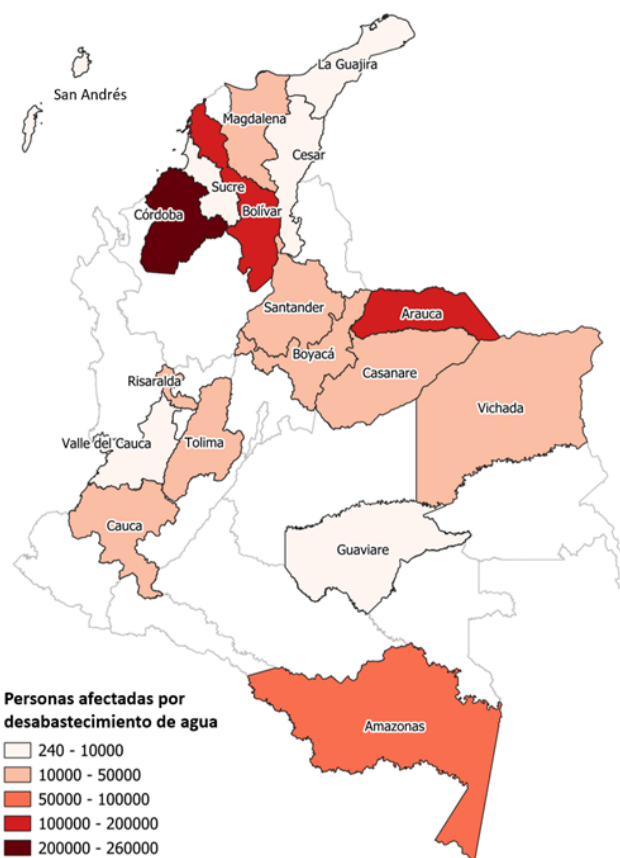




Operation of Drinking Water Treatment Plant in Duitama, Boyacá. Source: Colombian Red Cross Society, as of April 19, 2024

Appeal: MDRCO025	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 458,836	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Drought
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 1,143,043 people	People Targeted: 9,320 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 10-02-2024	New Operational End Date: 31-08-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 10-02-2024		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 15-05-2024	
Additional Allocation Requested: 0		Targeted Areas: Boyaca, Cordoba, Cundinamarca, Huila, Santander, Sucre	

Description of the Event



Map of people affected by water shortages. Source: UNGRD Viewer, as of April 9, 2024.

Date when the trigger was met

27-01-2024

What happened, where and when?

On 27 January 2024, by Decree No. 037, the Government of Colombia declared a National Disaster Situation for a period of 12 months, due to the impact of the "El Niño" phenomenon, which is a climate variability phenomenon that occurs every two to seven years due to the warming of the Pacific Ocean (1). This comes after the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology, and Environmental Studies (IDEAM, by its initials in Spanish) officially declared the presence of the "El Niño" phenomenon in Colombia on 3 November 2023 (2). The National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD, by its initials in Spanish), through Circular 065 of 18 December 2023, sent to the territories and other members of the National Disaster Risk Management System the guidelines for the preparation and readiness for the events under the influence of the "El Niño" phenomenon 2023-2024, where it is indicated that excess and deficit of precipitation may occur depending on the territory, generating water shortages for aqueducts, mass movements, water shortages for crops, floods, water shortages for animals, gales, forest fires, torrential floods, frosts, river erosion, among others.

The "El Niño" phenomenon has had evident effects throughout the national territory. During December 2023, precipitation was below normal with a complete absence of rainfall in a large part of the Caribbean region and some areas of the Andean region. Likewise, an average temperature increase of more than 2°C was recorded in departments of the Andean, Caribbean, Pacific, and Orinoco natural regions, including Cesar, Cordoba, Antioquia, Santander, Norte de Santander, Tolima, Huila, Nariño and Casanare. For example, on 23 January 2024, the municipality of Jerusalem (Cundinamarca) reported a record temperature of 40.4 Celsius.

During January, the "El Niño" phenomenon in the country was under the influence of strong category events, including rainfall deficits of up to 70%. Due to the scarcity of precipitation and the increase in the average temperature, forest fires have caused 586 municipalities in 28 departments to be on red alert, in addition, 6 departmental declarations were made in Huila, Sucre, Boyacá, La Guajira, Cundinamarca, and Santander. The situation is expected to worsen in the coming months. For February, precipitation deficits of up to 60% are forecast for the Caribbean, Andean, Pacific, and Orinoco regions. In terms of temperature, for the consolidated quarter of January, February, and



March 2024, an increase in temperature of up to 2.5°C is expected.

Within the framework of this update, the main highlights related to the El Niño phenomenon are summarized below:

- On November 3, 2023, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) officially declared the presence of the “El Niño” phenomenon in Colombia.
- On December 18, 2023, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD, by its initials in Spanish), through Circular 065, sent to the territories and other members of the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD, by its initials in Spanish), the guidelines for the preparation and readiness for events under the influence of the “El Niño” phenomenon 2023-2024.
- On January 27, 2024, by Decree No. 037, the Government of Colombia declared a National Disaster Situation for 12 months, due to the great impact of the “El Niño” phenomenon in the country.
- On February 10, 2024, the Colombian Red Cross Society, with the support of IFRC, launched operation IFRC-DREF for drought associated with the El Niño phenomenon.
- On April 19, 2024, the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) indicated that El Niño conditions still persist in the east-central equatorial Pacific, with significant oceanic and atmospheric indicators aligned with an ongoing El Niño event that is gradually decreasing.

According to the report issued on April 30, 2024, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management reports the following information related to events and situations associated with the El Niño phenomenon:

- 2023 events reported, among which are: 1,631 forest fires, 21 droughts, 6 frosts, among others.
- 274 municipalities have reported water shortages in 24 of Colombia's 32 departments.
- 91 municipalities have had water rationing in 14 Departments.
- 321,034 Hectares of affected crops.
- 1,143,043 people affected (39,943 families).
- 10 Departments have declared Public Calamity due to water shortage (Huila, Sucre, San Andrés y Providencia, Boyacá, La Guajira, Cundinamarca, Santander, Atlántico, Magdalena and Valle del Cauca).
- 161 municipalities have declared Public Calamity.

The Colombian Red Cross Society with the support of IFRC has been monitoring the evolution of droughts and the El Niño phenomenon in Colombia, to learn more visit the IFRC GO platform.



Support to forest fire first responders. Barrancabermeja municipality, Santander Department. Source: Colombian Red Cross Society. March, 2024.



San Rafael reservoir drought, Cundinamarca Department. Source: Semana Magazine. April, 2024.



Delivery of hydroretainers to the community. Municipality of Pitalito, Huila. Source: Colombian Red Cross Society, May, 2024.

Scope and Scale

As of 29 January 2024, the "El Niño" phenomenon in Colombia has so far left 47,597 people affected (18,836 families) and has led to the devastation of 26,274 hectares due to forest fires, droughts, and frosts as reported by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management. So far, 623 events associated with the "El Niño" phenomenon have been recorded in 26 departments, including 478 forest fires, of which seven are active, six droughts, and five frosts. Likewise, 134 municipalities have reported water shortages in 11 departments.

The fires, exacerbated by the hot and dry conditions linked to the El Niño phenomenon, are leading to air quality alerts and wildlife displacement warnings. Colombia's President has declared a national emergency and requested international support. The areas most affected by forest fires in the country include mostly paramo and sub-paramo ecosystems (dry paramo and humid paramo) and the high Andean Forest. Among the species of flora affected are fragile ones and conifers, as well as species of fauna including birds and mammals.

In January 2024, in the department of Boyacá, the “Asociación de Ganaderos del Altiplano Cundiboyacense” (Association of Cattle Breeders of the Altiplano Cundiboyacense) revealed to Caracol Radio that more than 50,000 farms have been affected by the drought and



that there has been unquantified damage to crops caused by frost in 50 municipalities. The Boyacá branch reported water shortages in municipalities such as Moniquirá, Jenesano, Motavita, Paipa, and Duitama, affecting around 21,000 people. Similarly, droughts have affected crops and forest fires have consumed large areas of vegetation. It also reports the occurrence of frosts that are affecting crops and production animals in the municipalities of Tunja, Cómbita, Paz de Río, Nuevo Colón, Ventaquemada, Cerinza and Chivatá.

The Santander branch reported a decrease in the water levels of the following rivers: Magdalena, Lebrija, Carare, Suarez, Chicamocha, Sogamoso, and De Oro. In addition, there are Alerts for vegetation cover fires: Red Alert in 13 municipalities, Orange Alert in 53 municipalities, and Yellow Alert in 17 municipalities.

The Huila branch reported that forest fires have mainly affected pastures and coffee, yucca and sugar cane crops in the municipalities of Suaza, Paicol, Saladoblanco, San Agustín, Algeciras, Altamira, Pital Colombia, Guadalupe, La Argentina, Timaná, Isnos, Oporapa, Garzón, Pitalito, Tarquí and Rivera, as well as water shortages in the municipalities of San Agustín and Colombia.

The "El Niño" phenomenon has affected livelihoods in previous years and is expected to continue to affect the Colombian population, mainly in sectors that are highly dependent on water resources and biodiversity (fauna and flora). One of the most affected sectors will be the agricultural sector, which, according to historical data of the El Niño phenomenon between 2014-2016, affected 1,185,763 hectares in 15 departments, mainly located in the Caribbean and Andean regions, and also caused the loss of 3,421,590 livestock units of species such as cattle, pigs, poultry and fish, among others.

As of February 10, 2024, the start date of the IFRC-DREF Drought - El Niño Phenomenon operation, eight (8) departments and eighty-nine (89) municipalities had a public calamity declaration. However, as of April 30, 2024, the number of departments increased to ten (10), which corresponds to a 20% increase in the number of departments with Declarations. On the other hand, the number of municipalities increased to one hundred and sixty-one (161), which corresponds to a 45% increase in the number of municipalities that have declared public calamity, with water shortages being the main cause, which places the drinking water and basic sanitation sector as one of the most critical and requiring greater attention. The departments of Boyacá, Cundinamarca, Santander and Sucre being the most affected by water shortages and rationing.

With regard to the Agricultural Livelihoods component, officially, the figures reported as of April 30 in the national crisis room show that 24 departments were affected in terms of crops and pastures, with approximately 321,034 hectares affected, of which 62.7% were affected by water deficit, 24.3% by sanitary conditions and 10.4% by frost. It is estimated that agricultural crops were affected by approximately 5.9% of the country's agricultural sown area. In the livestock component, the mortality of animals of different species (poultry, cattle, goats, pigs, among others) amounted to 2,275,111 and 5,702,276 individuals (animals) were affected in terms of low production. An estimated 114,993 agricultural producers have been affected by this phenomenon.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. National Management Plan for the "El Niño" Phenomenon 2024.	https://portal.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/Paginas/Slid_e_home/Plan-Nacional-de-Gestion-ante-el-Fenomeno-El-Nino.aspx
2. Evolution of events associated with the El Niño phenomenon in Colombia.	https://go.ifrc.org/emergencies/6864/additional-info/monitoreo-emergencia
3. Declaration of National Disaster	https://www.mineduccion.gov.co/1780/articles-419474_archivo_pdf.pdf

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
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 aims to inform about:

- A no cost-timeframe extension of two months (new end date: August 31, 2024) is considered, which will allow the National Society to carry out the activities highlighted below, increase the number of people reached to 9,320 (600 more people) and perform the administrative and financial closure of the operation optimally and efficiently.

Therefore, within the framework of this operation update, below is a summary of the changes:

OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL CHANGES SUMMARY:

1. WATER SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

Operational:

- The Colombian Red Cross Society has deployed four drinking water treatment plants in the municipalities of Duitama (Boyacá), Güepesa and after mobilized to Vélez (Santander), Tolú (Sucre) and Loricá (Córdoba), in coordination with local and departmental authorities. These, in turn, have requested the National Society Branch to continue operating the water treatment plant located in Santander until June 2024. Taking into account that for the department of Santander, the plant in the municipality of Vélez will be moved to Barichara, considering the needs identified by local authorities, and therefore the deployment of the ENI volunteer in charge of its operation will be extended.
- In addition, 200 family water kits containing home filtration systems and containers for storing and transporting water will be purchased and distributed in the Huila, Boyacá, Santander, and Cundinamarca Branches to reach more people and improve the quality of the water consumed in their homes by the beneficiaries.

Budgetary:

- Initial budget: CHF 153,057 | New budget: 158,094
- Description: The purchase of family kits for water storage and treatment was more economical, this allowed the National Society to plan the purchase of more kits. The purchase of 5L bottles of drinking water also had a remainder. Thanks to the management of the National Society, it was possible to optimize the resources allocated for the transportation of the water treatment plants. The remainder of the operation was used to extend the water treatment plant. The additional budget will support the extension of the staff responsible for the WASH activities and the purchase and transportation of the additional 200 kits.

2. HEALTH:

Operational:

- To continue supporting first responders to forest fires with first aid services, first aid kits will be purchased and distributed in the Branches of the municipalities where there have been the largest number of forest fires.

Budgetary:

- Initial budget: CHF 32,248 | New budget: 31,255
- Description: The self-care kits for first responders had a surplus that was identified and could be used to purchase first aid kits and support other operational lines.

3. LIVELIHOODS:

Operational:

- This sector will remain unchanged and will be maintained under the logic of the response defined in the initial proposal.

Budgetary:

- Initial budget: CHF 44,134 | New budget: 39,251
- Description: An optimization of the resource was achieved in the purchase of hydro retainers and nutritional blocks, as well as pedagogical material for the protection of livelihoods, through a more economical purchasing process than planned, taking advantage of this remainder to support the other lines of the operation.

4. MULTIPURPOSE CASH:

Operational:

- This sector will remain unchanged and will be maintained under the logic of the response defined in the initial proposal.

Budgetary:



- Initial budget: CHF 123,325 | New budget: 125,120

- Description: The addition will support the extension of the CASH Coordinator to support the operational closure of the line.

5. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA):

Operational:

- During the update, it is proposed to strengthen the focus on participation and feedback from the beneficiary communities within the IFRC-DREF actions, so new actions of CEA will be implemented, to implement a physical module, where people in the community can leave their feedback either in physical formats in a mailbox for complaints and suggestions or other channels. Likewise, it is contemplated to strengthen the promotion of the existing Colombian Red Cross Society feedback channels, called "Cruz Roja te escucha" (Red Cross listens to you) during the distributions and community focus groups proposed within the framework of this update.

Budgetary:

- Initial budget: CHF 0 | New budget: 1,440

- Description: Considering the optimization of the resources of the other lines of the operation, direct activities were included in the CEA line that allow strengthening the accountability and participation mechanisms of the beneficiary communities.

6. PROTECTION, GENDER & INCLUSION (PGI):

Operational:

- Description: In a cross-cutting manner, in the area of PGI, the staff and volunteers involved in the operation will receive virtual training on child protection and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Likewise, in the dissemination spaces of the Red Cross feedback channels with the communities, mention will be made of the Colombian Red Cross Society's PSEA Policy. During the extension of the operation, the risk analysis for the protection of children in the framework of DREF operations will also be updated.

Budgetary:

- Initial budget: CHF 0 | New budget: 1,440

- Description: Considering the optimization of the resource of the other lines of the operation, direct activities were included in the PGI line.

7. RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE AND RECOVERY

Operational:

- Description: This sector will remain unchanged and will be maintained under the logic of the response defined in the initial proposal.

Budgetary:

- Description: No budget changes

8. SECRETARIAT SERVICES

Operational:

- Description: This sector will remain unchanged and will be maintained under the logic of the response defined in the initial proposal.

Budgetary:

- Initial budget: CHF 14.771 | New budget: 7,904

- Description: The deployment of the Surge IM was covered by the American Red Cross, which made it possible to take advantage of this remainder to strengthen the operation on the other lines.

9. NATIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING

Operational:

- Description: This sector will remain unchanged and will be maintained under the logic of the response defined in the initial proposal.

Budgetary:

- Initial budget: CHF 88,818 | New budget: 92,544

- Description: Mainly, the additional budget will support the extension of the human resources responsible for completing the operation and carrying out the administrative and accounting closure (National Coordinator; National and local Administrative Assistants; and National Accounting).

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

11-11-2023



Livelihoods And Basic Needs	<p>Through the MOFA project, 720 market kits were distributed to 360 families from 12 communities in the rural area of the municipality of Manaure in the department of La Guajira. In addition, characterizations were carried out to identify those most affected and prioritize them with the delivery of hydro-retainers and nutritional blocks in Huila and Sucre.</p>
Multi Purpose Cash	<p>The following actions have been carried out: operational and cost analysis of the AccesRC tool and the RedRose platform with IFRC, identification of the departments affected and the types of effects caused by the "El Niño" phenomenon with the branches offices through follow-up and monitoring with the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Councils and the crisis rooms at the national level, and a request to RedRose for the coverage of points of attention in the departments identified as most affected.</p>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In response to the emergencies caused by the forest fires, the Colombian Red Cross Society has deployed volunteers to provide health services, first aid, and hydration support to firefighters and others fighting the fire at each of the points. For example, in Cundinamarca, the Cundinamarca and Bogotá branch has deployed volunteers from the different municipal support groups to provide care in some areas of the municipalities of Zipaquirá, Nemocón, Tocancipá, and San Francisco. In Zipaquirá, in the Don Benito Reserve, hydration drinks have been given to firefighters and military personnel working at the site. Injuries, burns, respiratory problems, muscle contractions, eye problems, and psychological first aid have been attended to. - Notification of cases of tropical diseases in weekly follow-up meetings in Crisis Rooms.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	<p>In the Colombian Red Cross Society and some branches, mobile Drinking Water Treatment Plants have been pre-positioned to be able to attend to the emergency due to water shortages.</p> <p>Currently, in the department of La Guajira, the MOFA Guajira Project is being developed with actions to improve the infrastructure of water supply systems in 12 communities with the delivery of clay water filters for household water treatment, the delivery of water storage tanks, jerry cans and containers for safe water storage. This department has not been prioritized for this intervention as it has its funds for response through the project.</p> <p>Readiness of 30 drinking water treatment plants with a daily production capacity of (30,000 litres, Type A), (45,000 litres, LMS) and (175,000 litres, Type B) was carried out, as well as the improvement of 12 community systems for access to water, through the maintenance of mills and the installation of solar panels, as well as the delivery of family filters and elements for the transport and storage of water for 12 indigenous communities in the municipalities of Manaure and Uribia in the Department of La Guajira.</p>
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery	<p>Campaigns and broadcasting of key messages to raise awareness of the efficient use and saving of water, as well as the impacts caused by the El Niño phenomenon have been active since 16 December 2023.</p> <p>An informative workshop on the historical effects of the El Niño phenomenon in Colombia, the socialization of the climate prediction report, and forecasts for the months of September to December were carried out by IDEAM for members of the Colombian Red Cross Society.</p>
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Colombian Red Cross Society participates in the Unified Command Posts that have been convened at national and territorial levels for the coordination and monitoring of response actions. In addition, the National Society maintains an active crisis room for monitoring with the branch offices regarding the main effects and actions on the ground. As of April 30, the National Society has participated in 21 Unified Command Posts at the national level in response to the "El Niño" phenomenon, where the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD, by its initials in Spanish) is updating departmental and entity response capacities. - The National Presidency and the National Executive Directorate of the Colombian Red



	<p>Cross Society lead the coordination, guidelines, and actions of the institution concerning the situation that has arisen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Permanent contact with branches to monitor the situation and initiate response actions is carried out.
National Society Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updating of National and Branch-level Contingency Plans. - Registration of four alert reports on the GO Platform of the International Federation. - Attendance of meetings with the National Disaster Risk Management Unit and the Territorial Disaster Risk Management Councils. - Issuance of 7 Situation Reports and Summaries with updated situation information. - Monitoring of the situation from the Colombian Red Cross Society Information and Telecommunications Centre (CITEL).
Activation Of Contingency Plans	<p>Activation of the Contingency Plans for the El Niño Phenomenon with the Branches as of the issuance of the declaration.</p> <p>The Colombian Red Cross Society elaborated a Plan of Action "Fenómeno 'El Niño' 2024", which prioritizes 15 lines of intervention, between response and recovery, to be developed during 2024 and part of 2025, with a budget of approximately CHF 6,000,000. The Colombian Red Cross Society hopes that, with the contribution of resources obtained through IFRC-DREF funds, it will be possible to develop various actions to provide humanitarian aid promptly to the communities most affected by the water deficit.</p>
National Society EOC	<p>The Telecommunications and Information Centre (CITEL, by its initials in Spanish) is active in the follow-up, monitoring, and validation of drought conditions at the national level, which is done with the monitoring of official sources such as the Colombian Meteorological Service (IDEAM, by its initials in Spanish) and with the reports issued by the branches. The branches also make a weekly follow-up during meetings at the Crisis Rooms.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC has a Country Delegation in Colombia that provides continuous support to the National Society. Likewise, the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for Andean countries, through the PMER Officer, and America's Regional Office is providing technical support for the development and revision of this IFRC-DREF Application. In addition, the Communications Unit of the Regional Office has provided technical support to make visible the impact of forest fires and drought in the country, the actions taken by the National Society so far, and the support that IFRC is providing for the management of this operation.</p> <p>Currently, the implementation of the IFRC-DREF Drought - El Niño Phenomenon operation is underway.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The Colombian Red Cross Society activated the American Red Cross Rapid Action Fund (Q.A.F) to focus actions in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for a value of \$195'000,000 COP. (50,000 USD).</p> <p>The Spanish Red Cross and the German Red Cross have also expressed their support by approaching the governments of their countries to explore emergency funding alternatives or to articulate their existing operations in the country to respond to this situation. The German Red Cross is currently assessing the feasibility of activating the "crisis modifier" component for emergencies, within the framework of the ECHO project.</p>



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

In response to the forest fires in rural areas of the municipalities of Argelia, in the department of Cauca, and Peque, in the department of Antioquia, and considering that the places where these emergencies occurred correspond to areas of armed conflict with the presence and territorial control of organized armed groups, as well as the presence of minefields; security management was carried out through the National Referent for Security in Operations of the Colombian Red Cross Society, with the support of the ICRC, at the national and local levels (sub-delegations in Cali, Cali, and Peque, in the department of Antioquia), to make the respective contacts with these organized armed groups to obtain acceptance and thus generate the conditions for Safer Access for the staff of the National Society and other relief agencies within the framework of the National Risk Management System.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>Government has requested international assistance</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>National authorities</p>	<p>The National Government is progressing in the revision of the final document and preliminary actions of the National Plan for the Management of El Niño Phenomenon, which has been developed with the Ministries, National Units, and operational entities of the National System for Disaster Risk Management.</p> <p>On September 13, the Ministry of Agriculture launched the Plan of Preparedness, Anticipatory Action, and Response Actions for the agricultural sector in the face of the possible arrival of the El Niño phenomenon.</p> <p>Development of National Technical Committees, Expanded Boards and Unified Command Post, for follow-up and monitoring of the evolution and possible effects in the framework of the Low Rainfall Season - El Niño Phenomenon.</p> <p>National and local authorities (Bogotá, Santander and Boyacá), such as the District Institute for Risk Management and Climate Change (IDIGER), Fire and Volunteer Firefighter units, Civil Defense, National Police - PONALSAR, National Army and Helicopter Support with the Bambi Bucket system of the Colombian Aerospace Force, have responded to the forest fire events registered in some areas of the national territory.</p> <p>The Bogota District Health Secretariat has issued an air quality alert and has given recommendations for self-care.</p> <p>The Bogota Environment Secretariat has issued alerts for fauna fleeing the fire and arriving in neighborhoods adjacent to the eastern hills so that the community can report them and not harm them.</p>
<p>UN or other actors</p>	<p>On January 27, 2024, the President of Colombia announced that international protocols had been activated to deal with the emergency caused by the "El Niño" phenomenon and to reinforce actions against forest fires. As of the date of this report, support has been received from countries such as Chile, Brazil, Mexico, the United States (BHA-USAID), and Canada.</p> <p>The Colombian Red Cross Society managed the activation of the Litres that Help Programme with the Postobón Foundation to support the department of Boyacá with the supply of water suitable for human consumption utilizing demijohns, considering the affectation of the municipalities due to the decrease in the flow of the water sources from which the rural and municipal aqueducts are supplied.</p> <p>OCHA has issued an Anticipatory Action Plan, preparedness and response of the Humanitarian Country Team (EHP, by its initials in Spanish) to the El Niño phenomenon on 3 November 2023, which involves all entities that are part of the WASH Cluster in Colombia, seeking to prevent and carry out actions to mitigate the effects of this natural</p>



phenomenon through coordination between the different actors involved in the humanitarian response.

For its part, FAO has already launched proactive actions to mitigate the expected impact of drought in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In these countries, FAO has mobilized \$6.28 million for activities targeting more than 121,437 people, of which, in Colombia, some 3.8 million hectares of crops are reported to be severely threatened by El Niño-induced drought (1).

Source:

(1) Anticipatory Action and Response Plan, FAO, 2023.

<https://www.fao.org/3/cc8496en/cc8496en.pdf>

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Colombian Red Cross Society, as a member of the National System for Disaster Risk Management, participates permanently in the National Crisis Rooms and meetings of the National, Departmental or Municipal Councils for Disaster Risk Management. Within the framework of these spaces, it coordinates with other entities, both public and private, the implementation of actions according to the mission and responsibility of each entity, as well as the actions that are implemented according to the needs that are identified. Among the other spaces are:

- Participation in the National Council for Disaster Risk Management, where the Colombian Red Cross Society voted in favor of the previous concept for the Declaration of National Disaster Situation "El Niño" Phenomenon.
- Participation in 21 National Crisis Rooms and a Unified Command Post in the UNGRD.
- Articulation of the branches with the Territorial Disaster Risk Management Councils.
- Support in first aid care for personnel of the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD, by its initials in Spanish) and the community involved in firefighting operations.
- Holding a National Technical Roundtable with branches in departments with Declarations of Public Calamity and with members of the Advisory Commission on Disaster Risk Management to present the Action Plan for Response and Recovery and reports from the branches.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The impact on the agricultural sector is reflected in two specific scenarios:

- Economic losses due to crop damage and the death of production animals mainly affect small farmers, who cannot access protective measures such as agricultural insurance or do not have savings to quickly restore their livelihoods.
- Food insecurity, due to the high dependence of the least favored families dedicated to small-scale agriculture, who use part of the harvest for their sustenance. In addition, the shortage of products impacts the family basket, indirectly affecting consumers in other areas of the country.

Small producers in the category of Peasant, Family, Ethnic, and Community Agriculture are the most affected by their low access to resources, such as technical assistance, inputs, machinery, technology, and agricultural insurance. As agriculture is their main source of income, the loss of crops and animals not only jeopardizes the economic and food security of their families in the short and medium term but also undermines their capital, making it difficult for them to recover.

The population engaged in agricultural activities is facing the loss of their livelihoods and needs to protect their remaining assets from the impact of the water deficit, which causes a decrease in crop profitability and losses in livestock due to low yields in milk production, low weights, death of offspring, abortions and death of animals due to dehydration.

On the crop side, farmers need to take advantage of the little water that is still available in production areas through efficient risk systems (drip, micro-sprinkler) or physical soil conditioners, known as hydro-retainers.

Events related to the El Niño phenomenon have had a strong impact on the agricultural sector in the country. In the agricultural sector, more than 321,034 hectares of crops have been affected in 24 departments, with water deficit being the main cause.

In the livestock sector, more than 2,180,000 animals were lost and 5,176,000 more were affected. In addition, more than 703,000 hectares



of pastureland were affected in 23 departments, with water deficit also being the main cause.

The impact reaches more than 79,800 producers in 432 municipalities in 23 departments, with Boyacá being the department with the largest number of affected producers with 22,300 producers (28%), followed by Nariño (15%), Cundinamarca (8%), Cauca (8%), among others.



Health

On 26 January 2024, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection issued a bulletin with recommendations regarding the main events and risks that are occurring due to the "El Niño" phenomenon, due to the high temperatures, the risks of solar radiation and heat stroke (heat waves), and the spread of vector-borne diseases associated with the lack of water for human consumption and inadequate food handling have increased.

Due to the forest fires, there have been large plumes of smoke that can and have caused respiratory problems in people living near the affected areas, which is why it has been recommended to use masks or wet handkerchiefs as a preventive measure and to stay hydrated, among other preventive measures. The groups most affected by the smoke plumes are children under 5 years old, people over 60 years old, pregnant women, people with diseases such as asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), especially those dependent on oxygen, as well as those with diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diseases that weaken the immune system. In addition, the large plumes of smoke have mainly affected people living and working near the areas affected by these fires, leading to evacuations of homes.

In addition, limited access to water is a determining factor affecting public health issues, as the lack or scarcity of this resource has a negative impact on diseases such as malnutrition, acute diarrheal diseases, and the spread of vectors, among others.

In addition to the environmental impact and the effect on certain population groups, first responders, including community members, firefighters, civil defense volunteers, and military personnel, among others, have been affected with eye and respiratory problems due to a large amount of smoke, injuries, muscle contractures, hypothermia, heat stroke, and dehydration, due to the long working days necessary to extinguish the fires.

From a public health perspective, in addition to recognizing the consequences of this environmental exposure for first responders, the impact of community events is highlighted, which could lead to health conditions such as asphyxia, burns, and heat stroke in both affected and surrounding communities.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The "El Niño" phenomenon has had a great impact on water availability. Currently, according to the report issued on 29 January 2024 by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, there are six departments affected by water shortages, among which are: Boyacá, Santander, Atlántico, Casanare, Cundinamarca and La Guajira, with a total of 134 municipalities affected nationally and 176 prioritized municipalities with high vulnerability to possible problems of water shortages, droughts, and fires affecting the vegetation layer, which affect the quality and quantity of water supplied to people for human consumption or the development of family subsistence activities.

The decrease in water flows has made it more difficult to collect, treat, and distribute water in rural and urban aqueducts or alternative sources of supply, so the population is forced to access water for drinking, irrigation, and daily activities through other means, such as purchase or donation.

During April, historical figures on the decrease in the volume of reservoirs that supply electricity and water to some departments of the country were evidenced, cities such as Bogota have been affected by the decrease in the water supply of these systems, which has led the national government to decree water rationing to discourage excessive water consumption.

According to the April 28 update of the National Interconnected System, the average percentage of the useful volume of water reserves in reservoirs by region of the country is: Antioquia, 29.9%; Central, 43.5%; East, 12.5%; Valle, 39.1%; and the Caribbean, with 44.8% of useful volume. Sources from the country used for supplying rural and urban aqueducts are the collection, conduction, treatment, and distribution of water. Within the framework of this update, the Mayor's Office of the municipality of Barichara, Santander, asked the National Society for support to install the water treatment plant in this municipality, considering that this municipality was affected by water shortages.





Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The "El Niño" phenomenon generates negative impacts on the supply of strategic ecosystems, which are essential to providing supply and regulation services necessary for the development of life. The reduction in the flows of water sources, which supply the systems for catchment, treatment, and storage, has repercussions on the quantity and quality of water supplied to urban and rural areas in the different municipalities of the country, generating rationing and a lack of access to water, especially in dispersed communities that have low coverage of public services or whose access to this resource is through collective alternative solutions of water for human and domestic consumption, and individual alternative solutions and treatment in the home.

Forest fires represent significant damage to flora and fauna, disturbing biodiversity, causing imbalances in nature, and affecting land for crops. The ash and smoke affect people's health and generate income losses for families who depend on crops and animals, a situation made worse by the lack of water for human consumption and irrigation. Some fires are the result of human activity, therefore, it is necessary to design and activate a campaign with key messages to address the emergency, aimed at taking measures to reuse and conserve water, measures to deal with the smoke generated by fires, and measures to protect health.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

In some territories, the authorities, producers' associations, and members of the Disaster Risk Management System have not carried out the quantification and valuation of damages and losses, for example, in crops and production animals. This leads to the use of secondary sources of information, such as the media, where general information is available.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF Operation, the Colombian Red Cross Society aims to assist 9,320 people affected by the droughts in the departments of Cundinamarca, Huila, Sucre, Boyacá, Córdoba, Santander, through the implementation of actions in the areas of Livelihoods, Health, WASH, Disaster Risk Reduction and Multipurpose cash during 6 months.

Operation strategy rationale

This IFRC-DREF Operation is framed under the Action Plan "El Niño 2024", developed by the Colombian Red Cross Society, which prioritizes 15 lines of intervention, between response and recovery, to be developed during 2024 and part of 2025. To achieve greater coverage and avoid duplication of people reached through the prioritized sectors, activities are carried out in different municipalities. This response strategy seeks to reach the most affected people in the most affected municipalities in the prioritized departments. To better understand the needs, the National Society will conduct detailed needs assessments to inform decision making.

The six prioritized departments (Cundinamarca, Huila, Sucre, Boyacá, Córdoba, Santander) were selected because all six have been declared emergencies due to water shortages caused by the effects of the El Niño phenomenon and because they are the departments with the largest number of municipalities affected by droughts and a decrease in the flow of their water sources.

The description of the intervention includes:

HEALTH:

To guarantee the health of first responders (firefighters, police, military, volunteers, among others), first aid teams and ambulances will be strategically deployed in five of the six prioritized branches, except for Sucre. This initiative seeks to shorten response times and ensure immediate initial attention to those on the front line of the emergency. In addition, 2,000 self-care kits will be distributed. These kits contain essential items such as oral rehydration salts, energy bars and KN95 masks, which will provide first responders with the necessary resources to maintain their health and well-being while performing their duties.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

In response to the increasing water shortages, corrective and preventive maintenance will be carried out to ensure the operation of water treatment plants in the six priority branches. Likewise, support will be provided for the distribution and delivery of water to the community. For the deployment and operation of the Drinking Water Treatment Plants, it was established that the team of volunteer personnel will be made up of an ENI Delegate and four volunteers for each Immediate Response Team in charge of a plant. In this way, the team will be guaranteed to operate continuously for eight hours a day, with shifts and availability for the team to take breaks and meals at the appropriate times, ensuring that staff do not become exhausted.



The Colombian Red Cross Society has pre-positioned water treatment plants in departments such as Huila, Cordoba, Boyacá and Cundinamarca to be mobilized and operational. The water treatment plants will be deployed to the municipalities and departments with the greatest water shortages. The department and municipality selected will depend on the following criteria:

- The manifest need of the Branches.
- The level of affectation of the area to be served.
- The municipality must ensure the safety of the equipment.
- The water quality of the effluent must be such that water suitable for human consumption can be obtained by means of primary treatment.
- That the municipality ensures the safe distribution of water, in terms of quality.

For the operation of these plants, institutional transport is required to allow the transfer of the plant, equipment and supplies necessary for the operation. Likewise, two laboratory tests are required to characterize the water, both before and after treatment. Maintenance for the treatment plants and the mobilization of a water tanker to support the distribution of water for a week in each treatment system have also been budgeted for.

For the other activities, a variable team of volunteers is planned, who will be in charge of delivering the elements for water treatment at the household level, water bottles and the activities corresponding to hygiene promotion. This team will receive support to cover the costs of transport, accommodation, food, walking allowance and will be provided with personal protection items such as safety boots, work gloves, nitrile gloves, goggles, face shields, sunscreen and repellent.

Family kits for household water storage and treatment will be distributed (50-litre water storage tank, 20-litre water canister for transport and family filter). This kit can be provided to families who have a water source that alternatively supplies water for their daily activities but require elements that allow them to maintain or improve the characteristics of the water they receive.

Drinking water for hydration will also be distributed in 5-litre jugs (2 per family) in hard-to-reach communities where it is not possible to distribute water with water tankers or treatment plants. Finally, prevention and promotion of hygiene and basic sanitation will be carried out in order to optimize the use of water, control vectors and minimize skin diseases and STDs that can occur due to water quality.

Through the proposed actions, the Colombian Red Cross Society aims to assist 8,000 people with approximately 3,600,000 liters of water in one month of operation of the four water treatment plants. In addition, 1,800 water bottles are expected to be delivered to benefit 900 families with the vital minimum of 3 liters of water per person per day. With the home treatment kits, 600 families are expected to take care of their health by having access to safe water.

At the end of the operation, the Colombian Red Cross Society will be able to continue with the deployment and operation of the water treatment plants in coordination with the Government and the National Disaster Risk Management System, seeking to provide continuity of access to water, according to the needs that are found at the time. Additional measures can be assessed in the future in coordination with the partners.

LIVELIHOODS:

500 nutritional blocks for cattle feed will be purchased and delivered to 100 families. The delivery of the nutritional blocks will depend on the livestock units and the species (cattle, goat or buffalo), according to the manufacturers' data sheets. The nutritional blocks are food supplements rich in protein, soluble energy, minerals and vitamins A, D and E, which stimulate grass consumption and increase digestibility and utilization, increasing livestock productivity in terms of reproduction, weight gain, milk production and body reserves, especially in summer, in the case of production animals (cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats). It is estimated to deliver four nutritional blocks per family to 100 families. Each block can nutritionally supplement 10 to 15 livestock units.

In addition, 800 kg of water-retainers (hydrogel) will be purchased and delivered. It is estimated to deliver 8 kilograms per family/productive unit to 100 families; however, this may vary once the people to be assisted are characterized and the type of crop, species and extension is known. The water-retainers come into contact with water, absorbing 200 to 250 times its weight, turning it into a granulated gel so that the roots of the plant can take advantage of this water reserve, as well as the nutrients dissolved in it. With the use of hydrogel, the aim is to reduce the frequency of irrigation by 30% to 50%.

Finally, communities will be trained in the use of water-retainers and nutritional blocks, and awareness will be raised on the protection of crops and production animals in times of drought. This strategy seeks to ensure that communities and families receiving inputs are aware of their use, dosage or supply and, in the face of the consequences of the "El Niño" phenomenon, can apply measures to protect/restore their livelihoods.

Because the amount of livelihood aid given varies, especially when it comes to crops, it is necessary to use a more nuanced approach when assessing the number of people reached because it does not always match the average number of family members. In contrast to other sectors, such as CVA and WASH, where a different approach is required for precise estimation due to the unique dynamics of agricultural assistance allocation, calculating reach based on average family size may be more appropriate.



MULTIPURPOSE CASH:

A feasibility study will be carried out in the prioritized areas, in which three criteria will be evaluated to identify the viability of the project: availability of local markets, household characterization survey, and verification of financial services with which there are agreements for the delivery of cash.

Based on the feasibility study, the modality of cash delivery will be determined. If the presence of the financial operator of the RedRose platform (MoneyGram) is identified, self-registration will be carried out through the AccessRC tool and the delivery of cash will be managed by IFRC. If there is no capacity of the RedRose financial operator in the prioritized areas, the registration or characterization of the beneficiaries will be done through the KoBo tool and the delivery of the cash will be done through the financial operators with which the National Society has agreements in force, such as Efecty, and the delivery will be managed by the National Society. The financial service providers have a valid agreement with the Colombian Red Cross Society and have been validated by IFRC. In the case of Efecty, it is a provider that has been working with since 2020 and offers nationwide coverage.

Initially, it is planned to reach 250 families through the RedRose (MoneyGram) platform and 250 families through Efecty, which is an initial estimate, as Moneygram and Efecty are not available in all territories, so a comparative analysis of the two financial service providers will be carried out. Additionally, in cases where there is not a possibility of access participants through the above mention platform, AccessRC tool, then other mechanisms could be used to identify participants, such as Kobo.

Multipurpose cash transfers will be delivered to families affected by the effects associated with the "El Niño" phenomenon (frost, drought or forest fires) in order to cover their basic needs. By their nature, multipurpose transfers offer people a maximum degree of choice, flexibility and dignity. Through the operation, 500 families will be assisted with a one-off payment of COP 916,000 (approx. CHF 214); which would be covering two month (the amount is pending confirmation based on the CVA feasibility study). As in every CVA program in Colombia the value will be estimated taking into account the Colombian Government Guidelines.

The delivery and use of cash will be monitored and, at its conclusion, a post-distribution survey will be conducted, which aims to determine the impact and experience of the population with the delivery of cash transfers. The post-distribution survey will be applied to at least 20% of the assisted population.

For the implementation of the strategy, support actions will be considered, such as: training for the focalized branches in the multipurpose cash transfer protocol, reviewing and updating instruments with Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approaches, updating protocols, among others.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:

A community communication campaign will be developed through the production of videos and graphic pieces with key messages on the impacts caused by the events associated with the "El Niño" phenomenon, such as droughts, increased temperatures, frost and water shortages. The campaign will have key messages to enable the population to recover quickly from the impacts on their livelihoods, health and water, and will be carried out through the official social networks of the Colombian Red Cross Society, such as Facebook, Instagram, X and its website. The target audience of the campaign will be those users who follow the official social networks and others who may be reached by the publications.

Additionally, the Colombian Red Cross Society is respectful of the environment, carrying out an adequate disposal and management of solid and liquid waste generated in the different activities of drinking water supply and delivery of humanitarian aid, as well as carrying out awareness and educational workshops with the community regarding the management and proper disposal of solid and liquid waste.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

All planned activities will be carried out with the active participation of community leaders and in coordination with the Municipal Administration, in order to promote the active participation of the community and decision making in order to select the different alternative solutions, their adequate use to supply their basic needs in an adequate and quality way, with acceptance and giving sustainability to the elements or equipment delivered to the communities.

During the awareness-raising and community hygiene promotion days, spaces will be provided so that people from the community can express their doubts, recommendations, complaints or claims. A contact will be provided so that they can communicate continuously during the operation and after the end of the intervention. It is contemplated to strengthen the promotion of the existing National Society feedback channels during the activities and community focus groups proposed within the framework of this update.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION:

In all components, seeking to respond adequately to the needs of the affected population, the intervention will adopt a differentiated approach to ensure that it effectively addresses the specific needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups, where applicable, in line with the principles of inclusion and non-discrimination. The staff and volunteers involved in the operation will receive virtual training on child protection and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and the risk analysis for the protection of children in the



framework of DREF operations will also be updated.

NATIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING:

A Lessons Learned Workshop will be held with the branches on the response to the "El Niño" phenomenon, which will present the experiences of the country's Branches in relation to the occurrence of events associated with the "El Niño" phenomenon (forest fires, water shortages, droughts, frosts, among others) and the actions that were implemented in the territories. In addition, a IFRC-DREF Training will be conducted, with support from IFRC, to provide a learning opportunity for Colombian Red Cross Society staff and volunteers on the use of the IFRC-DREF as a funding mechanism to be able to reach populations before, during and after disasters in a timely and qualitative manner.

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY:

The actions proposed for this operation are framed within the Response Lines that make up the Colombian Red Cross Society's Action Plan "El Niño 2024", which includes the following Lines of Action: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health, Food Security, Livelihoods, Cash Transfers, Community Resilience and Risk Communication (1).

The IFRC-DREF operation will be articulated with actions supported through other funds. Among them, the National Society has developed an agreement for 2024 with the National Risk Management Unit, which envisages: Operation of Drinking Water Treatment Plants, operation of water tankers for the supply of drinking water, water treatment at household and community level, and implementation of community water storage points nationwide. If necessary, as the effects of the El Niño phenomenon increase in the country, an Operational Update could be considered to scale up or extend the timeframe of implementation.

In addition, prior to this operation, the Colombian Red Cross Society worked on an Early Action Protocol for Droughts, which is expected to be updated before the end of the operation to complement the planned actions. Regarding the actions contemplated in the Plan's Recovery Line, efforts are currently underway to obtain the necessary funds. In addition, the Colombian Red Cross Society's El Niño Action Plan will contribute to the strategic lines to be included in the Unified Plan 2025, which will support the sustainability of activities.

Source:

(1) The plan is accessible through the following link:

<https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ARODisasterandCrisis/EV9N9Wv9bylLqdUzW7HiAuMBId3nLjbOW3tg54SJM7Q?e=me2768>

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

Through this IFRC-DREF Operation, the Colombian Red Cross Society seeks to assist 9,320 people affected by the impact of the El Niño phenomenon in the departments of Cundinamarca, Huila, Sucre, Boyacá, Córdoba, Santander.

The communities and municipalities to be assisted, within the prioritized departments, will be determined by the needs assessment to be carried out at the start of the operation, in coordination with the National Risk Management System at departmental and local levels.

In the case of Multipurpose Cash Transfers and Livelihoods, complementary secondary information will be taken into account in the form of the reports of affectation shared by the National Risk Management Unit and the Colombian Red Cross Society support groups and branches, as well as the feasibility analysis that will be carried out as part of the operation. Once the municipalities to intervene are selected, a characterization of the affected and target population will be carried out, considering the application of the CEA and PGI approaches.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The criteria for prioritizing families and the population to be served are as follows:

- Families with children under 5 years old.
- Families with pregnant or breastfeeding women or adolescents.
- Families with members with special abilities (physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual) or with chronic or degenerative diseases that make it impossible for them to work.
- Families with two or more dependents per adult of working age and able to work (dependency ratio equal to or higher than 2): dependants are persons under 18 and over 60, and persons with disabilities.
- Persons at risk of protection (due to armed conflict)
- Single adult heads of household with dependent children.
- People over 60 years of age.



Total Targeted Population

Women	3,728	Rural	49%
Girls (under 18)	1,118	Urban	51%
Men	3,635	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	839		
Total targeted population	9,320		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Risk of low community participation in activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consult with the community and local focal points for safe meeting places. - Communication and invitation to activities. - Agree with the community on the most suitable spaces and times.
Insufficient supply of drinking water for the development of activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Definition of optimal scenarios and infrastructures for the development of the activities. - Articulation with WASH sector activities.
Health risks to people and animals due to poor air quality and high temperatures from forest fires affecting the respiratory system, visibility of support personnel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preventive delivery of personal protective equipment to the exposed population in the high-threat area. - Delivery of hydration - Monitoring for early identification of warning signs in staff health.
Longer duration of administrative and financial processes due to unforeseen events that may affect the implementation of activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuous monitoring of the schedule of activities and budget. - Efficiency in the procurement request and follow-up processes.
Technical risk due to non-existence of any admissible offer from suppliers, in accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR), or non-compliance with the obligations subscribed to for the supply chain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance policies subject to contracts, in terms of stock. - Process monitoring. - Adequate selection of suppliers according to previous processes.
Risks of non-coordination with other humanitarian actors present in the intervention areas, leading to duplication of assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Articulation through roundtables, groups and Clusters
Presence of armed actors limiting access to the territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening operational communication skills - Articulation with the ICRC and local organizations, for identification and communication with related entities. - Implementation of the 1000 series standards and Safer Access Framework.
Health risk due to exposure to vectors that cause tropical diseases such as dengue, zika and chikungunya, as well as untreated water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strict use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staff supporting the operation. - Addressing public health and self-care measures by the authorities - Company staff.



Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

In terms of security conditions for Red Cross humanitarian activities in the prioritized departments, there are guarantees of acceptance and respect from the community, authorities, and armed groups. In case of possible risks, the National Society has a National Security Policy and protocols to guarantee access in the communities. Among these measures are the monthly sessions of the Multilateral Security Committees, in which the security conditions of the country and the actions to be taken by the National Society are analyzed. In addition, all Colombian Red Cross Society volunteers have a protection policy backed by the country's National Disaster Risk Management Unit and personal health insurance. However, it is possible to identify political risks for the operation and coordination with local authorities, since, as of 1 January 2024, there was a change of administration at the local and departmental level, so the Colombian Red Cross Society, through its branches, municipal units and support groups, must ensure the unrestricted fulfillment of its mandate, in coordination with the new authorities.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Planned Intervention



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 39,251

Targeted Persons: 600

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Families receiving water-retainers (hydrogel)	100	125
Families receiving nutritional blocks	100	134

Progress Towards Outcome

- Acquisition of 1000 kg of hydro-retainers: 125 families reached in the department of Huila.
- Acquisition of 606 nutritional blocks: 134 families reached in the department of Sucre.
- The 259 families reached were orientated on the use of hydro-retainers and nutritional blocks, as well as awareness sessions on crop protection and animal production in times of drought.
- A total of 259 families (777 people) were reached through this line.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 125,120

Targeted Persons: 1,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Feasibility study	1	1
Families that receive cash transfers	500	500

Progress Towards Outcome

- The following activities were carried out: 1. Induction and training in Cash Transfers for ENI volunteers and volunteers of the Huila and Sucre Branches. 2. Feasibility study for the characterization, prioritization and selection of volunteers. Registration and application of AccessRC. 3. Exercises of face-to-face workshops and remote monitoring.
- As of June 7, 2024, 500 families have claimed the cash transfers and 291 post-distribution interviews have been conducted.



Health

Budget: CHF 31,255

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of first aid teams and/or ambulances deployed	20	32
Number of people receiving self-care kits	2,000	2,000

Progress Towards Outcome

A total of 32 first aid teams and/or ambulances services were deployed, as follows:

- 14 deployments in Boyacá.
- 4 deployments in Santander.
- 14 deployments in Cundinamarca.

The 2000 self-care kits for first responders were distributed as follows:

- 300 kits in Boyacá
- 1000 kits in Cundinamarca
- 200 kits in Córdoba
- 200 kits in Huila
- 300 kits in Santander



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 158,094

Targeted Persons: 4,500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of water purification plants deployed	4	4
Litres of drinking water delivered through mobilization and operation of mobile Drinking Water Treatment Plants	3,600,000	6,514,020
Families receiving water storage and treatment kits	600	320
Families receiving two 5-litre jugs of drinking water	900	636



Percentage of families satisfied with access to water	80	-
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Progress Towards Outcome

As of June 3, 2024: 320 family water kits have been delivered, according to the following description:

- 100 kits delivered in Huila
- 150 kits delivered in Boyacá
- 70 kits delivered in Cundinamarca.

Additionally, 636 families have been reached with the delivery of two 5-litre jugs of drinking water in Huila and Córdoba.

As of June 10, 2024: 4 drinking water treatment plants were deployed, according to the following description:

- One (1) Water treatment plant in the Department of Boyaca (operation completed on May 9, 2024).
- One (1) Water treatment plant in the Department of Córdoba (operation completed on May 18, 2024).
- One (1) Water treatment plant in the Department of Santander (operation until June 30).
- One (1) Water treatment plant in the Department of Sucre (operation terminated on May 27, 2024).

As a result: 6,514,020 liters of drinking water have been delivered.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 745

Targeted Persons: 20

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of staff and volunteers sensitized on the PSEA policy and care routes.	20	-
Document formulated with the risk analysis for the protection of children within the framework of the operation	1	-

Progress Towards Outcome

As part of the operational changes, PGI actions will be included. Staff and volunteers in the PGI operation will receive virtual training on child protection and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Red Cross feedback channels will mention the Colombian Red Cross PSEA Policy to communities. Additionally, the risk analysis for child protection within IFRC-DREF operations will be updated during the operation's extension.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 2,483

Targeted Persons: 120,000

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people indirectly reached with key messages through social networks and institutional media	120,000	-
Number of audiovisual pieces elaborated	5	-



Progress Towards Outcome

The process of selecting the supplier for the design of the graphic pieces and video that will be disseminated on the water, sanitation and hygiene, livelihoods and health line is in progress.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 1,440

Targeted Persons: 120

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of community focus groups for feedback	18	-
Number of people participating in community focus groups and interviews for feedback	120	-

Progress Towards Outcome

As part of the operational changes, CEA actions will be included. The activities will involve active participation from community leaders and coordination with the Municipal Administration to ensure community engagement and decision-making. This approach aims to select suitable solutions for basic needs with quality and sustainability.

Additionally, the promotion of existing National Society feedback channels will be strengthened during these activities and community focus groups.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 7,904

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Monitoring visits	2	1

Progress Towards Outcome

- On April 19, 2024, a monitoring visit was made to the Drinking Water Treatment Plant in Duitama (Boyacá), one of the four plants installed as part of the IFRC-DREF response.

- The IM Surge Deployment was carried out and the following products were produced: 1. Dashboard of the emergency and response; 2. 3W information available in GO; 3. Infographics summary of the IFRC-DREF Plan; 4. Training in infographics/Powerbi and 3W filling in the GO platform.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 92,544

Targeted Persons: 0



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Induction workshop	1	1
Lessons learned + DREF workshop	1	-
Number of volunteers receiving uniforms	60	60

Progress Towards Outcome

- On March 22, the Induction Workshop was held with the National Society team and the prioritized Branches.
- To date, 60 uniforms have been delivered to the prioritized Sections.
- The lessons learned workshop and IFRC-DREF training will be held as part of the operational update.

About Support Services

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

Approximately 120 volunteers from the prioritized branches will be involved in the implementation of this IFRC-DREF Operation by supporting the activities in the field with total availability in the activities for which they are called and programmed.

The Colombian Red Cross Society has an insurance plan through the policyholder, the National Disaster Risk Management Unit (UNGRD), which is the first response agency that includes Civil Defense, Firefighters, and CRCS volunteers. The insurance covers CRCS volunteers through life and accident insurance through Law 782 of 2002 with Decree 2012 of 2003. This insurance is renewed periodically and the CRC receives the respective documentation.

Additionally, the staff directly supported by IFRC-DREF funding include:

- 1x National Coordinator with 100% dedication to the project, 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 this Fund.
- 1x CASH Coordinator with 100% dedication to the project, who will be responsible for managing the cash transfer line, coordinating the NITs and volunteers in carrying out the feasibility study, characterization, delivery, monitoring, and post-distribution of the CASH.
- 1x Accounting Assistant Personnel with 100% dedication to the project, who will be responsible for the financial records in the Financial Information System managed by the Colombian Red Cross Society, monthly reconciliations, review of budgets, and support in the consolidation of financial information.
- 1x National Administrative Assistant Staff with 100% dedication to the project, will be responsible for accompanying the legalization process and financial follow-up, and procurement management.
- 1x WASH Technician: Member of the National team in charge of carrying out the maintenance of the Water treatment plant, supporting the coordination of the NITs of WASH, and coordinating the deliveries of humanitarian assistance on the WASH line. This person will have 100% allocation per 3 months.
- 2x Local Administrative Assistants Technical staff contracted for the project in percentage and proportionally with the preparation hired per 2 months. They will support activities in the branches with 100% dedication to the project. Responsible for facilitating the technical and administrative development of the activities in their branches, accompanying the volunteers on a more constant basis.
- 9x NIT (national intervention team) delegates, one specialized in Livelihoods and one in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene with 100% dedication to the project.

Staff supporting the operation funded by own resources:

- 1x Disaster/Crisis Management Manager: Technical leader and strategic articulator with the internal and external actors involved in the humanitarian response, who provides the operation with implementation supervision. 20% dedication to the project.
- 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 with 30% dedication to the project.
- 1x Livelihoods Officer: Officer responsible for supporting the sustainable livelihoods and household income assistance component, in the technical, professional and operational aspects required according to the needs of the operation with 30% dedication to the project.



- 1x Professional accountant: Professional responsible for ensuring the orderly reporting of the financial and accounting status of the project, including the balance of income, expenses, and legalization of the operation's resources with 15% dedication to the project.
- 1x Project Portfolio Officer: Member of the Project team responsible for ensuring the correct formulation of the IFRC-DREF, the relationship with the Partner, and the verification that it is managed in compliance with the administrative, technical, and financial rules of the Colombian Red Cross Society with 15% dedication to the project.
- 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 validation of means of verification, and supporting the systematization of information obtained with 15% dedication to the project.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

1x Surge IM Officer will be deployed to support the evaluation phase and systematization of data per 1 month.

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 the contracting process and the National Society's quality management manual, and following 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 procurement plan that seeks access from the beginning of the intervention to the purchase of humanitarian assistance elements, according to their technical characteristics established by the Humanitarian Aid Standardization Manual of the National Disaster Risk Management System, focused 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 vehicles and equipment. However, to mobilize a large amount of material and due to the dynamics of the emergency area, it may eventually be necessary to hire and rent cargo vehicles.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Colombian Red Cross Society will have a Project Portfolio Officer and a PMER Officer to monitor the financial and technical execution of the IFRC-DREF Operation, through coordination with the implementing teams, monthly monitoring committees, data reporting, and validation of the means of verification, to categorize the state of progress of the activities, and the generation of internal alerts if deviations in the execution are identified that represent a compliance or reputational risk for the operation, and that require the adoption of measures and actions to remedy the delay in the activities.

Finally, monitoring visits will be carried out to the prioritized branches, with the objective of analyzing progress in the implementation of activities and the achievement of the expected result of the project, as well as identifying challenges, lessons learned, and unintended results obtained during its implementation. These visits will be led by the implementing team, in coordination to analyze progress in the implementation of activities and the achievement of the expected result of the project, as well as identification with the teams of the branches and in accompaniment with members of the IFRC Country Delegation for Colombia.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Institutional actions will be made visible through distinctive elements with the Colombian Red Cross Society emblem, which will facilitate the identification of the points available for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. These actions will be complemented by the collection of graphic material that will serve as inputs for the development of communication pieces that will be published on the social networks of the institution and the coordination spaces in which the review and validation of the processes developed at the humanitarian level are carried out. For this last aspect, the Colombian Red Cross Society Communications and Image Office will provide support. Finally, awareness-raising will be carried out with the prioritized communities, informing them about the implementation of the IFRC-DREF, as well as the actions and benefits of the assistance.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRCO025 - Colombian Red Cross Colombia: Droughts

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	358.387
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	39.251
Multi-purpose Cash	125.120
Health	31.255
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	158.094
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	745
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	2.483
Community Engagement and Accountability	1.440
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	100.448
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	7.904
National Society Strengthening	92.544
TOTAL BUDGET	458.836

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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

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

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

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