



Activity at Poás Volcano. Source: Ministry of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica.

Appeal: <b>MDRCR025</b>	Country: <b>Costa Rica</b>	Hazard: <b>Volcanic Eruption</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Imminent</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 149,498</b>	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>518,948 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>11,850 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>2024-05-14</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>3 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>31-08-2024</b>	DREF Published: <b>15-05-2024</b>

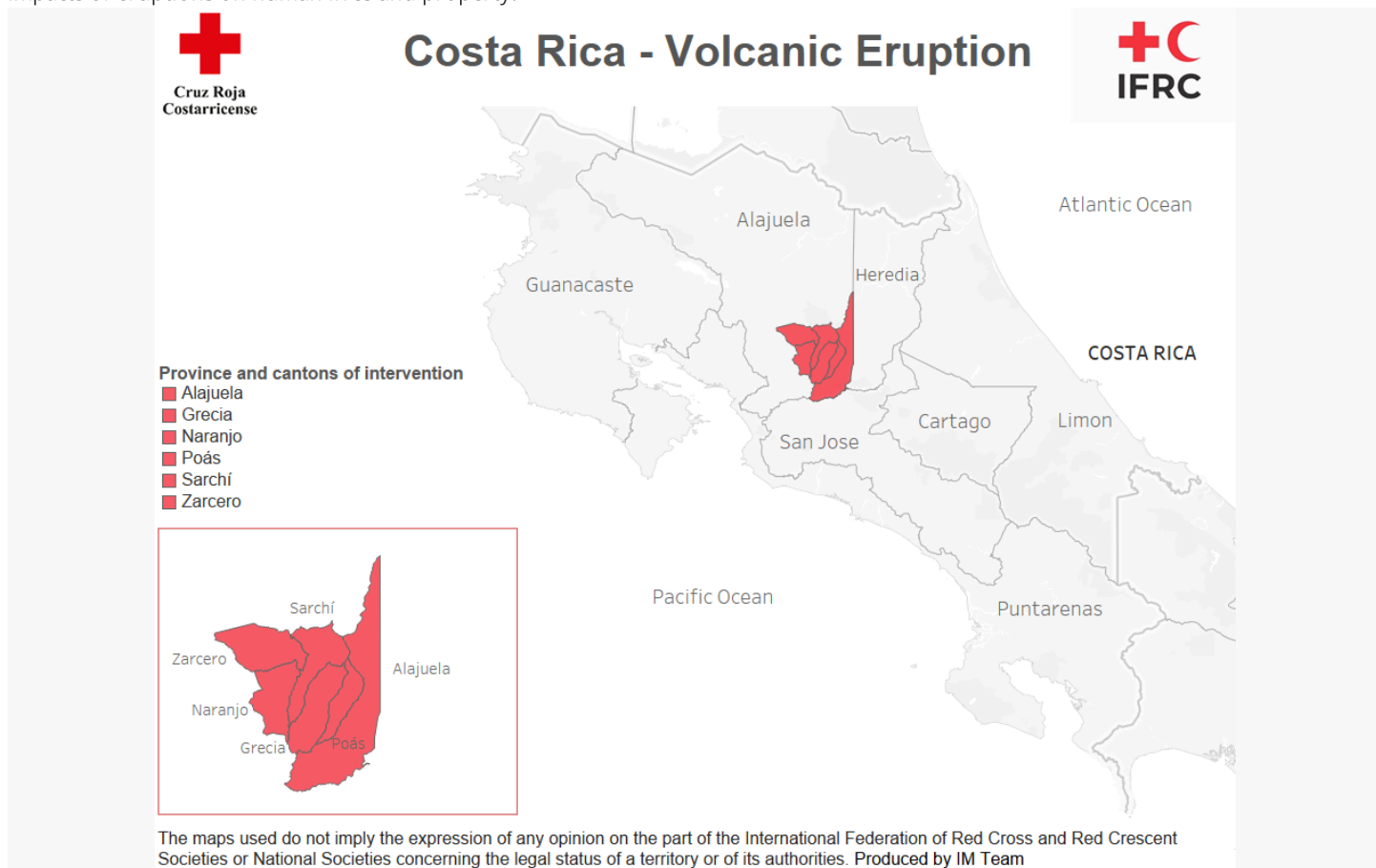
Targeted Areas: **Alajuela**

# Description of the Event

## Approximate date of impact

A dormant or awake active volcano can generate eruptions and landslides unpredictably, i.e., without early precursory signals appreciable in advance in real time.

The inherent unpredictability of volcanic activity means that precise predictions of the date of impact remain elusive. Instead, the focus is on providing early warnings, monitoring volcanic activity closely, and implementing effective risk management strategies to minimize the impacts of eruptions on human lives and property.



Province and cantons most affected and area of intervention with the IFRC-DREF. Source: IFRC.

## Provide any updates in the situation since the field report and explain what is expected to happen.

Volcanologists from the Costa Rican Volcanological and Seismological Observatory (OVSICORI) have indicated that the current pattern of activity of the Poás Volcano is similar to that observed in 2019, when the drying of the volcano's lagoon caused the fracturing of rocks and the subsequent emission of ash. Although the volcano's behavior has not changed significantly, ash emission continues.

On 1 April 2024, the National Emergency Commission (CNE) established a Green Alert for Poás Volcano, affecting Poás, Grecia, Naranjo, Sarchí, Zarcero and the central canton of Alajuela, due to continuous ash fall and gas emissions since 29 March. An estimated 518,948 residents of these cantons are at risk (1).

On 3 April, representatives of several institutions, including the National Emergency Commission (CNE) and the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAIE), met to discuss the situation. For its part, the CNE pointed out that the wind and low atmospheric humidity also contribute to the fact that the materials expelled by this active volcano disperse directly into the atmosphere and are carried to more distant areas, affecting nearby communities (2).

The ministers of Environment and Energy, and of Agriculture and Livestock, reiterated the safety protocols in the park and the preventive measures to protect the population and farmers in the area. The president of the CNE emphasized the importance of continuous monitoring of the volcano and inter-institutional coordination to ensure the safety of the inhabitants and visitors of the affected areas.



On 4 April, OVSICORI reported that incandescence was observed in the volcano's crater and a column of ash that reached at least 300 meters in height (3).

Between April 24 to 30, according to the latest weekly report by Smithsonian Institution and US Geological Survey, OVSICORI-UNA reported continuing gas-and-steam emissions from vents Boca A and Boca C on the crater floor of Poás during 24-30 April. Although emissions from Boca C often contained low ash content, no ash was present for a period of time during 25-27 April. Plumes intensified on 28 April and rose several hundred meters high. A sulfur odor was reported in Sarchí and Grecia (both about 17 km SW) on 25 April. Incandescence from Boca A was visible at night during 27-28 April and from both Boca A and Boca C at night during 29-30 April (4).

According to the latest Situation Update issued on 26 April by OVSICORI, although there seems to be a decreasing trend in seismic activity and degassing, which is also reflected in eruptive activity, it is important to consider that the conduit is open and that there is a possibility of a sudden increase in volcanic activity due to potential variations in the volcanic system. Such changes could lead to unpredictable phreatic eruptions, projecting acidic and ballistic sediments towards El Mirador for visitors and other surrounding areas. Furthermore, with the onset of the rainy season, the presence of acid rain is possible (5).

Authorities continue monitoring the situation. At the same time, the Costa Rican Red Cross has begun to collaborate with authorities to ensure safe access during monitoring visits.

## Why your National Society is acting now and what criteria is used to launch this operation.

The Costa Rican Red Cross has based its decisions on constant and meticulous monitoring, using official information provided by the national authorities on the activity of the Poás volcano. Based on this data and information, it has established the following triggers for this IFRC-DREF:

Trigger 1 (readiness) - Ministry of Health Public Health Alert: In response to the volcanic situation, the Ministry of Health issued a specific alert (Green Alert No. 3; 1 April 2024), warning of an expected increase in visits to Health Centers due to symptoms related to ash and gas fall, such as nasal irritation and congestion, coughing, difficulty breathing, sore throat, red or burning eyes, conjunctivitis, skin irritations, and gastrointestinal symptoms.

Trigger 2 (early action) - Issuance of OVSICORI report: The Costa Rican Volcanological and Seismological Observatory (OVSICORI) issues a report confirming the continuous emission of ash for a period of 72 hours.

Trigger 3 (response) - Detection of changes in the level of volcanic activity: When the Volcanological and Seismological Observatory of Costa Rica (OVSICORI) detects a change in the level of volcanic activity equal to or greater than 4, a special report to the relevant institutions is activated.

## Scope and Scale

According to Costa Rica national census data and demographic information available to the Costa Rican Red Cross, it is estimated that approximately 518,948 people in the cantons of Alajuela, Poás, Grecia, Naranjo, Sarchí and Zarcero, which are currently under the Green Alert issued by the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Attention (CNE), are at risk.

The cantons of Grecia, Poás and Sarchí have reported adverse impacts on the health of their highland residents, attributed to recent volcanic activity. According to information from the Costa Rica Volcanological and Seismological Observatory (OVSICORI), residents of localities such as Sucre de San Carlos, Zarcero, Naranjo, Grecia, Sabana Redonda, San Pedro de Poás, as well as Monte de la Cruz, San Rafael and San Isidro de Heredia, have experienced adverse health symptoms, including headaches, nausea, irritation of the mucous membranes of the eyes, nose, mouth and skin, as well as nosebleeds. These symptoms could be related to exposure to volcanic gases and particles emitted during the tremor, a phenomenon that involves the intense expulsion of vapors, gases, aerosols, water, and sediments through narrow passages, generating a loud noise in fumarolic vents.

Volcanic ash fall also significantly impacts the daily lives and livelihoods of people in affected areas. Ash can contaminate crops, the main source of income for many families, decreasing yields and affecting the local economy, and water sources, reducing agricultural income and complicating access to drinking water. In addition, ash accumulation on infrastructure such as houses and roads increases the risk of structural damage and accidents, affecting mobility and safety. Ash particles can also cause respiratory and eye health problems, increasing the demand for medical services.

## Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
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1. OVSICORI - Report of incandescence in the crater of Poas volcano	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/OVSICORI/videos/2763614147123173/">https://www.facebook.com/OVSICORI/videos/2763614147123173/</a>
2. Smithsonian institution - Weekly Report: 24 April-30 April 2024	<a href="https://volcano.si.edu/volcano.cfm?vn=345040">https://volcano.si.edu/volcano.cfm?vn=345040</a>
3. CNE - Alert issued for ash fall and gas emissions from Poas Volcano	<a href="https://www.teletica.com/sucesos/cne-emite-alerta-por-caida-de-ceniza-y-emanacion-de-gases-del-volcan-poas_355552">https://www.teletica.com/sucesos/cne-emite-alerta-por-caida-de-ceniza-y-emanacion-de-gases-del-volcan-poas_355552</a>
4. CNE - Declaration of green alert for volcanic ash	<a href="https://twitter.com/CNECostaRica/status/1774872156947542435">https://twitter.com/CNECostaRica/status/1774872156947542435</a>
5. CNE - Institutions take measures in view of volcanic activity of Poás volcano	<a href="https://cne.go.cr/noticias/Instituciones%20toman%20medidas%20ante%20actividad%20volcanica%20del%20Volcan%20Poas.aspx">https://cne.go.cr/noticias/Instituciones%20toman%20medidas%20ante%20actividad%20volcanica%20del%20Volcan%20Poas.aspx</a>

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	<b>No</b>
Did it affect the same population group?	-
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
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:

The Costa Rican Red Cross implemented the IFRC-DREF operation MDRCR012 in 2015 following the ash ejection from the Turrialba volcano. From this operation, several key recommendations were generated that have been incorporated into both subsequent and current operations to improve the effectiveness of the response. These recommendations include:

- Optimization of procurement processes: the need to streamline procurement processes during emergencies was recognized to allow for faster delivery of supplies, without neglecting internal controls. This has led to improved logistics and reduced response times.
- Improved preparedness of Auxiliary Committees: The regional disaster response committees have significantly enhanced their preparedness. As a result, the Costa Rican Red Cross now has more effective tools to respond to affected communities.
- Staff training: The training provided has equipped staff with important tools to offer a more comprehensive response to volcanic eruptions, ensuring better capacity and understanding of volcanic emergency situations.
- Use of personal protective equipment (PPE): The increased use of PPE has improved personnel safety, which in turn has enabled the teams to provide an adequate and safe response to the affected communities.
- Contingency plans for active volcanoes: The need to refine and integrate specific contingency plans for active volcanoes has been identified, ensuring that these plans are up to date and effective.

These lessons learned have been essential to strengthen the response capacity of the Costa Rican Red Cross, allowing it to be better prepared and equipped to effectively handle current and future emergencies related to volcanic ash expulsion.



# Current National Society Actions

## National Society anticipatory actions started

2024-04-10

<b>Health</b>	The National Society has begun to develop informative talks in schools and communities with the objective of educating on the health measures necessary to mitigate the effects of volcanic ash. These sessions have been tailored to increase awareness on how to adequately protect oneself from ash exposure and minimize the associated health risks.
<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	Key messages have begun to be disseminated through social networks about practical preventive actions that people can implement in the presence of volcanic ash. These messages are part of a previously designed communication campaign, in the context of the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for volcanic ash, which has not yet been activated because the necessary triggers have not yet been met.
<b>Coordination</b>	The National Society has begun to offer support at the governmental level, accompanying volcanologists to ensure their safe entry into the volcano area and to facilitate the field monitoring they carry out periodically. In addition, the National Society's Alajuela branches, especially in the canton where they are on alert, are actively collaborating with the Municipal Emergency Committees to share information and coordinate initial actions.
<b>National Society Readiness</b>	<p>The National Society has issued an institutional precautionary alert declaration at response level 3, which includes follow-up and prevention actions aligned with the National Emergency and Disaster Response Plan. Among the main actions are:</p> <p>Establish and maintain a constant volcanic monitoring system in collaboration with the Costa Rican Volcanological and Seismological Observatory (OVSICORI) to detect early any changes in activity that may indicate imminent ash emission.</p> <p>Promote educational sessions aimed at communities in at-risk areas, focusing on preparedness and response measures for ash fall, such as the proper use of PPE, ash clean-up techniques, and basic first aid.</p> <p>Prepare and distribute emergency kits that include surgical masks, safety glasses, bottled water, and informative pamphlets on specific safety procedures for volcanic ash.</p>

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	The Central America Country Cluster Delegation (Disaster Management, PMER, Finance, Health, PGI, etc.) and the IFRC Regional Office DREF focal point have provided close support in the formulation of this DREF proposal. In addition, they have provided essential technical guidance to ensure that the proposal meets the required standards and expectations.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	During the formulation of this DREF proposal, no support has been received from any PNS, nor is their collaboration expected during the implementation phase.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

During the formulation of this proposal, no support has been received from the ICRC, nor is their collaboration expected during the implementation phase.

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
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<p><b>National authorities</b></p>	<p>The Ministry of Health has issued an alert to residents near the Poás volcano about the ash fall and the possible adverse health effects it may cause. It has urged residents experiencing symptoms such as nasal irritation and congestion, coughing, difficulty breathing, sore or irritated throat, red or burning eyes, conjunctivitis, skin irritation or gastric symptoms to go to the nearest health center immediately.</p> <p>The Ministry is continuously monitoring the situation and is working closely with the municipal emergency committees to protect the health of the affected population.</p> <p>In addition, representatives of the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Attention (CNE), Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE), Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), Ministry of Health and other technical-scientific institutions, have been meeting to take preventive measures due to the constant emissions of gases and ash from Poás Volcano.</p> <p>Among the main measures are: in case of symptoms such as nasal irritation and congestion, cough, difficulty breathing, sore or irritated throat, redness, burning eyes, conjunctivitis, skin irritation, or gastric symptoms, go to the nearest health center. Additionally, they recommend preventive measures to minimize exposure to volcanic ash: avoid going out unnecessarily, use respiratory protection such as face masks or surgical masks in affected areas (if not, a damp cloth mask may be useful temporarily), close windows and doors, place damp cloths on thresholds and air inlets, dampen the ash to reduce dust, protect electronic equipment, and keep up to date with information from official sources.</p>
<p><b>UN or other actors</b></p>	<p>At this time they have not activated internal alerts and have not made any statements.</p>

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



Volcanic ash fall presents numerous risks to public health. Among the most common effects associated with volcanic ash are traumatic injuries and burns, respiratory problems due to inhalation of particles, skin and eye irritations, and in extreme situations, asphyxiation that can be fatal. In addition, ash can contaminate food, affecting humans as well as domestic and farm animals, underscoring the importance of ensuring the availability of clean food.

Basic services such as transportation and communications can also be affected, complicating access to and effectiveness of health services, including the provision of essential medical services. The weight of ash can lead to the collapse of building roofs, presenting additional risks during the clean-up phase after ash emanation.

Particularly vulnerable are children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing respiratory diseases, who may suffer disproportionately from the effects of ash, such as increased coughing and irritation of the throat and larynx. Eye irritation and skin problems, although less frequent, are serious concerns, especially when the ash is acidic. These conditions require a rapid response including the provision of medications, treatments and personal protective equipment such as face masks and goggles.

In addition, the psychological impact of these eruptions also demands special attention. Both healthcare workers and the general population may experience negative effects such as stress, anxiety, depression, fatigue, headaches, gastrointestinal disorders, and changes in sleep patterns and appetite.



Volcanic activity can generate a number of significant needs in relation to the provision of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services, affecting the quality and availability of essential water resources and complicating the implementation of adequate hygiene practices. Volcanic ash, when entering surface and groundwater bodies, can introduce particles and compounds that significantly alter water quality. This includes changes in turbidity, pH and concentrations of chemical elements, some of which can be toxic at high concentrations.



An increase in water turbidity, caused by the presence of ash particles, can hinder water treatment processes, affecting both filtration and effective disinfection. In addition, the acidity and soluble salts in the ash particles can change the pH of the water and increase the concentration of metals and other elements. These changes depend largely on the amount of ash deposited, which is related to the type and duration of volcanic ash emanation.

In areas affected by continuous or recurrent volcanic activity, these problems can become chronic, requiring constant monitoring and control of water quality. Water and sanitation infrastructure, including municipal aqueducts, can suffer significant damage, reducing access to safe drinking water and impacting the ability of communities to maintain basic hygiene practices, which is crucial to controlling the spread of disease.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Volcanic ash can cause a series of health problems, including respiratory problems, eye and skin irritations, which require specialized attention for certain demographic groups during emergencies. In view of this, it is necessary to recognize and attend to the needs of vulnerable groups within a framework of Protection of Rights and Safeguarding the life and dignity of people. The lack of preparation and specific knowledge on how to act appropriately in the face of imminent risks exposes several groups to significant vulnerabilities.

Among the most affected are unaccompanied or separated children, who not only face the direct physical danger of ash, but also the risk of exploitation or abuse. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to the risk of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, which tends to increase in emergency situations and even more so in settings such as temporary shelters activated during crises.

The elderly and persons with disabilities also require specialized attention, as their physical and medical needs may not be fully met in emergency shelters or during evacuation. These individuals may face additional barriers in accessing the information and resources needed to adequately protect themselves from the effects of the ash.

In addition, migrants may be at a disadvantage due to language and cultural barriers that limit their access to crucial information and emergency services. Effective coordination and communication between authorities and these communities is critical to ensure that all those affected understand the risks and protective measures.

Emergency response personnel also face challenges, including a lack of specific training in the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) framework. It is essential that these teams are well informed and equipped to carry out effective protection actions, identify and manage protection cases, and activate care pathways with authorities for rights restoration. These actions should be designed to minimize exposure to harm or abuse, mitigate impacts that limit access to rights, and avoid re-victimization.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

The management of emergencies resulting from volcanic ash fall evidences significant needs in terms of community participation. Often, affected communities are not sufficiently involved in the planning and response process, which can result in strategies that are not fully aligned with their specific needs and local contexts. This lack of participation can diminish the effectiveness of interventions and erode trust in the authorities and organizations in charge of managing the emergency. In addition, there is insufficient communication mechanisms between emergency managers and communities, making it difficult for affected people to access crucial information and voice their concerns.

Another latent need is the lack of accurate and timely information. This lack of information not only prevents communities from fully understanding the risks and necessary protective measures, but also encourages the proliferation of rumors and misinformation. During volcanic ash events, rumors can generate unnecessary panic and risky behavior among the population. Without effective communication channels that provide clear and verified data, affected people may resort to unofficial or unreliable sources, exacerbating confusion and fear.

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF operation, the Costa Rican Red Cross aims to contribute to the implementation of anticipatory actions to reach at least 11,850 people in the most vulnerable communities from six cantons of Alajuela at risk due to ash eruptions of the Poas Volcano through



the implementation of activities under Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA).

## Operation strategy rationale

The operational strategy for this IFRC-DREF is based on the need to contribute to the implementation of anticipatory actions for volcanic ash from Poás volcano, designated with a green alert by the National Emergency Commission (CNE). The strategy is based on official data from the CNE, the Costa Rican Volcanological and Seismological Observatory (OVSI-CORI) and the Ministry of Health, enriched with information gathered from field assessments through the Costa Rican Red Cross branches and collaborative meetings with the Municipal Emergency Committees (CME).

It is worth highlighting that the Costa Rican Red Cross currently has an EAP for volcanic ash in place, however, given that this modality is used for extreme events, the two required triggers have not been reached and it has not yet activated. As such, the National Society is launching this imminent DREF with similar triggers as the EAP but at lower thresholds with the objective of mitigating the potential impact of volcanic ash in at risk communities.

Recognizing the broad impact of volcanic ash on public health and safety, the National Society strategy prioritizes four main sectors: Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). The reason for this prioritization is to ensure a comprehensive and effective intervention that not only addresses immediate health and WASH issues, but also builds resilience and inclusion for all people in the most affected communities.

The planned intervention includes:

EARLY ACTION PHASE 1 (associated to trigger 1)

For this phase, the National Society has planned:

In the Health sector: Procurement and distribution of personal protective equipment and organization of community health fairs to disseminate essential information and resources, thus addressing health risks from ash exposure. This effort is complemented by educational talks in schools in the most affected communities, raising awareness and preparing children, adolescents and young people. In addition, talks are given to staff and volunteers on the effects of volcanic ash and practical prevention measures.

In the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) sector: Conduct informative talks for staff and volunteers on PGI minimum standards with a community approach and focus on safeguarding principles, including how to identify and respond to possible abuse or exploitation, specifically adapted to the volcanic ash context. Also, promote safe spaces for children during the development of the proposed activities and, at the same time, ensure that they are included in the distribution of personal protective equipment.

In the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) sector: Develop a comprehensive CEA strategy to effectively respond to community needs in emergency situations, and conduct briefings for staff and volunteers on the applicability of the CEA approach, tailored to the specific context of the volcanic ash emergency. This ensures that affected communities not only receive assistance, but also actively participate in prevention efforts.

As part of the readiness phase, the Costa Rican Red Cross has begun to implement actions including the issuance of a preventive institutional alert at response level 3, aligned with the National Emergency and Disaster Response Plan, and the establishment of monitoring and prevention protocols. It has begun to provide support at the government level, ensuring safe access of volcanologists to the volcano area and facilitating periodic on-site assessments. In addition, the National Society's Auxiliary Committees in the Alajuela region have begun to actively collaborate with the CMEs to coordinate and communicate initial actions. In addition, educational talks have been initiated in schools and communities to socialize the necessary health measures against the effects of volcanic ash. Dissemination of key messages on social networks has also been initiated as part of a communication campaign designed within the framework of the Early Action Plan (EAP) for volcanic ash. The objective of these messages is to promote practical preventive measures to deal with the presence of volcanic ash.

EARLY ACTIONS PHASE 2 (associated to trigger 2)

For this phase, the National Society has planned:

In the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector: distribution of water storage containers and family household cleaning kits. These supplies will be delivered to the families that need them most in each of the regions, prioritizing according to demand and urgency in each area.

In addition, the IFRC DREF will support the strengthening of the National Society by covering essential costs such as telephone and internet communications, financial costs and visibility elements of the operation, including banners and posters. Thermal protective equipment for volunteers and staff (hats, scarves, etc.) will also be provided. In addition, a lessons learned workshop will be held at the end of the operation. In addition, it is planned to hire a project technician and an administrative assistant to improve the management



and execution of the operation.

Committed to accountability, the Costa Rican Red Cross will implement continuous monitoring both virtually and in the field, using mechanisms already established within the National Society and conducting field visits by authorities from Headquarters, as well as by representatives of the IFRC. In addition, regular meetings will be held with the IFRC Central America Cluster team to ensure real-time monitoring and resolve any difficulties that arise, thus ensuring an effective response tailored to emerging needs.

The National Society will also establish an evaluation and follow-up protocol that will be activated when the status of the alerts issued by the National Emergency Commission (CNE) changes. If the CNE decides to withdraw the current green alert without escalating it to a higher level, the National Society will proceed with an internal evaluation to determine the need to continue with the early actions or, on the contrary, to terminate them. This decision will be based on a series of internal assessments including the analysis of the situation and the data collected, as well as on monitoring and assessments carried out at the community level.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

The Costa Rican Red Cross plans to assist 11,850 people residing in the province of Alajuela, specifically in the six cantons of Poás, Grecia, Naranjo, Sarchí, Zarceró and the central canton. These areas are currently under a green alert issued by the National Emergency Commission (CNE), due to the volcanic ash activity.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The Costa Rican Red Cross has defined two fundamental criteria to determine the targeted population:

Criterion 1: Geographic - It will focus on people residing in the cantons of the province of Alajuela that are under green alert, as established by the National Emergency Commission (CNE).

Criterion 2: Most affected communities according to case attention - Based on the conclusions of the meetings held by the branches of the National Society operating in the affected cantons, in collaboration with the Municipal Emergency Committees (CME). People residing in the most impacted communities have been identified, taking into account the increase in reported cases. This includes students from educational centers located in these communities.

Additionally, through continuous updates of the Auxiliary Committees, the CME and the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) mechanisms, other vulnerable people requiring assistance will be identified.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	3,525	Rural	70%
Girls (under 18)	2,400	Urban	30%
Men	3,525	People with disabilities (estimated)	0%
Boys (under 18)	2,400		
Total targeted population	11,850		

## Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Combination of heavy rains and volcanic ash can increase the risk of landslides and lahars (volcanic mudflows).	a) Strengthen early warning systems to monitor both volcanic and meteorological activity. b) Prepare and implement evacuation plans that consider the possibility of lahars.
Limited access to affected communities.	a) Coordinate with local and national authorities to ensure cleaning and maintenance of highways and roads. b) Prepare alternative routes and means of transportation for



	<p>delivery of supplies and evacuation if necessary.</p> <p>c) Establish emergency supply warehouses at strategic points to facilitate quick and efficient access.</p>
Delay in the distribution of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).	<p>a) Establish PPE stocks at strategic points prior to the eruption and hurricane season to ensure rapid distribution when the alert is activated. b) Coordinate with local suppliers to ensure the availability and rapid access to additional PPE in case of need. c) Implement logistics systems that allow for the efficient tracking and distribution of these materials to all affected areas, ensuring that personnel, volunteers and affected communities have immediate access to adequate protection.</p>
Activation of the Ash Early Action Plan (EAP) in communities not included in the initial intervention.	<p>a) Develop and maintain a robust contingency plan that includes sufficient human and material resources to simultaneously manage multiple operations. This should include protocols for rapid mobilization of additional personnel and support logistics.</p>

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

No extra security elements are foreseen. At all times, personnel and volunteers will be fully trained in safety, ensuring their familiarity with the specific safety protocols for this type of event. In addition, the National Society will be ensured that all persons involved in the operation have adequate personal protective equipment specifically designed to deal with the conditions generated by volcanic ash. This includes masks, safety goggles and protective clothing, ensuring that the response is not only effective, but also maximizes the safety of everyone on the ground.

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

Yes

## Planned Intervention



**Budget:** CHF 90,125  
**Targeted Persons:** 11,850  
**Indicators**

Title	Target
Number of community health fairs held.	24
Percentage of target population provided with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).	100
Number of prevention talks given to students.	48
Number of workshops for the distribution of personal protective equipment to students in the most affected communities.	12
Number of informative talks given to personnel and volunteers by technical entities.	12

**Priority Actions**

- Develop community health fairs for the distribution of information and personal protective equipment
- Develop talks on recommendations related to the effects of volcanic ash in educational centers in the most affected communities
- Distribute personal protective equipment to students of educational centers in the affected communities
- Deliver personal protection equipment to residents of the most affected communities
- Develop informative talks on the effects of volcanic ash and practical prevention measures, directed to volunteers and personnel by technical entities



- Purchase of personal protective equipment for volunteers and personnel active in the operation
- Monitoring visits by people from the National Society's headquarters



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 29,075

**Targeted Persons:** 6,500

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families that have received water storage containers and household cleaning kits.	1,300

### Priority Actions

- Identification of families with the greatest need for supplies in each region
- Purchase and distribution of water storage containers
- Purchase and distribution of household cleaning kits



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 2,450

**Targeted Persons:** 90

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of staff and volunteers reached through informative talks on PGI in community spaces.	90

### Priority Actions

- Conduct informative talks for staff and volunteers on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) with a community approach and a focus on safeguarding principles, including how to identify and respond to potential abuse or exploitation, specifically adapted to the volcanic ash context.
- Promote safe spaces for children during the development of the proposed activities, and at the same time, ensure that they are included in the distribution of personal protective equipment.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 2,450

**Targeted Persons:** 90

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of staff and volunteers reached through informative talks on CEA.	90

### Priority Actions

- Conduct informative talks for staff and volunteers on the applicability of the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach with a focus on the context of volcanic ash impacts.
- Promote CEA mechanisms such as interviews, focus groups, suggestion boxes, etc. that are adapted to the particularities and needs of the affected communities, as well as to the context of the volcanic ash emergency.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 6,923



Targeted Persons: -

## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of field monitoring visits conducted by IFRC staff.	1

## Priority Actions

- Translation of documents
- Financial expenses
- Field monitoring visits
- License fees for PMER processes



## National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 18,478

Targeted Persons: -

## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers and staff with thermal protection equipment.	90
Number of personnel hired specifically for the DREF operation.	2

## Priority Actions

- Hiring of a project technician and an administrative assistant
- Purchase of office supplies and materials
- Telephone and internet expenses
- Financial expenses
- Visibility for the operation
- Lessons learned workshop
- Acquisition of thermal protection equipment for volunteers and staff (hats, sleeves, bandanas)

# About Support Services

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

For the execution of this IFRC DREF, 90 volunteers and personnel from the Auxiliary Committees of the intervention cantons will be mobilized. All of them will receive specific training/refresher training on volcanic ash impacts, practical prevention measures, as well as training in Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). This preparation is essential to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of actions on the ground.

In addition, a dedicated project technician will be hired to coordinate and execute field activities, along with an administrative assistant who will be responsible for managing the procurement, logistics and financial processes specific to the operation, thus ensuring efficiency.

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

For this DREF operation, the Costa Rican Red Cross will assume all procurement processes at the local level, considering that these are supplies that are readily available in the country.

The National Society has a procurement department that oversees the acquisition of all supplies and equipment needed by the national committees, in addition to managing a central warehouse. These procurement procedures are supported by the government, as they often use funds allocated by the state, which requires strict adherence to these processes for all purchases.

In addition, the Logistics Unit supports the National Society by ensuring that the quality of all purchases meets the standards set out in



the procurement procedures. This unit is also responsible for overseeing compliance with the authorization levels required for these purchases, including the particular requirements for the procurement of personal protective equipment required for this DREF.

## **How will this operation be monitored?**

The monitoring process is led by the National Risk Management Directorate of the National Society, with the support of the General Directorate. This monitoring covers the entire institutional administrative structure of the departments. In addition, the National Society's headquarters has a specialized team responsible for developing and supervising the narrative and financial reports, ensuring their quality. This team is also responsible for meeting the necessary requirements for accountability on an ongoing basis.

In the area of Administration and Finance, the Finance-Accounting Department has trained personnel ready to support the operational areas outlined in the Action Plan. The department's strategy includes:

- (a) Ensuring the availability of department staff to address specific aspects of the operation.
- b) Complying with reporting schedules and continuous monitoring to ensure compliance and proper use of budget allocations.
- c) Reporting regularly to the coordinators of the various work areas on the optimization and proper use of the resources allocated to the Action Plan.

## **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation**

The National Society's Institutional Communications Department develops and manages internal and external communications strategies. These strategies seek to improve visibility and support the organization's activities during the emergency response and recovery phases. In particular, for this DREF operation, the department will focus its efforts on the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach, in addition to addressing the specific needs of the Health and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) sector.

In addition, the communication strategy will be based on the strategic communication actions established in the Early Action Plan (EAP) for volcanic ash, which has been approved but is not yet active, as the necessary triggers for its activation have not been reached.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRCR025 - Costa Rican Red Cross Costa Rica: Volcanic Ash

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>124,098</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	90,125
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	29,075
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2,450
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	2,450
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>25,400</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	6,923
National Society Strengthening	18,478
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>149,498</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*

Internal

15/05/2024

#V2022.01

[Click here to download the budget file](#)



# Contact Information

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

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