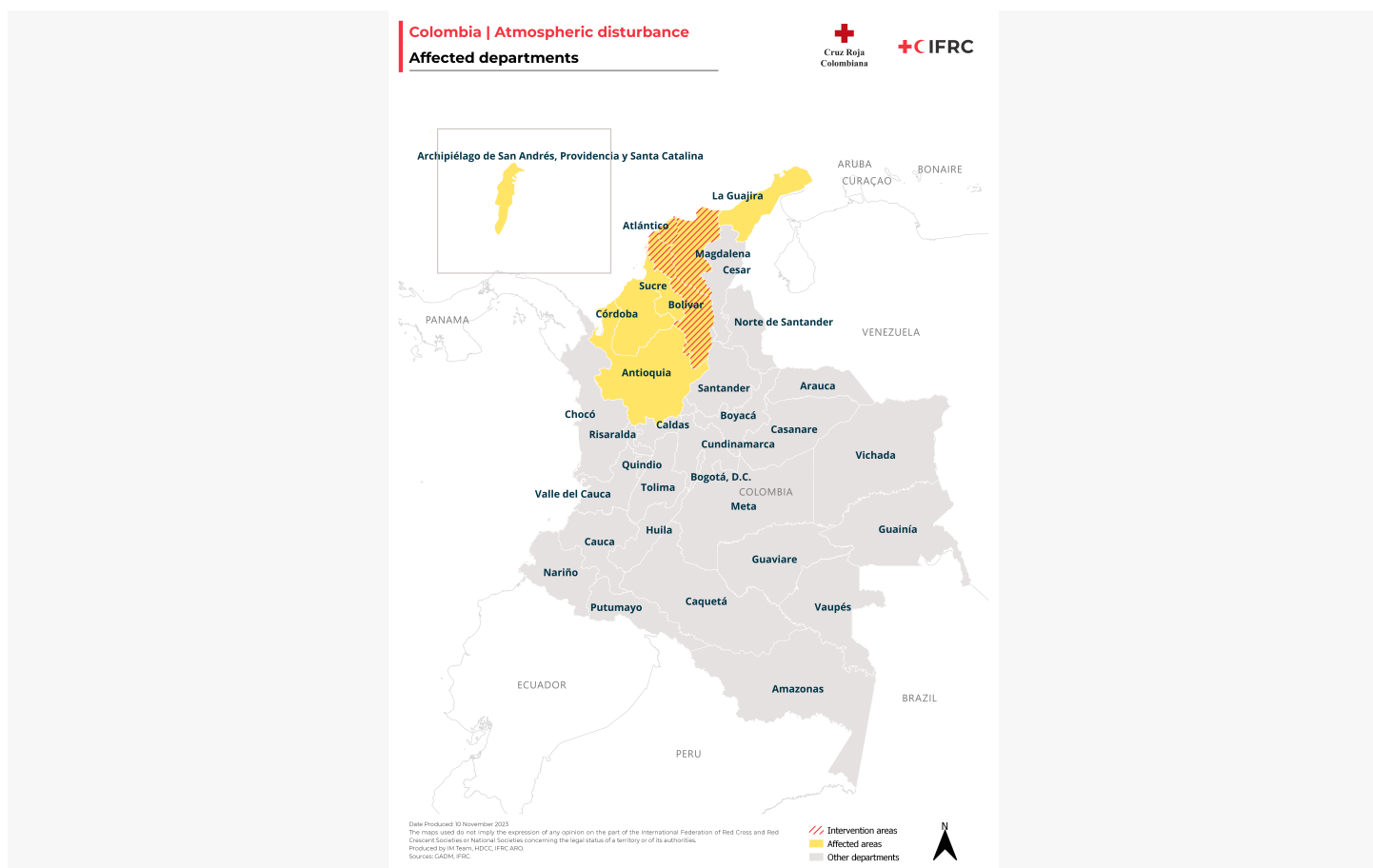




Severe flooding in Cartagena, November 2023. Source: Blu Radio.

Appeal: MDRCO024	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 151,832	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 41,088 people	People Targeted: 4,350 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 17-11-2023	New Operational End Date: 31-05-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 17-11-2023		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 31-01-2024	
Additional Allocation Requested: 0		Targeted Areas: Atlantico, Bolivar, Magdalena	

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

2023-11-02

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 Calamity Declaration in the municipality, previously issued through Decree No. 085, indicating recent affectations caused by heavy rains (2).

Since the 30th of October, there have been heavy and prolonged rains outside the normal range in the Colombian Caribbean, affecting 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 Risk and Disaster Management (UNGRD, by its initials in Spanish), because of the rains, there have been multiple floods, landslides, communication problems, and families affected by the effects of the Atmospheric Disturbance (AL97), which is a climatic instability that alters atmospheric conditions and causes strong winds and rainfall.

The Colombian Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies (IDEAM, by its initials in Spanish) issued a cyclone warning on the 30th of 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 about the possibility of the development of a tropical cyclone that would cause increased rainfall, wind, and thunderstorms. These effects were manifested in the west of the Caribbean Sea during the following days, affecting, with heavy rains, large sectors of the north of the country, especially in the coastal area of the Caribbean Sea (3).

On the 3rd of November 2023, the IDEAM issued Special Communiqué No. 009, warning that the atmospheric disturbance continues and will continue to generate heavy and moderate rains in the northwest 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, causing 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 are 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:

- The 30th of 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.
- The 30 October 2023: Heavy rains begin on the Colombian Caribbean coast.
- The 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.
- The 3rd of November: On November 3, 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 centre and west of the maritime area.
- 11 November 2023: Start of IFRC-DREF operation on the Colombian Caribbean coast to benefit 1,450 families, equivalent to approximately 4,350 people affected in the departments of Atlántico, Bolívar, and Magdalena.



Characterisation of families. Atlantic. Atlántico. February 2024. Source: CRCS



Kobo training. Magdalena. January 2024. Source: CRCS



Characterization of affected people. Magdalena. February 2024. Source: CRCS



Reception of humanitarian aid in Barranquilla. Atlántico. January 2024. Source: CRCS

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 so far in November 2023 through damage caused by the rising of the Ariguari River in the central sub-region and widespread damage to intercommunication routes. Similarly, flooding was recorded in the village of Sampués and in El Tigre, rural areas of the department. Finally, in the municipality of Aracataca, a public calamity was also declared.

In the department of Bolivar, the Advisory Office for Disaster Risk Management (OAGRD, by its initials in Spanish) and the local Mayor's Office have 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 on educational infrastructure, 10,200 families affected, and two deaths. 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).

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).

As of February 2024, dry weather prevails on the Colombian Caribbean coast and the victims of the floods generated in November 2023 continue to be affected. Although the Risk Management entities at the departmental and national levels supported the victims, they were unable to cover all those affected with Emergency Humanitarian Aid, especially those communities that are most vulnerable due to their socioeconomic and geographic condition.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. (1) Decree N° 1441. State of Public Calamity in Cartagena de Indias	https://noticiasvital.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/1441.pdf
2. (2) Decree N° 410	https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/IFRCSharing/EXRWHYSPf7hKlBIDNXDKd8lBaZmm6FFDvI7Ne8uN1a-ryHw?e=gEDr3Q
3. (3) Special Communiqué No. 1. IDEAM	http://www.pronosticosyalertas.gov.co/documents/78690/126335395/Comunicado+Especial_001_AL95.pdf/f89b09f1-9e03-4ea6-ae3b-eccc9bb39839?version=1.0
4. (4) Special Communiqué No. 9. IDEAM	http://www.ideam.gov.co/documents/78690/126414152/Comunicado+Especial_009_Perturbacion+%28AL97%29.pdf/a1bee50e-2429-4f7c-b5c3-6e62f68ed9da?version=1.0
5. (5) Reports consolidated by the regional offices	https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:f:/s/IFRCSharing/EsrxN7ibYBZLjJlM3srGmlMByiiAKU-qHRQ5ajdpk5lh0w?e=9yguiX
6. (6) Families affected in Cartagena. Caracol Radio	https://caracol.com.co/2023/11/02/10200-familias-resultaron-afectadas-por-fuerte-lluvia-en-cartagena/
7. (7) Mayor Dau issues decree declaring public calamity due to heavy rains in Cartagena (impact figures included)	https://www.cartagena.gov.co/noticias/alcalde-dau-expide-decreto-que-declara-calamidad-publica-fuertes-lluvias-cartagena
8. (8) 2,000 people affected by the rains in the Atlantic during the last week	https://caracol.com.co/2023/11/07/2-mil-damnificados-dejan-las-lluvias-presentadas-durante-la-ultima-semana-en-el-atlantico/

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
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Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	Yes

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Through this Operations Update No. 1, the Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) aims to inform about:

- A no-cost timeframe extension of three months (new end date: 31, 2024)

Since some administrative processes and timelines, such as the recruitment of staff and the procurement and distribution of humanitarian assistance kits in the branches, have taken longer than projected, mainly due to the change of year, most of the activities have had to be rescheduled, thus generating the need to extend the operation without requesting additional funds.

The extension of time will allow for the completion of the following processes already initiated:

- The characterization of the affected population and the start of distributions to the community will take place in February, which will extend the completion of humanitarian assistance deliveries until March. This timeframe extension is also due to the fact that a segment of the affected population was not in their homes at the time the mapping began due to the holiday period. For this reason, the implementation of this activity was executed at a slower pace than planned, which affected the overall schedule of activities.

- During February, it is expected that the legalization of the first advance payment will be completed and the second disbursement will be made in March.

- The timeframe extension will require a contract extension of the team coordinating the operation for two more months (until 30 of April) to complete the operational, administrative, and financial closure so that the technical and financial reports can be delivered on time.

BUDGET CHANGES:

While the total budget will remain unchanged, the budget per action line has been modified as follows, without affecting the balance between operation and support costs, which would remain at 63% for operation and 37% for support:

I. Livelihoods:

Initial budget: CHF 38,152 | New budget: CHF 37,483.

The budget for this line was reduced due to efficiencies in the purchase of food kits, which were initially budgeted at CHF 26.31 each, but were eventually purchased for CHF 25.84 each. The difference of this value, which is equivalent to CHF 669, will go to the National Society Strengthening line.

II. WASH

Initial budget: CHF 61,858 | New budget: CHF 58,308

The budget was reduced due to efficiencies in the purchase of the hygiene kits, which were initially budgeted at CHF 28.82, but were purchased at CHF 26.37. The same was true for the water filters, which were budgeted at CHF 50.12 and purchased at CHF 48.30. The difference, equivalent to CHF 3,550, will go to the National Society Strengthening line.

III. National Society Strengthening

Initial budget: CHF 45,113 | New budget: CHF 49,331

This line will have a budget increase, because of the efficiencies that are taken from the Livelihoods and WASH lines. These resources will be used for the Lessons Learned Workshop, as well as to pay the salaries of the IFRC-DREF Coordinator and the Administrative Assistant.



Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

2023-10-30



Shelter, Housing And Settlements	Guidance is being provided to Municipal and Departmental Disaster Risk Management Councils and to families on the reinforcement of some house structures, as some families were relocated to the homes of relatives or friends.
Livelihoods And Basic Needs	Mobilization of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to the area: 150 food kits, 150 cooking kits, and 72 blankets have been delivered from the Norte de Santander Logistics Centre.
Health	The Colombian Red Cross Society is constantly monitoring, together with its branches, possible health effects derived from the limited access to drinking water. Considering that some aqueducts and water sources are reported to be affected by the flooding.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparation of the Drinking Water Treatment Plants (DWTP) in the National Directorate and in the Caribbean Coast branches. - Mobilization of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance to the area: 150 family hygiene kits have been delivered from the Norte de Santander Logistics Centre of the Colombian Red Cross Society, 450 5-litre water bottles were given to 150 teenage mothers of the Juanfe Foundation in the city of Cartagena - Bolivar, through the Litres that Help Programme; and 7,020 litres of water for human consumption were distributed to 13 indigenous communities in the municipality of Manaure in the department of La Guajira. <p>In the Magdalena branch, 450 water filters and 450 cleaning kits are ready, as well as 700 cleaning kits in the Bolivar branch. These will be delivered to those affected as part of this IFRC-DREF operation.</p>
Migration And Displacement	Migrant status has been included as a prioritization criterion for the delivery of emergency responses in the area.
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Presidency and the National Executive Directorate of the Colombian Red Cross Society lead the coordination, guidelines, and actions of the institution in relation to the situation that has arisen. - Permanent contact with the branches: San Andrés Islas, Providencia, Santa Catalina, La Guajira, Magdalena, Atlántico, Bolívar, Sucre, Antioquia, and Córdoba, to monitor the situation and initiate response actions. <p>Weekly meetings are held on Mondays with the directors of Risk Management where there is continuous feedback on the activities carried out in the communities that were affected by the floods.</p>
National Society Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forecast of the development of a Tropical Cyclone Contingency Plan. - Registration of the alert on the IFRC GO platform. - Issuance of Situation Reports and Summaries, with updated situation information. - Participation and reporting of the Unified Command Posts. - Monitoring of the situation from the Central Information and Telecommunications Centre (CITEL) of the Colombian Red Cross Society.
Assessment	<p>The assessment process is facilitated by the Unified Command Post, which was established by the National Disaster Risk Management Unit in each impacted area. These posts serve as hubs for sharing information gathered from field evaluations conducted by the work teams of the National Risk Management System.</p> <p>Participation of the branches' staff in carrying out the Damage Assessment, the Needs Analysis, and census of the affected population in the area, led by the Departmental and/or municipal Disaster Risk Management Offices.</p>
Resource Mobilization	The emergency fund of the Colombian Red Cross Society was activated to undertake rapid response actions in the territories affected by the natural emergency.
Activation Of Contingency Plans	<p>Activation of the National Contingency Plan for the Tropical Cyclone Season and implementation of the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of the situation from the Information and Telecommunications Centre (CITEL).



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent contact with the San Andrés and Providencia, La Guajira, Magdalena, Atlántico, Bolívar, Sucre, Antioquia, and Córdoba branches. - Activation of water treatment plants in the National Directorate and in the Caribbean Coast Sections. - Issuance of the Situation Reports and Summaries with updated information on the situation. - Registration of the alert on the GO platform of the IFRC.
National Society EOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Colombian Red Cross Society's National Crisis Room has been activated, under the coordination of the Disaster Risk Management Team. From this space, monitoring and coordination with the affected departments are carried out. The crisis room of the Colombian Red Cross Society is monitoring emergency activities on a weekly basis. - The Telecommunications and Information Centre (CITEL) is actively following up and validating the special conditions on the Colombian Caribbean coast in view of the forecasts and alerts that are presented during the tropical cyclone season. This is done through the monitoring of official information sources, such as the Colombian Meteorological Service (IDEAM, by its initials in Spanish), and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Service (NOAA, by its initials in Spanish).

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>For the formulation of this IFRC-DREF Plan of Action, technical advice has been provided by the IFRC's Programme and Operations Coordination, Finance, and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER) areas, with whom the updating of information and the formulation of the IFRC-DREF application were made.</p> <p>The IFRC team has 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>
Participating National Societies	<p>Currently, the German Red Cross is financing 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.</p> <p>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.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross currently is not implementing 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

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Tropical Cyclone Warning Protocol was activated. - The National Tropical Cyclone Response Plan has been activated. - 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.

- 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.

- The government delivered food and non-food assistance in risk areas and technical and manpower support, in the departments of Magdalena and Atlántico.

- Unified Command Posts (UCP) monitor, record, and coordinate humanitarian actions in the affected areas.

- Assessments and analysis of the needs of the affected communities and monitoring of the state of emergency have been carried out by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, with the support of teams from the Fire Department, the Civil Defense, and some teams from the Colombian Red Cross Society in the departments of Bolívar, Magdalena, Atlántico, and La Guajira.

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 have occurred in the city since 27 October 2023.

According to the latest report, the OAGR has delivered humanitarian aid to 660 families throughout the city. The aid consists of food assistance, hygiene kits, kitchen kits, mattresses and in some cases, fibre cement roofing tiles, depending on the level of affectation.

Humanitarian aid has been delivered to families who suffered from collapsed houses, landslides and flooding in some sectors. The teams have been 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.

Source:

(1) District of Cartagena continues to deliver humanitarian assistance to those affected by rains, 2023. <https://www.cartagena.gov.co/noticias/distrito-cartagena-continua-entrega-asistencia-humanitaria-afectados-lluvias>

UN or other actors

Coordination 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 has been 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 Society has actively participated, thus making it possible to identify the needs and lines of action to be implemented in this IFRC-DREF operation. In addition, work is being 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 in the coming days.

Currently, the Colombian Red Cross Society, through the Atlántico, Bolívar, and Magdalena branches, is coordinating 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) have 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 have also been affected, and several roads have been damaged and closed, aggravating the food security situation by making it impossible to move around to buy food.

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 are for the delivery of basic food kits, as they are facing serious difficulties in accessing food due to the flooding caused by abnormal rainfall.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The infrastructure for the collection, treatment and distribution of water in the municipal and local aqueducts in the areas impacted by heavy rainfall were affected, which generates a risk of shortage for the development of activities related to basic needs, such as eating, hydration and implementation of hygiene practices at the personal and household level. The people affected must find ways to access water for consumption, resorting to practices that are hazardous to health, such as drinking raw water directly from water sources that may have indicators of contamination such as pathogens and chemicals that represent an affection to human health, as well as exposure to diseases caused by the spread of vectors and lack of basic sanitation.

Currently, the Caribbean Coast region has several flooded areas affected by the combination of sewage and rainwater, which has caused damage to the homes of entire communities, losing most of their belongings, livelihoods, and adequate conditions of basic sanitation systems (aqueducts and sewers). The floods have caused the inhabitants of these areas to be unable to move around to buy food and hygiene items, so the municipal governments are requesting support with the supply of articles of personal hygiene and elements to clean their homes, in order to satisfy the minimum needs of their families.

In the department of Magdalena, Civil Defence and firefighters indicated that not only are families affected by the flooding, but there are also silted drainage channels, which is aggravated by the overflowing of rivers, such as the Sevilla, Frío and Tukurina rivers, which have increased their flow and have been dragging materials and causing considerable material losses. For this reason, the Magdalena branch identified the need to deliver water filters, as they indicate the quality of the water and the conditions of the water distribution systems have deteriorated considerably.

During the first week of February 2024, the field teams of the three branches (Atlántico, Bolívar and Magdalena) conducted a characterisation (survey) with the population that received Humanitarian Emergency Aid and water filters. In these spaces, it became evident that the needs persist in the community, as they have not received any other type of assistance from other entities, in addition to the fact that 90% of the population targeted by the intervention still has 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 still have problems in obtaining drinking water and the water to which they have access does not meet the necessary health conditions, so it is essential to deliver the water filters that have already been purchased with contracts to suppliers.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Given that the emergency has affected several municipalities in different departments, the consolidation of information provided by the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Councils (CMGRD) and the Departmental Disaster Risk Management Council (CDGRD) on the number of affected families has been difficult, as the number of affected families increases day by day. However, by virtue of the information reported by the local authorities, as well as the primary information provided by the Colombian Red Cross Society's branches, it has been possible to estimate an amount of affected population and their needs.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF Plan of Action, the Colombian Red Cross Society aims to provide 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.

Operation strategy rationale

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

The assistance modality has been established in response to the needs identified in the affected areas and to the request of the local authorities and Community Councils, with whom the urgency of delivering food kits, family hygiene kits and water filters to guarantee access to drinking water to the affected families was defined, which must be accompanied by awareness-raising sessions on hygiene and disease prevention measures aimed at the community.

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 considers two areas of support:

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS:

1,450 families (4,350 people) will be assisted through the procurement and delivery of food kits, consisting of food that will not perish in less than 6 months, such as rice, flour, beans, pasta, sugar, panela, canned fish, oil, coffee and chocolate. The content of the kits is standardized by the Colombian Red Cross Society, in accordance to the Sphere Manual and the Colombian Emergency Aid Standardization Manual, issued by the National Disaster Risk Management Unit. A single delivery of food kits is foreseen, as priority has been given to immediate relief, while complementary assistance is being managed by government entities, such as municipalities and police, and other humanitarian organizations. Through the delivery of food kits, assistance will be provided to 300 families in Atlántico, 700 in Bolívar and 450 in Magdalena.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH)

1,150 families (3,450 people), corresponding to 700 in Bolívar and 450 in Magdalena, will be assisted through the delivery of family hygiene kits, due to the consequences of flooding in homes located in these areas, who will also receive awareness-raising on water care, disease prevention and hygiene measures. Additionally, within the same group, 450 families from the Zona Bananera, in Magdalena, will receive home water filters to ensure access to safe water, due to the serious affectation of the water systems in the area.

All deliveries will be carried out with the support of the Magdalena, Bolívar and Atlántico branches, after establishing close coordination with local authorities and community leaders, respecting local customs and 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 through this operation is based on assisting some of the families who have not yet received aid. The delivery of the Emergency Humanitarian Aid will take 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 will be targeted through this operation?

Through this operation, the Colombian Red Cross Society expects to assist 1,450 families (4,350 people) affected by the emergency caused by the AL97 atmospheric disturbance in the departments of Bolívar (City of Cartagena), Atlántico (Municipality of Soledad) and Magdalena (Municipality of Zona Bananera). The families assisted are distributed as follows:

- Atlántico: 300 families (approximately 900 people).
- Bolívar: 700 families (approximately 2,100 people)
- Magdalena: 450 families (approximately 1,350 people)



The municipalities selected for this intervention correspond to those that have been most affected, and the prioritized families have been calculated according to the information provided by the branches in coordination with the local authorities.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The families who will receive humanitarian aid will be identified through the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) carried out by the local Disaster Risk Management authorities or through the census of the affected population that the Territorial Councils will organize in coordination with the territorial authorities and the Sectional Councils of Atlántico, Magdalena and Bolívar. The criteria for prioritizing the population to be assisted are the following:

- Families with children under 5 years of age.
- Families with pregnant or breastfeeding women or adolescents.
- Families with members with disabilities (physical, mental, sensory or intellectual) or with chronic or degenerative diseases that disable them to work.
- 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 and over 60, and persons with disabilities.
- Persons 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 vulnerable situations.

The selection of the municipalities and communities to be prioritized considered 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 state.

To identify the people most affected at the community level, the Colombian Red Cross Society carried out a characterization per family in order to identify more precisely the family composition, including the number of men, women, pregnant women, the presence of affected children, people with disabilities, if there are internally displaced persons in the family, what the economic capacity of the family is based on, the type of housing, if the family has previously received assistance from the government, among others.

For the characterization, a KOBO Collect survey was developed and applied, to date, in one community in the department of Magdalena, and in two communities in the department of Atlántico. As of 12 February 2024, 530 families have been characterized out of a target of 1,450 families. The progress of the characterization has been carried out as follows:

In Magdalena, 437 families have been characterized in Ciudad Perdida in the banana-growing area (dispersed rural area). In Atlántico, 93 families were characterized in the municipality of Soledad (urban area). The characterization continues in this department in the prioritized communities with the aim of reaching 300 families. In Bolívar, the characterization is expected to be carried out between the week of 12 and 16 February.

Some of the challenges of the mapping process have been the identification of the prioritized communities in coordination with the local risk management authorities during the pre-carnival and carnival seasons, in the case of Atlántico.

Once the community mapping process has been completed, the distribution of humanitarian aid is expected to begin before the end of February and during the month of March.

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"> - Strict use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staff supporting the operation. - Compliance with public health and self-care measures by National Society staff.
Risk of infrastructure damage 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"> - Timely coordination and projection of transport and logistics according to the current characteristics of the territory. - Coordination with authorities operating in the area and with the 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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. 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.



Given that some deliveries will be made in urban areas with a high population index, and that the aid will be delivered to affected and already identified families, and not to the entire population in general, it is possible that situations of public order and/or riots may arise due to the agglomeration of people who will want to receive 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, such as the National Police or the National Army, will be coordinated.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Planned Intervention



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 37,483

Targeted Persons: 4,350

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families reached with food kits	1,450	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The food kits are already in the respective headquarters of the branches, but deliveries have not yet been made as the characterizations are currently being updated in the communities. Deliveries will take place between 19 and 27 February 2024 in the three branches: Bolívar (19 - 22 February), Magdalena (21 and 22 February), Atlántico (21, 23 and 27 February).



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 58,308

Targeted Persons: 3,450

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families receiving family hygiene kits	1,150	0
# of families sensitized on water care and hygiene measures	1,150	0
# of families receiving water filters	450	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The hygiene kits and the water filters are already in the respective headquarters of the branches, but the deliveries have not yet been made as the characterizations are currently being updated in the communities. The deliveries will take place as follows:

- Water Filters: Magdalena (21 and 22 February).



- Hygiene Kits: Bolívar (19 - 22 February), Magdalena (21 and 22 February), Atlántico (21, 23 and 27 February).

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 officials from the Colombian Red Cross Society, who will replicate this socialization with the community when delivering Emergency Humanitarian Aid.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 6,710

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Monitoring visits	1	0

Progress Towards Outcome

A field monitoring mission with the IFRC team and the Colombian Red Cross Society is planned for March.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 49,331

Targeted Persons: 60

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Lessons Learned Workshop	1	0
Volunteers and staff equipped with institutional uniforms	60	0
Monitoring visits	3	2

Progress Towards Outcome

A lessons learned workshop is planned for 5-7 March 2024 in the city of Santa Marta.

Uniforms are in the process of being purchased for the volunteers, with an approximate delivery date of 19 to 29 February 2024 for the three branches.

The first follow-up visit was carried out from 23 to 27 January to the three branches, where the purpose 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 directors of Disaster Risk Management.



About Support Services

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

The following staff members will participate in the operation:

Volunteers:

Approximately 60 volunteers from the three prioritized branches will participate in the implementation of this operation. It is worth highlighting that the Colombian Red Cross Society already has an insurance plan through the National Disaster Risk Management Unit, which is the first response agency that includes Civil Defence, Firefighters and volunteers of the National Society. Hence this is not budgeted under the IFRC-DREF.

NS Staff to be covered with IFRC-DREF funds:

- 1x National Coordinator: Personnel with 100% dedication to the IFRC-DREF operation, who will be responsible for managing the administrative, technical and operational implementation of the project, ensuring the implementation of the response cycle and the execution of the technical and financial objectives of the funds. Joined the team on 9 January 2024.
- 1x National Accounting Assistant: Personnel with 100% dedication to the IFRC-DREF, who will be responsible for making financial records in the Financial Information System administered by the Colombian Red Cross Society, perform monthly reconciliations, review budgets and provide support in the consolidation of financial information. Joined the team on 1 December 2023.
- 1x National Administrative Assistant: Personnel with 100% dedication to the IFRC-DREF, who will be an administrative staff responsible for accompanying the legalization process, financial follow-up, and the management of acquisitions. Joined the team on 15 January 2024.
- 2x Local Administrative Assistants: Technical personnel contracted by the Magdalena and Bolivar Branches respectively, for the delivery of Emergency Humanitarian Assistance in the Branches, in charge of facilitating the technical and administrative development of the activities, accompanying the volunteers on a constant basis. Joined the team on 6 February 2024.

NS operational support staff covered by National Society own resources

- 1x Disaster/Crisis Management Manager: Technical leader and strategic articulator with internal and external actors involved in the humanitarian response.
- 1x National WASH Programme Officer: Officer responsible for supporting the WASH component in the technical, professional and operational aspects required according to the needs of the operation.
- 1x Disaster Management Line Officer: Officer responsible for supporting the crisis, response and disaster management component.
- 1x Professional accountant: Personnel responsible for ensuring the orderly reporting of the financial and accounting status of the project, including the balancing of income, expenditure and legalization of the operation's resources.
- 1x Project Portfolio Officer: Member of the Project team responsible for ensuring the correct formulation of the DREF and verification that the operation is managed in compliance with the administrative, technical and financial rules of the Colombian Red Cross Society.
- 1x PMER Officer: Member of the Project team responsible for developing the project monitoring plan, accompanying the management of information and technical committees, supporting the preparation of reports and the validation of means of verification, and supporting the systematization of the information obtained.

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

The Colombian Red Cross Society will carry out all procurement locally, following the procedures and protocols established in its contracting processes and in the National Society's Quality Management Manual, in accordance with the amounts and items detailed to ensure the eligibility of the resource. Suppliers will submit their quotations in accordance with the selection criteria managed by the institution, which will be supported by a Purchasing Plan, in which the technical characteristics will be established in line with the Humanitarian Aid Standardization Manual of the National Disaster Risk Management System, focusing on quality and quantity according to the identified needs of the community.

The mobilization of personnel and equipment will be based on the capacity of the vehicles available from the branches. However, to mobilize a large amount of material and due to the dynamics of the emergency zone, eventually it may be necessary to hire and rent cargo vehicles.

How will this operation be monitored?

To guarantee an articulated monitoring strategy, the national telecommunications network of the Colombian Red Cross Society, and the VHF and HF systems that are currently operational and functional in the field, will be used. To support coordination and permanent contact at the national level, cellular lines will be used to communicate with the National Coordination and administrative support.



In addition to the above, the Project Office will instruct the Project Portfolio Officer and the PMER Officer to monitor the financial and technical execution of the IFRC-DREF Operation by coordinating with the implementing teams, holding monthly monitoring committees, reporting data and validating the means of verification, in order to categorize the state of progress of the activities, and the generation of internal alerts in case deviations in the execution are identified and could represent a compliance or reputational risk for the operation.

Finally, monitoring visits will be made to each of the branches prioritized for the intervention, with the objective of analyzing progress in the implementation of activities and the achievement of the project's expected results, as well as identifying challenges, lessons learned and unintended results obtained during the implementation of the project. These visits will be led by the implementing team in coordination with the teams of the branches and accompanied by members of the IFRC Country Office team in Colombia.

For greater monitoring of the operation, weekly meetings have been held between the IFRC, the PMER officer, the national administrative assistant and the project coordinator, and there has also been daily communication with the directors of Disaster Risk Management of the branches and the coordinator of the IFRC-DREF project.

In addition, after the first monitoring visit that took place from 23 to 27 January in the cities of Barranquilla, Santa Marta and Cartagena, it was reviewed that the proposed activities were still being carried out according to schedule and that a second monitoring visit will be organized when the Emergency Humanitarian Aid is being delivered to the communities.

Finally, through the PMER process, a logical framework was elaborated, which allows the control of budgetary and technical goals for monitoring and internal reporting, helping information to be socialized with the project team.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Regarding institutional communication, graphic material on the implementation of the operation will be compiled for the development of communication pieces that will be published on the institution's social networks and presented in strategic coordination spaces. For this activity, support will be provided by the Communications and Image Office of the Colombian Red Cross Society.

In terms of community communication, awareness-raising will be carried out with authorities, community leaders and the population of the prioritized communities, in order to inform them of the characteristics of the operation and the assistance that will be provided. In addition, institutional actions will be made visible through distinctive elements with the emblem of the Colombian Red Cross Society, which will facilitate the identification of the points available for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRCO024 - Colombian Red Cross Colombia: Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	95.791
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	37.483
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	58.308
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	0
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	56.040
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	6.710
National Society Strengthening	49.331
TOTAL BUDGET	151.832

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

