara, marianna.kuttothara@ifrc.org
- **Manager, Operations, Evolving Crisis and Disasters- Americas:** Maria Tuna, maria.tuna@ifrc.org
- **DREF Senior Officer:** Santiago Rodríguez, santiago.rodriguez@ifrc.org

Reference



Click here for:

- [EAP summary and budget](#)
- Early Action Notification