

SIMPLIFIED EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

Colombia, South America | Droughts



Delivery of drinking water by the Colombian Red Cross Society to communities in Alta Guajira, Colombia.

S EAP No: sEAP2023CO01	Total Budget CHF 216,996	Readiness: CHF 54,010	Prepositioning: CHF 48,846	Early Action: CHF 114,140
Targeted population: 2,400 people	S EAP Approved: 19/11/2024	EAP implementation period: 2 years	Lead time: 3 months	Operational timeframe: 3 months

Priority geographical areas: Communities located in the Caribbean and/or Andean region of Colombia.

RISK ANALYSIS

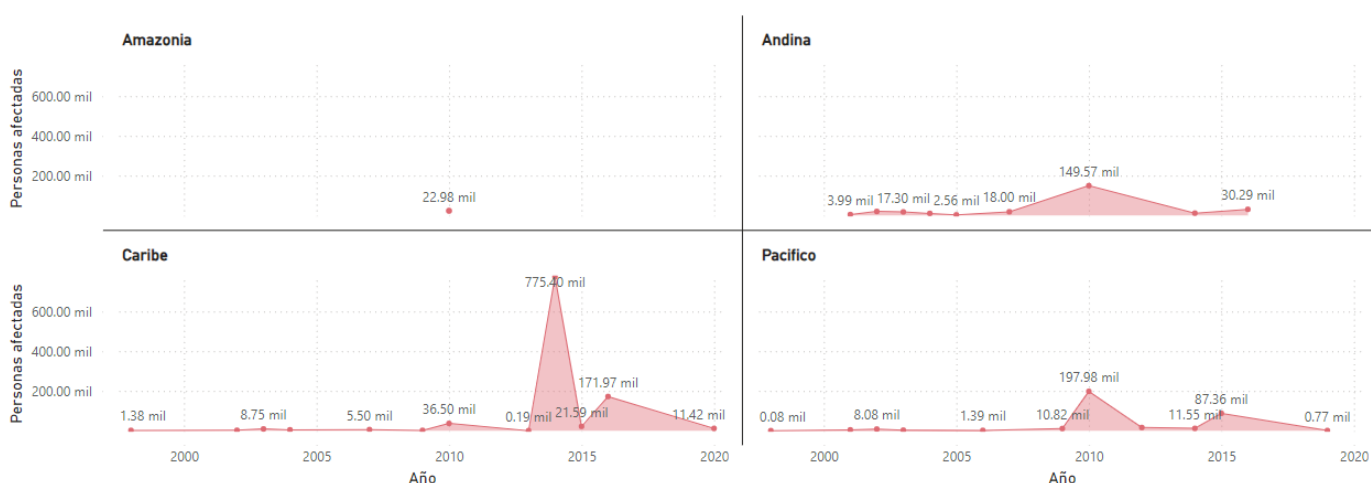
Priority threat and its historical impact.

Much of the Colombian territory is located within the equatorial zone, which places the country under the direct influence of the Intertropical Convergence Zone that influences the variation and distribution of rainfall, cloudiness, and other climatic variables (IDEAM, 2018). In Colombia there are several types of droughts: meteorological, agricultural (IDEAM, 2012) and hydrological (UNGRD, 2017), each with specific impacts on crops, water supply and water resources.

The drought represents the second threat with the highest incidence of affected people in Colombia, for the period 1914-2018, 3.236.670 people were affected. This number is only below the floods, which have affected more than 20 million people in the same period (DesInventar, 2024). The effects of drought vary by region and can be difficult to determine because what is considered drought in one place may not be drought in another (UNGRD, 2019).

In particular, for the period 1998-2021 (see Figure 1 and Table 1), 25 departments (at least 565 municipalities) have been affected on at least one occasion due to dry seasons (IDEAM, 2022).

Figure 1. Regional historical impact of drought in Colombia from 1998 to 2021*



*Prepared from data on events recorded between 1998 and 2021 National Directorate for Disaster Prevention and Response.

Table 1. Historical impact by regions and departments of drought in Colombia from 1998 to 2021*.			
Year	Regions	Departments	Affected People
1998	Andean, Caribbean and Pacific	Boyacá, Huila, Bolívar, Cesar, Córdoba, La Guajira, Magdalena, San Andrés Archipelago, Sucre and Valle del Cauca	1,459
1999	Andean	Santander	No data
2001	Andean and Pacific	Boyacá, Cauca, Cundinamarca and Santander	8,045
2002	Andean, Caribbean and Pacific	Boyacá, Cauca, Cesar, La Guajira, Nariño and Santander	29,761
2003	Andean, Caribbean and Pacific	Boyacá, Cauca, Córdoba and La Guajira	28,555
2004	Andean and Caribbean	Boyacá, Córdoba, La Guajira, Magdalena and Santander	14,141
2005	Andean	Boyacá	2,555
2006	Caribbean & Pacific	Cauca and La Guajira	1,388
2007	Andean, Caribbean and Pacific	Boyacá, Chocó and La Guajira	23,5

2009	Caribbean & Pacific	Cauca, La Guajira and Nariño	12,315
2010	Amazon, Andean, Caribbean and Pacific	Atlántico, Bolívar, Boyacá, Caquetá, Cauca, Cesar, Chocó, Cundinamarca, Huila, La Guajira, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Risaralda, Santander, Sucre, Tolima and Valle del Cauca	407,023
2012	Andean and Pacific	Cauca, Cundinamarca, Nariño, Risaralda, Santander and Tolima	15,772
2013	Andean, Caribbean and Pacific	Boyacá, Cesar, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, Risaralda, Santander and Tolima	185
2014	Andean, Caribbean, Orinoquia and Pacific	Atlántico, Bolívar, Casanare, Cauca, Cesar, Córdoba, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Santander, Sucre, Tolima and Valle del Cauca	797,978
2015	Andean, Caribbean and Pacific	Atlántico, Bolívar, Cauca, Cesar, Cundinamarca, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, Quindío, Risaralda, Tolima and Valle del Cauca	108,948
2016	Amazon, Andean, Caribbean and Pacific	Atlántico, Bolívar, Boyacá, Caldas, Caquetá, Cauca, Cesar, Córdoba, Cundinamarca, Guaviare, Huila, La Guajira, Magdalena, Nariño, Norte de Santander, Risaralda, Archipelago of San Andrés, Santander, Sucre, Tolima and Valle del Cauca	202,26
2018	Andean and Caribbean	Bolívar, Santander and Sucre	No data
2019	Andean, Caribbean and Pacific	Bolívar, Cauca, Córdoba, La Guajira, Magdalena, Santander and Sucre	768
2020	Andean and Caribbean	Antioquia, Bolívar, Boyacá, Cesar, Córdoba, La Guajira, Risaralda, Santander, Sucre and Tolima	11,421

**Prepared from data on events recorded between 1998 and 2021 National Directorate for Disaster Prevention and Response*

The intensity and geographical distribution of droughts are closely related to the occurrence of the El Niño phenomenon; however, drought affects the country practically every year, affecting areas within the national territory (IDEAM 2012), associated with the less rainy seasons.

As for the territory, we can mention major events that occurred in 1997-1998, 2014-2016 and 2023-2024 that caused record temperatures, forest fires, water shortages and caused significant damage to agriculture and livestock. In general, as Figure 1 shows, the Caribbean region has the largest amount of population affected by droughts, between the period 1998-2021, followed by the Andean region. By 2023-2024, 93% of the municipalities in the department of La Guajira were affected by water shortages.

Priority risks that must be addressed through early actions and their relationship to the threat.

The effects caused by droughts impact communities in different areas, such as the impact on their livelihoods, access to drinking water, difficulties in carrying out their hygiene activities, and the impact on navigation in rivers, among others.

In Colombia, among the main risks associated with the threat of drought are:

- **Loss of livelihoods:** Associated with the loss of crop production and effects on livestock, among others, such as fish and poultry, with negative economic consequences for families dependent on small and medium-scale agricultural activities.

- Affectation to basic needs: Associated with the drought, there is an increase in the family basket, as well as other impacts on the family economy, a decrease in livelihoods, health, education, among others, which causes people and families to be unable to meet their basic needs and leads to the search for extreme survival strategies.
- Affecting safe water supply, basic sanitation and hygiene: Communities have very limited access to safe water due to lack of rainfall, community aqueducts cannot meet the demand for water and communities have to access other unsafe water sources, which causes gastrointestinal problems, outbreaks on their skin, and the spread of vectors, among others. This affects the fact that sanitation systems do not work properly, and that people have difficulties in the preparation of the food, hydration and hygiene activities that they would normally carry out.

Figure 2. Drought risk index in Colombia.

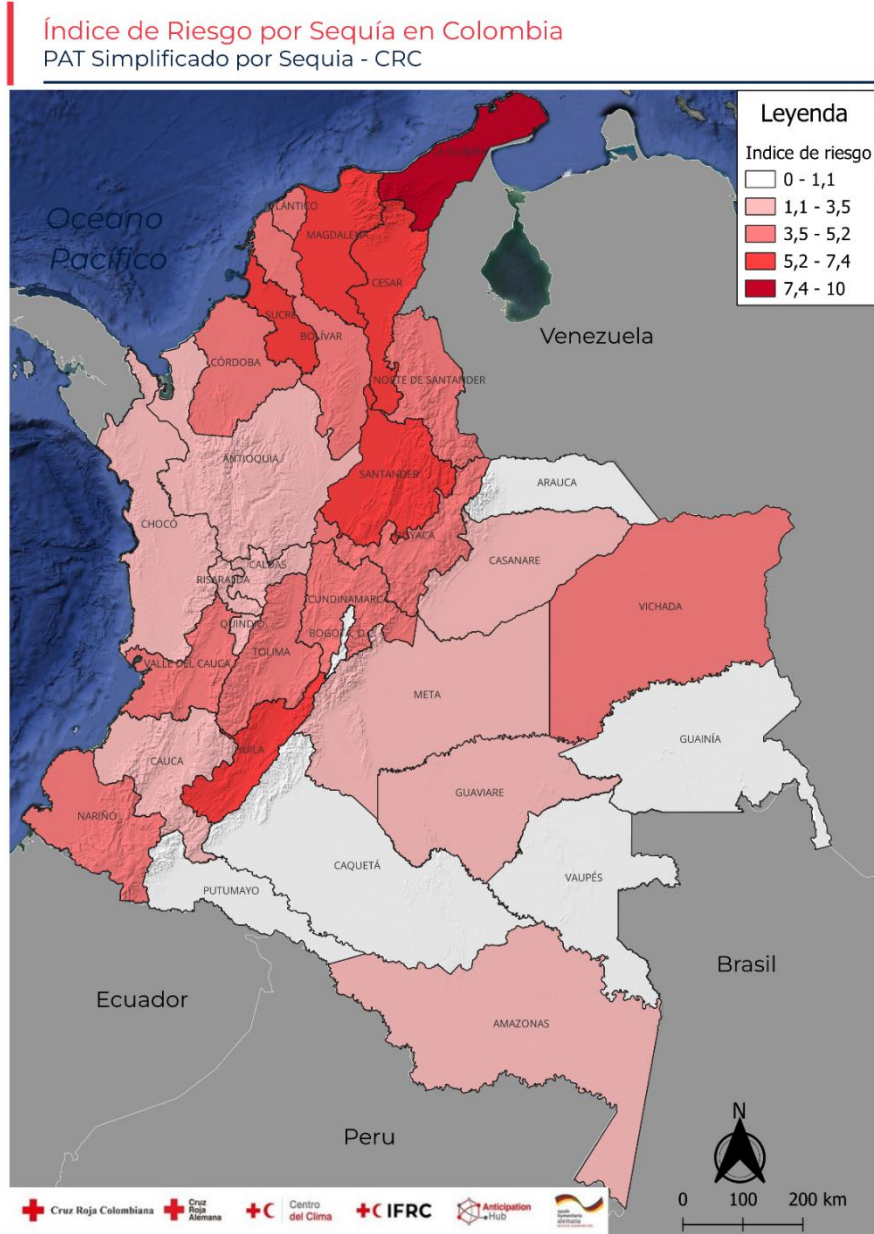
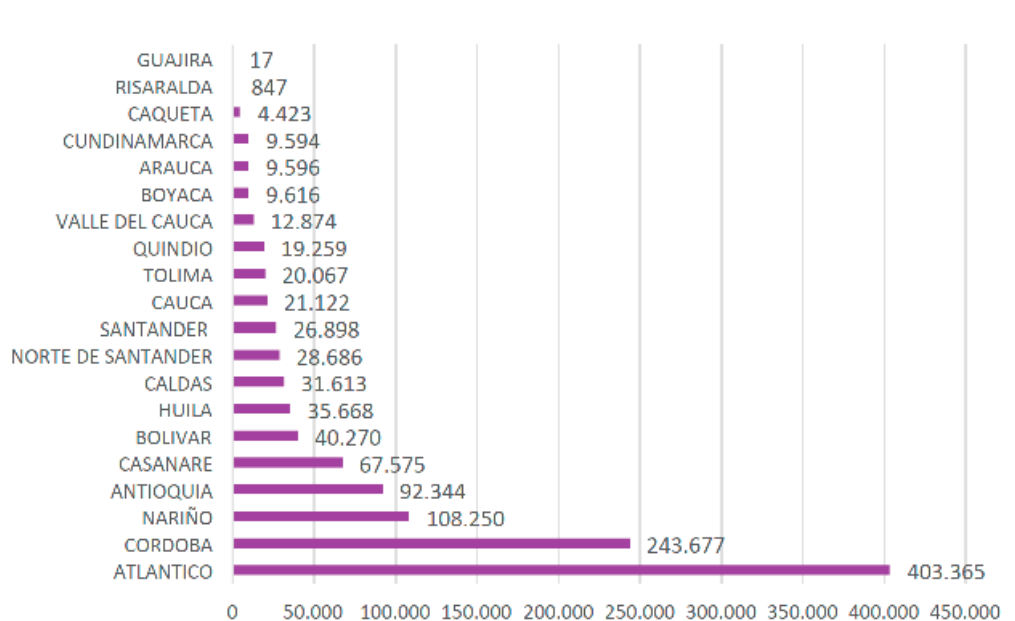


Figure 3. Hectares affected in the agricultural sector by department in Colombia, 2015.




EARLY ACTION INTERVENTION

General objective of the intervention	To reduce the impacts generated by the meteorological drought on vulnerable populations with early actions implemented by the Colombian Red Cross.
Potential high-risk geographical areas to which the EAP would be targeted.	Municipalities in the Caribbean and Andean regions, which have been historically prone to meteorological droughts.
Who will be helped by this operation and what criteria will be used for its selection?	<p>Inclusion criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Individuals and families susceptible to being affected by the shortage of water resources, limited access to water for human consumption. ii. Individuals and families producing (agriculture and livestock) on a medium and small scale, who: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are carrying out an agricultural activity as their main source of income and subsistence and with a maximum of 5 productive hectares. • Have a livestock activity as their main source of income and subsistence and with a maximum of 5 head of livestock. iii. Individuals and families in areas susceptible to the proliferation of disease-transmitting vectors. <p>General prioritization criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Households with children up to 5 years old. • Households with older adults and/or with disabilities. • Single-parent households with school-age children (12 years old). • Households without regular income.


Activation Statement	<p>The criteria for activation will be determined by the official reports of the IDEAM, through the Monitoring of drought index (see link), or the Climate Prediction Bulletin (see link) where the prospective information of the monthly precipitation for the following 3 months, and the forecast of the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) are described (see link).</p> <p>In accordance with the above, this EAP will be activated when IDEAM reports a precipitation forecast (three months) with a probability of 50% that rainfall will be below normal and that the SPI forecast indicates a moderate drought with values equal or below -1.4, for the same forecasted months, in the departments of the Caribbean and Andean region.</p> <p>The sources of the IDEAM that will be subject to monitoring for the declaration of activation of the EAP are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoreo de índices de sequía • Informes de Predicción Climática • Pronóstico del Índice Estandarizado de Precipitación
Next Steps–For National Societies that intend to develop a full EAP (Optional).	<p>Determine the Seasonal Precipitation Forecasting Skill and the Standardized Precipitation Index Forecasting Skill in coordination with the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) and the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and generate agreement with these entities to guarantee access to information.</p> <p>Define the levels of impact based on the history of drought events associated with the El Niño Phenomenon in the prioritized areas and identify other Early Actions that can be implemented according to the capacities, institutional experience and needs identified in the population.</p>

PLANNED INTERVENTION


	Livelihoods	Budget	CHF 30,219	
		Target People	600	
Indicator:	Number of farming producers (medium and small-scale) reached with inputs for the protection of their livelihoods.	Goal:	600 people/ 200 families of producers	
Readiness Activities:		1. Design and printing of key messages and educational materials for the protection of agricultural livelihoods and appropriate use of inputs to be delivered, involving the community in the design and adjusting to needs and information channels.		
Prepositioning Activities:		1. Purchase of nutritional blocks for livestock (bovine, ovine, caprine, equine, buffalo and others) (400 units, 2 blocks per family). 2. Purchase of hydro-retainers for absorption, retention and subsequent release of water in crops (600 units, 3 kilos per family).		

	3. Distribution of key messages and training materials for livelihood protection to the Branches.
Prioritized Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivery of nutritional blocks and hydro-retainers to 200 producer families (with a minimum life span of 6 months). 2. Training of agricultural and livestock producers in the use of inputs (hydro-retainers and nutritional blocks) (free of charge, included in distribution). 3. Follow-up and monitoring.

* The metric used to calculate the number of people per family is extracted from the last national census (2018) where 23.2% of households in Colombia are made up of 3 people, this being the highest percentage.

	Multipurpose Cash	Budget	CHF 46,587	
		Target People	900	
Indicator:	Number of people supported with multipurpose cash transfers to meet their basic needs.	Goal:	900 people/ 300 families	
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update of feasibility/market study, and mapping of Financial Service Providers (FSPs) for the CVA (Including the deployment of an ENI). 2. Updating of volunteer training for CVA registration and distribution. 			
Prepositioning Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepositioning of the value of transfers and bank costs for 300 families (free of charge, the bank commission becomes effective in Early Action). 			
Prioritized Early Action:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identification and characterization of families. 2. Delivery of 300 unconditional multipurpose cash transfers¹ (includes the FPS commission, 1% of the MMT) and application of exit surveys, with a CEA approach (Months 1 and 2). 3. Awareness days on the use of the use of cash transfers (activation), with CEA approach (free of charge, included in the delivery of MMT). 4. Post-distribution survey of 60% of the beneficiary families (Month 3). 			


* The metric used to calculate the number of people per family is extracted from the last national census (2018) where 23.2% of households in Colombia are made up of 3 people, this being the highest percentage.

	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene.	Budget	CHF 58,912	
		Target People	900	
Indicator:	Number of people who receive kits for water treatment and storage	Goal:	900 people/300 families	
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene workshops for volunteers. 			


¹ The amount for each transfer per family is 480,000 COP.


	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Preventive and corrective maintenance of drinking water treatment plants.
Prepositioning Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase of 300 family kits for water treatment and storage (1 filter, 1 50L tank, 2 Jerrycan 20L, soft bristle hand brush and cotton cloth for pre/filtering 50x50 cm).
Prioritized Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Diagnostics of water sources for prioritized communities, including laboratory tests (water quality of community water sources). Delivery of family kits for water treatment and storage (food, lodging and support for volunteers). Mobilization and operation of water treatment plant. 1 Plant with 30,000 L capacity/ day x 30 days. Goal: 900,000 L/ day Sensitization and training of communities in water, sanitation and hygiene, including the management and maintenance of filters, treatment of water at the household level and its safe storage and addressing the risk of vector-borne diseases.


* The metric used to calculate the number of people per family is extracted from the last national census (2018) where 23.2% of households in Colombia are made up of 3 people, this being the highest percentage.

	Community Participation and Accountability	Budget	CHF 5,859
		Target People	480
Indicator:	Number of people in the accountability process who have clear information about the intervention.	Goal:	480 people
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Context analysis and identification of key actors in the communities. Establish a mechanism for participation and accountability. Involve community leaders in building key messages and teaching materials (including in other sectors) 		
Prepositioning Activities:	N/A		
Prioritized Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of the mechanism throughout the intervention. 		

ENABLING APPROACHES

	Partnership and Coordination	Budget	CHF 3,037	
		Target People	30	
Indicator:	Number of coordination meetings with local actors	Goal:	30 people	
Readiness Activities:	1. Initial coordination meeting with Departmental Disaster Risk Management Councils (CDGRD) and Municipal Disaster Risk Management Councils (CMGRD) to socialize the Drought EAP, including agreements to facilitate Early Actions.			
Prepositioning Activities:	N/A			
Prioritized Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor and coordinate with local entities, including Territorial Disaster Risk Management Councils (CTGRD). 2. Closing meeting for reporting. 			

	Secretariat Services	Budget	CHF 16,880	
		Target People		
Readiness Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support to the NS in the implementation of Readiness activities and coordination of internal and external partners 2. Monitoring visit 3. EAP visibility, communication material 			
Prepositioning Activities:				
Prioritized Early Actions:	1. Monitoring visit			

	Strengthening the National Society	Budget	CHF 55,502	
		Target People	60	
Indicator:	Number of volunteers and staff involved in early action	Goal:	60 people	

Readines Activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Socialization meeting and initial coordination of the Droughts. 2. Anticipatory Action Course for leaders from the Andean and Caribbean regions (one workshop per region). 3. Simulation of the EAP (Year 2). 4. Lesson learned workshop design planning (no funding required).
Preparation activities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase of uniforms and visibility for volunteers and staff
Prioritized Early Actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Office and warehouse costs at strategic points. 2. Operation Coordinator 3. Administrative Assistant 4. Accounting Assistant 5. Lessons Learned Workshop

CONDITIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING EARLY ACTION

<p>Experience and/or capacity to implement early actions.</p> <p>Minimum assumptions or conditions necessary to comply with early actions (including problems to be solved)</p>	<p>The Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) has a presence throughout the country through 31 branches and has more than 20,000 volunteers.</p> <p>Since 2016, the Colombian Red Cross has had a structured Livelihoods program approved by the National Board of Directors. This program establishes clear objectives, indicators, goals and lines of action for the fulfilment of the objectives. It has a permanent position or position financed with its own resources and the support of volunteers trained and certified in the subject through the Federation's Livelihood Center.</p> <p>Multiple livelihood projects have been implemented with vulnerable populations, migrants and those affected by disasters of natural origin such as tropical cyclones, floods and droughts. For example, in the project "Mitigation of the humanitarian consequences associated with the El Niño phenomenon 2016 - 2018 in the region of La Guajira", the implementation of agricultural demonstration models, rehabilitation of water wells and sanitation and hygiene issues was supported, reaching more than 9000 people.</p> <p>In particular, the NS has previous experience in the distribution of hydro-retainers, including the purchase of these through agreements with suppliers (purchase on demand), training in the use of hydro-retainers for beneficiaries (the use is very simple, known and applied by the producers) and the delivery of materials with key messages (explanatory brochure).</p> <p>The NS has previous experience in the distribution of nutritional blocks. Although these blocks have an expiration date of 6 to 12 months, determined by the Colombian State, for this EAP the blocks are purchased as part of the pre-positioning actions, based on agreements with suppliers (purchase on demand), ensuring that the supplier maintains these inputs (for 2 years) and they are delivered to the beneficiaries at activation with the minimum useful life (6 months).</p> <p>This Livelihoods Program is in charge of the implementation of the Multipurpose Cash Transfers (MCT), developed with vulnerable populations, migrants and population</p>
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affected by disasters of natural origin. These activities have been implemented in response and anticipatory action operations, as in the case of the DREF Floods, Imminent DREF Nevado del Ruiz Volcano, and DREF Droughts. The NS has agreements with local Financial Service Providers (FSPs), with whom it has worked on several operations. In addition, there is experience with the self-registration tool (Access RC) as an option to reduce the time it takes for families to register.

The CRCS has experience in the implementation of community projects in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Line, to attend to seasons of less rainfall, in regions where communities with high vulnerability have problems with the shortage of drinking water. The CRCS has carried out interventions in water treatment, the delivery of water filters, bicycles for transporting water drums, improvement of underground wells, training and awareness-raising in the intervened communities.

The CRCS currently has the National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Program made up of three professionals, with an established methodology to formulate and develop community projects in an articulated and coordinated manner with the communities and their Branches; it conducts workshops to strengthen and improve the capacities of volunteers and collaborators of the Colombian Red Cross Society.

In order to comply with the Anticipatory Actions in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Line, it is necessary to carry out an initial diagnosis of the community aqueducts and the water sources of the communities to be prioritized. This is done in conjunction with community leaders implementing a Baseline established by Program; support and articulation with local government entities will be sought. In addition, community work will be developed to define the main alternative water sources and how to safely store water to meet basic needs in the season of greatest drought.

The worst scenarios that can occur are that most of the water sources in the communities have a significant decrease in their tributaries or dry up completely, which causes people to seek to supply themselves with unsafe or contaminated water. In addition, they will not have the capacity to irrigate their crops and to sustain their agronomic activities. Large-scale storage of water resources would be a challenge for communities and government entities. The supply of drinking water by means of tank cars is quite expensive and this service is prioritized for urban areas.

The main condition for the development of Early Actions in Livelihoods is the effective identification of beneficiaries most exposed to the consequences of water deficit in an articulated manner with the Municipal Councils of Disaster Risk Management (CMGRD) and the Secretariats of Agriculture of the prioritized municipalities. According to their main productive unit, the delivery of the nutritional block inputs will be made for livestock production units, especially with cattle, goats, sheep and hydro-retainers for agricultural production units with a vocation for subsistence agriculture.

The problems identified are related to the availability of inputs in the region, which can be reduced considering that many producers can acquire the same inputs with their own resources or through projects. However, this is solvable to the extent that there are suppliers in other regions, and in the case of nutritional blocks, these can also be made in an artisanal way, with locally available ingredients and components.

Regarding the delivery of Cash Transfers, the main enabling milestone is the feasibility study proposed as an activity and the characterization of the participating families in the pre-positioning phase.

There are already previous agreements with financial operators - FPS force and with which the NS has worked on previous projects.

<p>Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, government agencies and others consulted for this simplified EAP</p>	<p>German Red Cross, Central America Cluster: They contribute with technical and methodological guidelines for the preparation of this Simplified Early Action Protocol, taking into account that it is the first of its kind formulated by the Colombian Red Cross.</p> <p>IFRC Colombia Delegation: They have supported the National Society’s Disaster Risk Management team on the development of this Simplified Early Action protocol, though technical and methodological advice and guidelines.</p> <p>IFRC Climate Centre: Contributes technical support for threat analysis, forecasts, thresholds and trigger mechanisms.</p> <p>Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM): Provides data and information on past events, as well as forecasts on rainfall deficits and territories susceptible to water shortages in Colombia.</p> <p>National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD): They provide reports and technical information on past events, as well as for the understanding of the drought threat in Colombia.</p> <p>Territorial Disaster Risk Management Councils (CTGRD): Structures in the country responsible for coordinating efforts and resources for disaster response, with which actions will be coordinated at the territorial level. The SN is part of the CTGRD by law.</p> <p>National Risk Management System (SNGRD): Structure in the country at the national level in charge of coordinating efforts and resources for disaster response, with which actions will be coordinated at the national level. The SN is part of the SNGRD by law.</p> <p>National Clusters and Local Coordination Teams (in territories): Teams made up of United Nations Agencies (FA, WFP, others) and other humanitarian organizations, with which actions will be coordinated at the territorial and national levels.</p>
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BUDGET



Early Action Protocol Summary

sEAP2023CO01 - Colombian Red Cross Society
Drought

<u>Operating Budget</u>	Readiness	Pre-Pos Stock	Early Action	TOTAL
Planned Operations	13,692	43,784	84,100	141,577
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	0	0	0
Livelihoods	1,392	19,488	9,339	30,219
Multi-purpose Cash	4,543	0	42,044	46,587
Health	0	0	0	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	7,466	24,297	27,149	58,912
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0	0	0	0
Education	0	0	0	0
Migration	0	0	0	0
Risk Red., Climate Adapt. and Recovery	0	0	0	0
Community Engagement and Accountabi	291	0	5,568	5,859
Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0
Enabling Approaches	40,318	5,062	30,039	75,419
Coordination and Partnerships	2,025	0	1,012	3,037
Secretariat Services	14,005	0	2,876	16,880
National Society Strengthening	24,288	5,062	26,152	55,502
TOTAL BUDGET	54,010	48,846	114,140	216,996

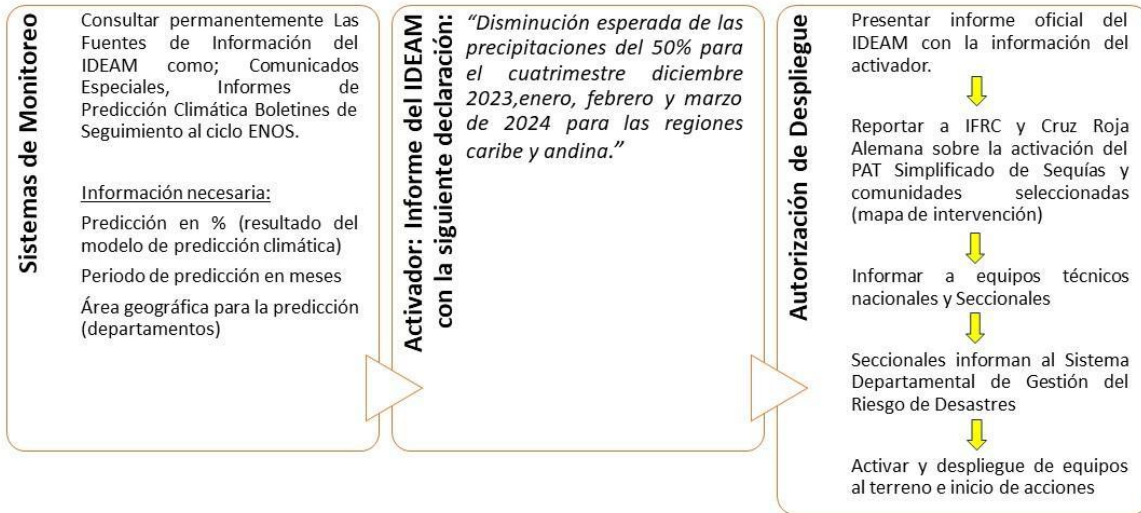
all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Contact Information

For more information, especially related to the Simplified EAP, please contact:

- **National Society:** Juvenal Francisco Moreno Carrillo, National Executive Director, francisco.moreno@cruzrojacolombiana.org, +57 3102943530.
- **IFRC Project Manager:** Edwin Armenta, programs and Operations Coordinator, edwin.armenta@ifrc.org, +57 31635505846
- **IFRC DREF Regional Focal Point:** Santiago Rodriguez, DREF Senior Officer, santiago.rodriguez@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Geneva Focal Point:** Malika Noisette, DREF Senior Officer AA, malika.noisette@ifrc.org

Mecanismo de Activación del PAT Simplificado para Sequías



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Anticipation Hub

