

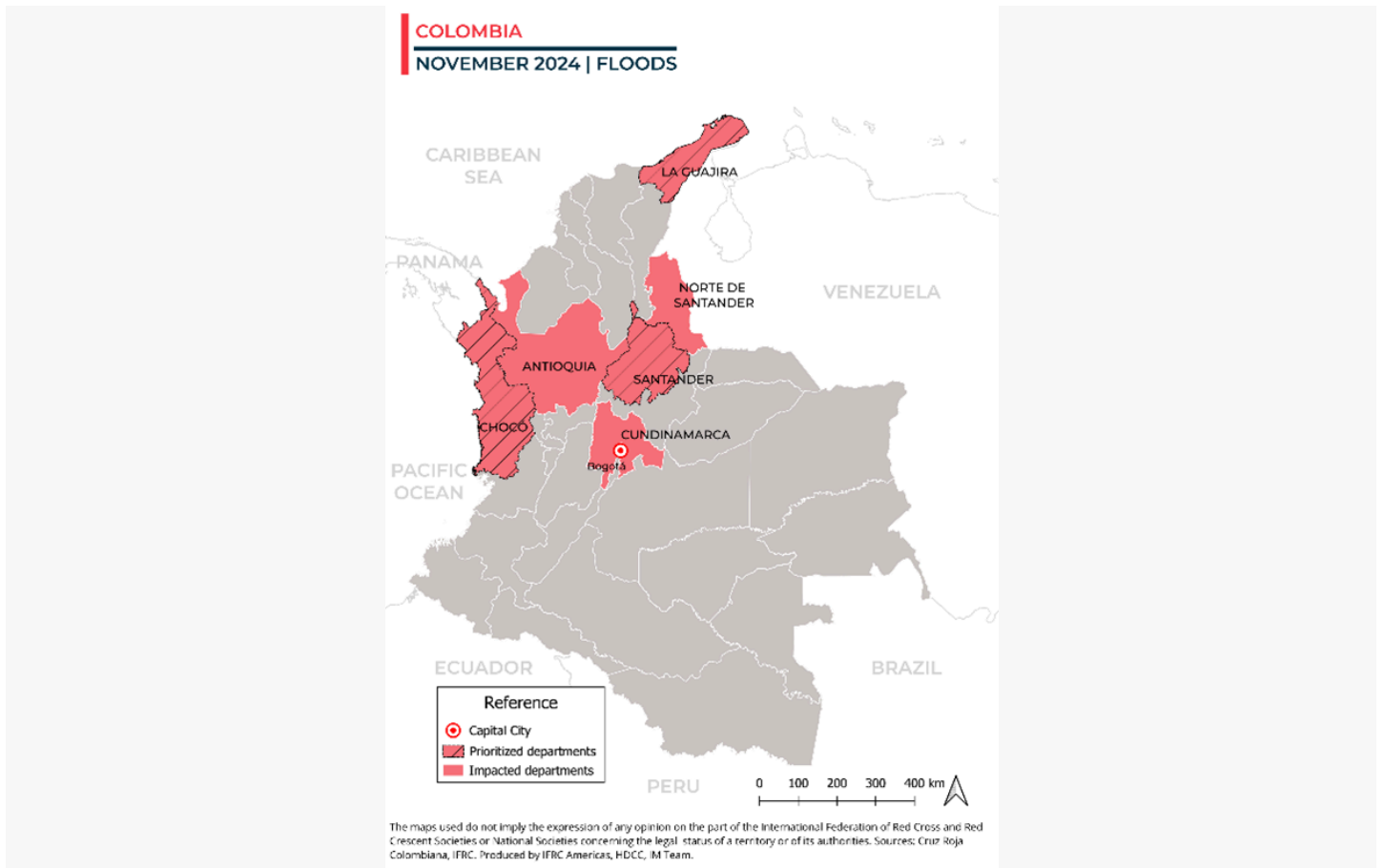


Humanitarian Assistance in La Guajira, Riohacha. Colombian Red Cross and IFRC.

Appeal: MDRCO028	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 450,016	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: FL-2024-000214-COL	People Affected: 254,253 people	People Targeted: 8,000 people	People Assisted: 14,934 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 21-11-2024	Operational End Date: 31-05-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Targeted Regions: Choco, La Guajira, Santander			

The major donors and partners of the IFRC-DREF include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, China, Czech, Canada, Denmark, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Malta, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and the Netherlands, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez Foundation, and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the National Society, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



Flood crisis categorization map in Colombia, developed by the IFRC.

Date of event

13-11-2024

What happened, where and when?

The DREF Floods operation was formulated in the context of the second rainy season in Colombia between September and November 2024, when rainfall was constant and prolonged, especially in the Andean region, influenced by the La Niña phenomenon, that's extended into the first quarter of 2025.

Timeline:

- 8 November 2024: Governor's Office of La Guajira issued Decree No. 0907 of 2024, declaring public calamity in the department.
- 8 November 2024: Mayor's Office of San Vicente de Chucurí municipality in the department of Santander issued Decree No. 0240 of 2024, declaring public calamity in the municipality following torrential floods.
- 9 November 2024: Governor of Chocó issued Decree No. 0282 of 2024, declaring public calamity in the department.
- 10 November 2024: The President of the Republic convened a Unified Command Post (PMU), announced the decision to declare a National Disaster Situation due to climate variability.
- 11 November 2024: The Disaster Risk Manager of the department of Santander, convened a Unified Command Post (PMU), announced public calamity in 56 municipalities.
- 13 November 2024: The President of the Republic issued Decree No. 1372 of 2024, declaring a National Disaster Situation.

The second rainy season in Colombia extends between September and November, where rainfall is more prolonged and constant, especially in the Andean region. In coastal areas, rainfall is also frequent, varying in intensity according to the region, influenced by climatic factors such as altitude, proximity to the sea and climatic phenomena such as La Niña. Additionally, during this season, the Caribbean region experienced the Tropical Cyclone Season, which may aggravate risk scenarios for the population. According to IDEAM, This season was exacerbated by the presence of the ENSO La Niña, altering conditions in the Caribbean, Pacific and Andean regions. Preliminary data from the National Risk Management Unit (UNGRD) indicated that during the last quarter of this period more than 250

thousand people were affected by adverse events derived from heavy rains. So far, the departments of Chocó, Antioquia, Santander, La Guajira and Cundinamarca had been significantly affected, aggravating the conditions of food security, safe access to drinking water, health and housing; the department of Chocó was the most affected.

In particular, the Governor's Office of Chocó reported that, due to the effects of the rainy season, at least 27 municipalities were in an emergency situation, caused by heavy rains and the collapse of three river basins - Alto y Medio Baudó, the Atrato river basin and the San Juan river basin - (PMU Chocó). The department of La Guajira had been strongly impacted by the passage of Hurricane Rafael, as heavy rainfall caused flooding in the municipalities of Uribia, Riohacha, Maicao, Manure and Dibulla (PMU La Guajira). It is important to note that both departments have limited resources that difficult adequate and immediate attention to all the victims, which is aggravated by the needs in the rest of the territory.

Meanwhile, in the department of Santander, the Las Cruces stream rose, caused a torrential flood in the municipality of San Vicente de Chucurí, where five houses have collapsed, fifteen houses have been affected, four bridges and other tertiary roads collapsed, the infrastructure of the municipal aqueduct had been affected, one person died and two people were missing (PMU Santander). Due to the increased rains in the department of Norte de Santander, the Disaster Risk Management Office declared maximum alert in 20 municipalities, where landslides, floods, damage to crops and household goods occurred. In Antioquia, 87 municipalities were on alert for landslides and 9 municipalities had been affected by floods. In addition, the District Institute for Risk Management and Climate Change (IDIGER) of Bogota reported the occurrence of 56 events, in relation to the heavy rains that occurred in the capital of the country, highlighting 16 floods, 23 reports of damage to utility networks, 3 situations due to mass movements, among others.

Therefore, the Colombian Red Cross Society, with the support of the IFRC Delegation in Colombia, developed the DREF Floods project as a rapid, efficient, and transparent response to deliver funds directly to affected people at the community level.



Delivery of humanitarian aid. La Guajira.



Delivery of WASH kits. Chocó.



Delivery of humanitarian aid. Chocó.



Community guidance on WASH kits.
Santander

Scope and Scale

The risk scenarios identified that affected several regions of the country were: floods, mass movements, torrential floods, thunderstorms and hailstorms. IDEAM reported that more than 75% of the country's municipalities were at risk due to rains. The most serious situation was in the department of Chocó, where more than 80% of the department was affected by flooding, due to the collapse of water sources as a result of the heavy rains, with the aggravating factor that there was also a restriction to mobility in the department due to the armed strike that took place in the area. On the other hand, the effects left by tropical storm Rafael after its passage through the Colombian Caribbean generated significant damages in the department of La Guajira, which is added to the families affected by the strong winter wave.

Additionally, the IDEAM reported that at least 20 departments of the country were under Red Alert due to landslides, where Antioquia, Chocó and Santander top the list regarding people affected and the department of Cundinamarca had at least 8 municipalities under Red Alert and 32 municipalities under Orange Alert. The increase of precipitation continue during the next quarter, which increased the number of reported damages in the country.

As of 12 November 2024, according to the National Consolidated Report of the UNGRD more than 56 thousand families had been affected in the country, with a total of 254,253 people affected across 27 of the 32 departments of the country, in a total of 192 municipalities with the highest number of damages occurring during the last week of November.

Summary of the affected departments and people in need

DEPARTAMENT	FAMILIES	PEOPLE
CUNDINAMARCA	414	1,080
CHOCO	40,675	199,870
LA GUAJIRA	6,054	22,493
VALLE DEL CAUCA	77	327
CAUCA	51	221
HUILA	36	152
CALDAS	375	1,435
NORTE DE SANTANDER	18	90
ANTIOQUIA	1,092	4,353
SANTANDER	533	2,447
RISARALDA	48	200
MAGDALENA	595	2.381
BOLIVAR	2,793	3,636
NARIÑO	546	1,724
ATLANTICO	2,384	9,335
QUINDIO	33	43
CORDOBA	65	165
CASANARE	15	60
BOYACA	50	180
AMAZONAS	535	2,640
SUCRE	60	290
CESAR	0	0
CAQUETA	16	84
SAN ANDRES	250	1,000
META	3	15
TOLIMA	8	32
ARAUCA	0	0
Total	56,726	254,253

Source: UNGRD, 12 November 2024

Due to the magnitude of the floods, the extent and local capacities among the departments mentioned above, the departments that reported the most damage and people in need during this season were Choco (199,870 people), La Guajira (22,493 people) and Santander (2,447 people), which represented at least 224,810 people with the greatest needs. The department of Antioquia was also severely affected, but some needs have already been covered with local capacities.

The municipalities that reported the greatest damage in these departments were:

- Chocó: Alto Baudó, Atrato, Bagadó, Bahía Solano, Bajo Baudó, Bojayá, Carmen del Darién, Litoral de San Juan, itsmina, Juradó, Medio Atrato, Rio Quito, Riosucio, Nóvita, Unguía, Lloró, El Cantón de San Pablo, Nuquí, Medio San Juan.
- La Guajira: Manaure, Maicao, Riohacha, Uribia, Dibulla.
- Santander: San Vicente de Chucurí.

In addition to the above, it is important to mention that the department of Chocó is part of one of the poorest regions in Colombia, with the greatest social inequalities, food insecurity, lack of resources and presence of several irregular armed groups.

Historically, due to its topographical characteristics and hydrometeorological regime, Colombia has large areas susceptible to flooding. During November and December, an increase in rainfall of over 60% across much of the country was reported by IDEAM, with higher levels in the Caribbean region and central Andean region. Among the population mainly affected were families located in rural areas and areas of difficult access, whose livelihoods are based on agricultural sources; families in a situation of multiple affectation, which hinders their access to basic needs and access to assistance and health services for the elderly and people with mobility limitations; as well as families located in areas of informal urbanization and/or located in risk areas, affectation and loss of social infrastructure was identified. In addition to the above, this emergency was aggravated in the Colombian Caribbean region because of the hurricane season.



Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. PMU conclusions in San Vicente de Chucurí, Santander	https://caracol.com.co/2024/11/10/conclusiones-del-pmu-en-san-vicente-de-chucuri/
2. Reports, Rainy season 2024, UNGRD	http://201.130.16.28:8080/HOME/HOME#
3. Decree No. 1372 of 2024, declaring a National Disaster Situation	https://www.presidencia.gov.co/Documents/241113-Decreto-1372-13-de-noviembre-2024.pdf
4. Decree No. 0907 of 2024, declaring public calamity in La Guajira department	https://www.laguajira.gov.co/Prensa/SaladePrensa/Paginas/gobernacion-declara-calamidad-publica-ante-emergencia-invernal-y-paso-de-la-tormenta-tropical-rafael.aspx
5. Decree No. 0282 of 2024, declaring public calamity in the Chocó department	https://www.choco.gov.co/normatividad/decreto-no-0282-de-2024--declaracion-de-calamidad
6. Daily Technical Report on Hydrometeorological Conditions, Warnings and Forecasts (ITD)	https://www.ideam.gov.co/sala-de-prensa/boletines/ultimo/Informe-T%C3%A9cnico-Diario-de-Condiciones-Hidrometeorol%C3%B3gicas.-Alertas-y-Pron%C3%B3sticos-(ITD)
7. Short-, medium- and long-term climate prediction report	https://www.ideam.gov.co/sala-de-prensa/boletines/Informe-de-predicci%C3%B3n-clim%C3%A1tica-a-corto,-mediano-y-largo-plazo

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	Yes
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	<p>Since the emergency was declared, the National Society carried out “Preparation” actions, activating the Crisis Room at the national and regional levels. The Information and Telecommunications Center monitored and validated the conditions of the departments under Red Alert, in coordination with IDEAM and NOAA. In addition, three Situation Reports (SITREP) were developed with updated information on the emergency, and the National Society established a technical working team that responded to the needs and requirements of the response.</p> <p>In “Assessment,” during November 2024, the National Society deployed a team to the department of Chocó to verify the impact, support the branch in humanitarian assistance, and review the operational aspects necessary to continue the Response Plan. During January 2025, in the department of Chocó, the Colombian Red Cross and the IFRC conducted a context analysis and needs assessment in the territory.</p> <p>All planned activities were “coordinated” under the leadership of the National Society to follow up on the action plan for the response and the activation of the contingency plan.</p> <p>At the operational level, the National Society began emergency response activities prior to the activation of this DREF operation by distributing food kits in Choco and Norte de Santander, as well as hygiene, cooking, and sleeping kits. In Branches such as Antioquia, the National Society activated its search and rescue teams to respond to landslides in the department.</p>



IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Country Delegation in Colombia provides permanent support to the Colombian Red Cross in finance, operations, PMER, internal coordination with in-country Movement partners and external coordination with the humanitarian country team.</p> <p>For this emergency, IFRC team in Colombia supported the formulation of this DREF operation and provided inputs for the construction of the National Response Plan to the adverse events caused by the current rainy season in the country.</p> <p>In addition, support was provided to identify the departments and municipalities with the greatest needs, gaps and priority actions.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>Participating National Societies present in the country -American, German, Spanish and Norwegian Red Cross-, together with the Colombian Red Cross, convened a meeting of Movement partners to define the lines of support and coordination within the Response Plan.</p> <p>The German Red Cross supported the National Society with humanitarian assistance kits and prepared the enlistment of a mobile health unit to provide health services if needed.</p> <p>The Norwegian Red Cross provided a rapid health response team in case additional health actions were required.</p> <p>The Spanish Red Cross and the American Red Cross were following the identification of needs to support the National Society response.</p> <p>The Canadian, Italian and Swedish Red Cross were monitoring the situation.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC has presence in the country and develops coordination actions with the Colombian Red Cross through its Operational Partnership Agreement. For this intervention, it was planned to coordinate with the ICRC to ensure that security conditions and Safer Access were present for the intervention of staff and volunteers of the National Society in the field.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>On 10 November 2024, the President of the Republic led the National Unified Command Post, where the declaration of national disaster due to climate variability was approved, and on 13 November Decree No. 1372 of 2024 was issued.</p> <p>In Chocó and La Guajira, the departmental government declared a Public Calamity for six months, in order to prioritize the attention to the affected communities and the delivery of emergency humanitarian kits in the department.</p> <p>Several unified command posts (PMU) were set up at the national, departmental and local levels in the departments of Choco, La Guajira and Santander to monitor the impact of the emergency and coordinate actions on the ground.</p> <p>The National Army, as well as the Aerospace Forces of Colombia deployed efforts to assist the government delivery of humanitarian aid in the most affected communities.</p>



UN or other actors

The Quibdó OCHA Office, in coordination with the local coordination team developed Sitrep No. 1, which identifies the primary humanitarian needs faced by the department and its affected municipalities.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

At the national level, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management is the institution in charge of coordinate the response to the emergency together with the National System. In this case, the President of the Republic took the decision to announce his interest in issuing a National Disaster Decree due to the critical effects caused by climate variability, where the increase in rainfall above its reference margin generated great effects in a large part of the national territory, mainly in the departments of Chocó, La Guajira, Cundinamarca and Santander.

The Colombian Red Cross is part of the following coordination mechanisms; at the Movement level, the Crisis Room of the National Society was developed together with the Branches to coordinate the operation, and Movement coordination meetings were also held with the participation of the IFRC, ICRC and the PNSs present in the country (German, American, Spanish and Norwegian RC), to deepen efforts as a Movement.

The Colombian Red Cross participated in the Unified Command Post (PMU) and Territorial Disaster Risk Management Councils in the departments; through the leadership of the UNGRD. The Colombian Red Cross together with other response institutions and scientific and technical monitoring institutions, such as the IDEAM, also participates in the National Crisis Rooms, National Disaster Committee and coordination spaces at the Departmental and Municipal levels, which allowed the National Society to make decisions based on evidence and knowledge.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Floods and torrential floods that occurred in the country mainly caused damage to homes and settlements, particularly in the departments of Chocó, La Guajira and Santander. According to the latest updates presented by the UNGRD, in the department of Chocó, 3,596 houses had been affected in 6 municipalities. According to the data supplied by the UNGRD, in Quibdó 4 houses were destroyed and 9 were damaged; in Juradó several indigenous communities were submerged, and several schools were severely damaged; in El Cantón de San Pablo 985 houses were damaged. The data presented evidence that the communities whose housing and settlements affected by the floods were in desperate need of assistance regarding temporary resettlement, provision of basic housing and shelter items, as well as the eventual recovery of their lost homes.

Additionally, it is imperative to consider that community centers, churches and schools, which are generally used as evacuation centers or temporary shelters were affected, flooded or destroyed. Therefore, it was necessary to consider the implementation of strategies for resettlement, infrastructure protection and eventual recovery of affected housing. The CRC notes that the UNGRD and other Humanitarian Actors present in the affected regions focused on the collective shelter needs and recovery of the affected housing of the affected communities, whereas the CRC provided the communities in need of sleeping kits (mosquito nets and hammocks).



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The farming and agricultural sectors were highly vulnerable to flooding events, causing the loss of crops, livestock and other basic means of subsistence, which are necessary for the food security of families. The floods not only caused great economic losses for producer families, also affected consumers in these production chains, causing food insecurity in the most vulnerable communities. In addition, the floods caused several negative impacts to municipalities in the country -especially in the departments of Chocó and Santander- related to loss their belongings and basic necessities, and in some cases to completely lose their homes.

Additionally, it was important to note that in emergencies such as flooding, the primary resources such as crops and livestock were in danger, and that the main roads had been affected, immediate food assistance was one of the prioritized lines of intervention. Therefore, the CRC took the delivery of food kits as a priority.





Health

Floods and related events caused an increase in Acute Diarrheal Disease (ADD) and Dengue, especially in the most affected municipalities in the department of Chocó. Additionally, it was important to note that reports updated until October 2024, note that the Department of Chocó was the most affected by Malaria outbreaks in Colombia, making the possible proliferation of this disease a point considered in the detail risks assessment. In the department of La Guajira, it was reported the difficult access to health centers due to damage to road infrastructure or the impossibility of circulation due to flooding, which generated isolation of communities and a consequent worsening of the health conditions of critically ill people.

Therefore, it was considered necessary to prioritize health care in municipalities where communities find it difficult to access and move around by their own means, due to their risk of developing inadequate hygiene practices that may increase their vulnerability to diseases. Health messages should include community-informed priorities, especially related to waterborne illnesses, risks for children, and flood-related vector control.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Water supply infrastructures in municipal and rural areas were at risk of being affected by floods, causing difficulties in access to drinking water for the development of basic needs at the family level, for food, hydration and implementation of daily hygiene and sanitation practices. The departments most affected by the winter wave reported significant damage to their aqueduct infrastructure, mainly those affected by torrential floods. Access to unreliable water sources represents a significant risk to people's health, especially as a potential cause of gastrointestinal diseases, skin diseases and vector-borne diseases.

Therefore, among the most urgent needs were safe access to water for human consumption and also for daily hygiene practices by the affected communities and the most vulnerable population groups, as well as ensuring that the populations had technical information and knowledge to apply it in their homes, and the promotion of vector mitigation habits. Furthermore, in accordance with OCHA's Sitrep No. 1, It was identified a need for the delivery of hygiene items and menstrual hygiene products, as well as hygiene promotion sessions.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Floods are a frequent hazard in Colombia, increasingly exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. This resulted in the need to validate and strengthen Community Risk Management Plans, as well as enhance the preparedness and knowledge of local actors, to build more resilient communities that are aware of the hazards and risks they faced.

In light of the limited capacity of local authorities in the affected departments, it was essential to strengthen community committees and boards. Efforts focused on promoting dialogue and actions related to family emergency plans, evacuation route identification, emergency coordination, response planning, and the development of climate-smart solutions.

It was necessary to validate the capacity of institutions in the process of disaster risk reduction, through the articulation with communities through early warning systems and climate adaptation actions, to ensure that recovery efforts have sustainability in the territory.



Environment Sustainability

Floods and torrential floods caused important needs for the recovery and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as the loss of the natural capacity of these systems to prevent hydrological risks. These events can affect the speed with which communities, which are mainly located in rural areas, reestablish their minimum conditions of dignity, where, for example, one of the main needs was to restore water sources that have been contaminated and the quality of water sources, among others.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF allocation, the Colombian Red Cross aimed to support 8,000 people (2,000 families) in need affected by the floods in the departments of Choco, La Guajira and Santander for 6 months, through the implementation of actions in the sectors of Shelter, Housing and Settlements, Livelihoods and basic needs, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Engagement and Accountability.

At the end of the operation, 14,934 people (3,385 families) were reached in the departments prioritized.

Operation strategy rationale

This IFRC-DREF Operation supported the Action Plan "Floods 2024", developed by the Colombian Red Cross, to respond to the negative effects caused by the heavy rains in the country, to be developed during 2024 and part of 2025. To achieve greater coverage and avoid duplication of people reached through the prioritized sectors, activities were carried out in different municipalities. This response strategy aimed to reach the most affected people in the most affected municipalities in the prioritized departments. Due to the institutional trajectory and recognition of the Colombian Red Cross in the communities, humanitarian access is a privileged condition to reach the communities.

This operational strategy aimed to support and complement the response of the National Unit for Risk Management in the communities most affected. For example, the WASH sector addressed gaps in the response emergency that were not covered by the government. With the support of Red Cross Movement partners in the country, the CRC supported the emergency humanitarian assistance and health actions.

The description of the intervention includes:

The National Society conducted a multisectoral needs assessment in the three departments to better understand the needs and gaps in the communities and inform decision-making.

SHELTER, HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS

The Colombian Red Cross bought and distributed sleeping kits, which include hammock and mosquito net (2 per family), for the families affected by the floods that were in their homes or in the homes of family members. These kits were distributed mainly to the indigenous population prioritized in the needs assessments.

Kitchen kits were distributed to families who have lost their kitchen items, prioritization were done taking into account the criteria for prioritizing the target population described below, focusing on those who have not received assistance from the government or other partners.

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

With the aim to ensure the food security and basic needs of the families affected by floods. Procurement and distribution of family food kits to the families affected by the floods were developed by the Colombian Red Cross, in accordance with the administrative processes established. These families also took part in the delivery of water filters. A family food kit can cover the food needs of a family of 4 people for one week.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The Colombian Red Cross Society pre-positioned a water treatment plant in department of Chocó to be mobilized and operational. The water treatment plant had been deployed to the municipalities selected, according with the following criteria:

- The manifest need of the municipalities.
- 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 suitable for human consumption and can be obtained by means of primary treatment.
- The municipality ensures the safe distribution of water, in terms of quality.

For the operation of this plant, institutional transport was required to allow the transfer of the plant, equipment and supplies necessary for the operation. Likewise, two laboratory tests were required to characterize the water, both before and after treatment. Maintenance for the treatment plant and the mobilization of a water tanker to support the distribution of water in each treatment system had been budgeted for. Although the water treatment plant was deployed in the municipality of Istmina, Chocó, climatic and security conditions limited its operation. After an analysis by the National Society, it was decided to suspend the plant's operation to avoid risky conditions for the team and the intervention.



For the other activities, a variable team of volunteers was planned, who was in charge of delivering the elements for water treatment at the household level and the activities corresponding to hygiene promotion. This team received support to cover the costs of transport, accommodation, food, walking allowance and in addition they were 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 were distributed (50-litre water storage tank, 20-litre water canister for transport and family filter). This kit was provided to families who have a source of water for their daily activities but need additional items to maintain or improve the characteristics of the water they receive. These kits last for more than six months and, in the best cases, several years, depending on how well the water filter is cared for. Care of the filter will be improved by the inclusion of a cleaning kit (cloth and brush) and by raising awareness among users about how to care for it, so its cost is quite low compared to its functionality, usefulness, and durability.

Through the proposed actions, the Colombian Red Cross Society aimed to produce approximately 1,800,000 liters of water in two months of operation. With the home treatment kits, 8,000 people (2,000 families) were expected to take care of their health by having access to safe water.

Finally, prevention and promotion of hygiene and basic sanitation were carried out to optimize the use of water, control vectors and minimize skin diseases and STDs that can occur due to water quality.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

All planned activities were developed 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 were provided for the community to receive their doubts, recommendations, complaints or claims. A contact was provided to the community to communicate continuously during the operation and after the end of the intervention.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

In all components, seeking to respond adequately to the needs of the affected population, the intervention adopted 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.

NATIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING

A virtual refresher and awareness sessions were developed for the national and branch staff of the National Society, including administrative staff to ensure timely settlements and adherence to IFRC-DREF guidelines during the emergency operation. The IFRC Colombia Delegation provided constant support and follow-up to ensure the National Society receives updated information about the implementation of this operation.

A Lessons Learned Workshop was held on with the branches on the operation response, which presented the experiences and the actions that were implemented in the territories.

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The actions proposed for this operation were framed within the Response Lines that make up the Colombian Red Cross Society's Action Plan "Floods, 2024", which included the following Lines of Action: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health, Food Security, Livelihoods, Cash Transfers, Community Resilience and Risk Communication, among others. The DREF operation was articulated with actions supported through other funds.

Due to the timing of the emergency and the capacities of the Colombian Red Cross on the ground with the support of other partners of the Movement in Colombia, health actions were not prioritized in this operation as these needs could be covered with other funds, also for the cash sector whose implementation is quite complex especially in the department of Choco. Also, bearing in mind that not all families need all the emergency humanitarian assistance kits available, as some can be reached by the government or food banks, the analysis for the distribution of the kits was carried out as the needs analysis with the communities was being conducted.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

This IFRC-DREF prioritized attention to the most affected people in the departments of Choco, La Guajira and Santander mainly in rural and remote areas.



The prioritization of departments and municipalities was carried taking into account the presence of the Colombian Red Cross in the field, humanitarian access, logistical conditions, operational security, the presence of other humanitarian actors and other resources of the Colombian Red Cross with the support of other projects supported by Movement partners in Colombia.

In Chocó, 5 of the most affected municipalities were prioritized (Bojayá, Riosucio, Jurado, Cantón de San Pablo, Quibdó) with the goal of reaching 1,500 families (6,000 people). This approach to the selection of municipalities took into account the departments of La Guajira and Santander.

In La Guajira 3 municipalities were prioritized (Maicao, Riohacha, Dibulla) with the goal of reaching 400 families (1,600 people).

As for Santander, the municipality of San Vicente de Chucurí were prioritized, with the goal of reaching 100 families (400 people).

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The criteria for prioritizing families and the population were 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): dependents 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.

Priority was given to families who had not received humanitarian assistance from the national risk management unit or those who required additional and complementary support from the Colombian Red Cross.

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	4,316	Rural	57%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	3,443	Urban	43%
Assisted Men	3,890	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	3,285		
Total Assisted Population	14,934		
Total Targeted Population	8,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	No
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes



Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?

Yes

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
Health risks due to exposure to non-drinking water sources, determinants in the risk of burnout syndrome, exposure to gastrointestinal diseases and vectors that cause diseases such as Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya and Malaria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strict use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staff supporting the operation.- Attention to self-care and public health measures for National Society staff.
Security risks due to the presence of armed actors in the area, especially in the department of Choco, where there is currently an armed strike in some of the department's municipalities and therefore armed confrontations can be a risk to the access of some areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Ensure that all personnel have the required insurance before their deployment and have taken the security training courses required by the IFRC.-Induction and prior training in Operational Security, delivery of the 1000 Series Manual to the Branches and Operational personnel involved.-Operational communication with the delivery of the Humanitarian Intervention summary to be delivered by the CRC in the areas of intervention, as well as a proper briefing session before any mission.-Prior security monitoring with the support of the ICRC at the local and national level.-Institutional visibility and identification, through the provision of Red Cross flags as indicative and protective flags for all vehicles used in the operation, as well as "No Weapons" stickers for institutional vehicles.-Continuous reporting and monitoring during the development of humanitarian intervention activities.
Risks of access to some communities. Given the conditions of flooding, landslides and other events related to the rainy season, the mobility of the teams in the field may be limited, causing delays in the execution of some of the planned actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- An initial field survey ensured that there are currently ways to access the communities by river and land means of transportation in accordance with the current conditions of the territory.- Coordination with river authorities operating in the area is proposed.- Synergy with the UNGRD and the Municipal DRM Councils.
Administrative and supply chain risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Establishment of compliance measures with suppliers in relation to the logistics processes linked to the contract.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

In the framework of this operation, the affected area of the Department of Choco is involved in armed conflict scenarios. For this reason, the Colombian Red Cross had been monitoring the minimum-security conditions and the current humanitarian assistance delivery efforts carried out in the Department. The National Society has the acceptance of all parties and therefore has guaranteed safe access to the affected area, maintaining constant monitoring if any new developments occur to activate its action protocol, which includes prevention and security measures for personnel on the ground.

All the actions developed by the Colombian Red Cross and other Movement members present in the territory are obliged to follow the security norms, protocols and procedures, as well as the compliance of the Movement Principles. To ensure this, the Operational Security Manual (Serie 100) will be applied, as well as the provisions established on the Tripartite Agreement between the IFRC, the ICRC and The Colombian Red Cross.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No



Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 25,198

Targeted Persons: 2,200

Assisted Persons: 2,200

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families reached with sleeping kits	200	200
# of families reached with kitchen kits	350	350

Narrative description of achievements

- The Shelter, Housing, and Settlements line provided support to families affected by flooding and heavy rains in the Chocó department by delivering sleeping kits containing essential items such as hammocks and tarps, designed to provide minimum conditions for rest and protection against vectors in areas where homes were partially or totally destroyed. This assistance provided communities with a temporary and adequate solution that helped preserve their physical and emotional well-being in the midst of the emergency.
- In addition, kitchen kits were distributed in Chocó, including basic everyday items such as plastic plates and bowls, pots, pans, chocolate makers, grinders, large spoons, and matches, with the aim of facilitating the preparation and consumption of food in safe and hygienic conditions. These kits were essential in restoring as much as possible the daily routine of families, allowing them to meet their basic food needs.

Lessons Learnt

- Strengthen advance procurement planning and establish more agile and flexible mechanisms for the procurement of key items in emergency contexts.
- Understanding that each territory has its own particular dynamics, including climate, social and cultural structure, and forms of organization, which may reflect the need for differentiated humanitarian assistance. Therefore, we learned about the importance of incorporating territorial information findings that allow for adapting the response based on the knowledge and practices of the communities.

Challenges

- Challenges arose in the procurement processes, which allowed for an internal review within the National Society on how to adapt procurement to the limited timeframes established for a DREF operation.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 52,133

Targeted Persons: 8,000

Assisted Persons: 9,700

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families reached with food kits	2,000	2,000

Narrative description of achievements

- The activities provided essential support to families affected by the floods through the delivery of food kits, helping to meet the minimum nutritional needs of households during the emergency period. These kits were delivered in La Guajira, Chocó and Santander, and according to some of the interviews conducted, this line of intervention addressed one of the most urgent unmet needs among the target population.
- The design and structure of the food kits complied with international and national guidelines, aligning the selection of products with the aim of ensuring appropriate storage, preparation, and shelf life for the conditions of the affected communities.

Lessons Learnt

- Strengthen logistical and administrative mechanisms to adapt the National Society's procurement processes in line with the limited timeframes of the DREF, without compromising the quality, relevance, or timeliness of humanitarian assistance.
- Incorporate an updated and in-depth analysis of the food and cultural needs of each territory into future DREF operations, taking into account the different characteristics of each department and considering sociodemographic, climatic, cultural, and economic factors, among other components, in order to continue strengthening humanitarian assistance adapted to local realities.

Challenges

- Preserving the products included in the food kit was a challenge for the project team, who had to ensure that they were not damaged by external factors such as exposure to heat, humidity, or animals. This was mitigated by the National Society's regional team preparing suitable storage spaces, despite the operation limitations in the field.
- Challenges faced by some indigenous communities in La Guajira in appropriating some of the products included in the food kit. These products are not usually included in their preparation and cooking techniques, in accordance with the capabilities of their environment and traditional knowledge. Consideration was given to incorporating community consultation mechanisms in future operations, as well as criteria of cultural relevance and sustainability, in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the food assistance provided.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 244,652

Targeted Persons: 8,000

Assisted Persons: 8,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of water treatment plants deployed	1	1
# of liters of drinking water delivered through mobilization and operation of mobile water treatment plants	1,800,000	121,000
# of families reached with water transportation, storage and treatment kits	2,000	2,000
# of families reached with hygiene kits	350	500

Narrative description of achievements

- The WASH Line provided essential support to families affected by flooding and heavy rains through the deployment of a water purification plant in the municipality of Istmina, Chocó. This plant includes the management of laboratory tests to ensure that conditions are sufficient to deliver safe water. Although the plant was unable to reach its target for liters of water purified and delivered, it managed to deliver 121,000 liters of drinking water in an area of the country where water conditions are critical and there is no aqueduct infrastructure.
- The delivery of water treatment, storage, and transport kits was completed in full, with target families recognizing the importance of this delivery due to the sanitary conditions in the target areas and the lack of adequate water infrastructure for safe water consumption. The kit consisted of drums, a tank, a filter, and transport equipment for water treatment. In addition, the delivery of hygiene kits exceeded the planned target. WASH activities were complemented with hygiene promotion sessions shaped by community questions and concerns gathered through volunteers

Lessons Learnt

- Strengthening relationships with municipal authorities and institutions in priority departments reduces operational contingencies and optimizes the time needed to identify priority families.
- Having an institutional vehicle focused on the operation reduces the security risks for the team involved, allows activities to progress more quickly, and gives the team greater leadership over planned activities.

Challenges

- Weather and security conditions in the department of Chocó affected the planned performance of the water treatment plant in the field.
- At the local level, the Chocó Branch has limited technical, financial and human resources, as well as difficult access due to landslides and road closures. This generates additional costs and requires extra effort from staff to carry out planned activities.
- The process of purchasing WASH supplies took longer than expected, causing contingencies in the planning of activities. This was due to the absence of suppliers in the country dedicated to the production of clay WASH filters.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0
Targeted Persons: 0
Assisted Persons: 0
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of documents formulated with the risk analysis for the protection of children within the framework of the operation	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

- This process allowed to observe, through analysis of the actions implemented, what programmatic opportunities could be incorporated in the future to maintain the protection of children in the context of emergency operations. Although no direct activities for the integration of children were considered, thanks to the capabilities of the National Society, strategies to raise awareness among children were implemented in WASH guidance processes, through the use of games and dynamic activities.

Lessons Learnt

- Considering keeping technical materials in the Branches to include children in community activities is essential for maintaining comprehensive actions that include the entire family unit. Where every operation must guarantee the full participation of the family and community system so that the intervention is carried out in an inclusive and sustainable manner over time.
- Strengthen the technical capacities of field response personnel in protection, gender, and inclusion approaches to reduce specific risks



and take appropriate measures should they arise. Community feedback highlighted concerns regarding safety in temporary shelters, which were considered in the orientation of volunteers

Challenges

- Adapt the limit material available in zones with difficult access to integrate inclusion of children during the activities in the field.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 3,053

Targeted Persons: 100

Assisted Persons: 167

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of rapid context and needs analysis of the communities in the prioritized departments	3	3
# of activated feedback mechanisms	1	1
# of staff/volunteers oriented (Refresher training) on CEA and community feedback mechanism	30	53
# of people participating in community focus group and interviews for feedback	100	114

Narrative description of achievements

- The Community Engagement and Accountability line made a significant contribution to the DREF Floods project by carrying out various activities, such as rapid context analysis and needs assessment in the department of Chocó, where the main needs in the context of the emergency were identified, such as access to drinking water, access to food, the poor condition of roads and access to housing, structural damage to homes, and the partial or total loss of household goods and work tools for daily sustenance. This needs analysis was replicated in the other prioritized branches to contribute to the collection of information in the field.
- CEA also allowed for the contextualization of communication channels such as Cruz Roja Te Escucha (Red Cross Listens to You), email, the national toll-free line, and the WhatsApp line, which encouraged communities to share their opinions and perceptions of the project's development.
- Through the implementation of the CEA workshop in the Choco, La Guajira, and Santander branches, employees and volunteers were trained on CEA, where they were provided with informational tools about the hotline, questions and answers as a practical resource, and key responses to support volunteers in their interaction with the community and ensure that the information provided is clear and accurate.

Lessons Learnt

- Conduct rapid context analysis and needs assessment with a differential approach, considering the sociocultural particularities of each territory, where it was evident that the priorities and context of communities vary significantly between each department or according to each community, due to factors such as cultural practices, social structures, geographical accessibility, customs, and levels of community organization.
- The implementation of training workshops on CEA, which included practical exercises and emergency response simulations, was recognized as good practice. These activities not only provided technical knowledge, but also prepared volunteers to respond quickly, ethically, and empathetically in complex contexts, improving their performance and the quality of their relationships with communities.
- Simplify and prioritize consultation tools, reducing the number of questions to the most relevant ones, and complementing them with more agile and accessible participatory methods that allow for better interaction without overburdening the population.



- Future flood operations would benefit from having pre-established CEA feedback mechanisms at branch level, ensuring faster collection of community concerns and clearer communication of assistance criteria

Challenges

- The ongoing armed conflict in the department of Chocó stands out, creating various challenges and difficulties for the effective implementation of the operation and limiting safe access to certain areas of the territory. The presence of illegal armed actors and the existence of invisible borders prevented the local team from entering communities in the municipality of Quibdó, restricting the movement of humanitarian personnel and information gathering.
- There is still a lack of knowledge about the National Society's CEA feedback mechanism at the local level, where teams had limited information and its implementation presented logistical challenges that were overcome.
- There are limitations on cellular equipment in some branches, which made it difficult to implement the proposed CEA activities. Another issue that arose was the demographic profile of participants at the community and institutional levels (mostly senior citizens). At the community level, this meant that gathering information would take longer than planned. At the institutional level, it meant that some available volunteers did not have knowledge about how to use information tools.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 20,108

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of need assessment visits conducted	2	2
# of monitoring visits conducted	3	2
# of Surge deployments	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

- IM Surge deployment between January to February who supported in the development of the needs assessment and context analysis in Chocó and the training of the branch volunteers in Kobo Collect. In addition, development of IM material such as infographic of the area operation and presentations. The needs assessment and context analysis was applied during the following months of the operation by the ENI volunteer team, and this information is available for analysis by the National Society and IFRC teams for future operations.
- First monitoring visit conducted in January and secondly in May both in Chocó department: During these monitoring visits, the IFRC team identified the operational conditions necessary to make the intervention in this department viable, conducted training for the team and volunteers, and established a roadmap for the project. The Delegation team was involved in both the needs assessment process and the delivery of humanitarian assistance.
- The activities carried out during the operation raised the profile and positioning of the Chocó Branch, highlighted its humanitarian needs, and shared up-to-date information on its capabilities with other partners within and outside the Movement, marking a recent milestone in the IFRC's operations at the local level, especially in the department of Chocó.

Lessons Learnt

- The importance of conducting needs assessment visits and maintaining the presence of the IFRC alongside the Colombian Red Cross National Directorate team at the start of the operation is recognized. This strategy ensured that the project results were in line with the intervention plan and that the team in the field had all the necessary security conditions in place.
- Positioning the products resulting from interventions allows for the recognition of humanitarian needs on the ground and contributes to the humanitarian network.



Challenges

- During the IM Surge call for proposals, the Delegation received very few profiles, leaving little room for analysis of the applicants.
- Security and weather conditions in the country prevented the completion of all monitoring visits, with priority given to the safety of the team.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 104,872

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of national intervention teams deployed	4	4
# of field missions conducted by the communications team	2	2
# of monitoring visits	6	6
# of volunteers that receive uniforms and PPE for their activities	80	80
# of lessons learned workshops	1	1
# of staff trained on DREF guidelines and aware of the standard procedures	30	42

Narrative description of achievements

These activities strategically contributed to strengthening national and local coordination throughout the operation. Among these, the following stand out:

- Permanent support from the National Intervention Team (ENI) and communications team, which enabled the total documentation of the operation's progress for accountability, visibility, and institutional positioning, as well as the involvement of key stakeholders, and ensure the operational strategy at the field.
- The volunteers were supported through the provision of uniforms and personal protective equipment, flags, and life jackets. This action was essential to improving the conditions of the volunteers, especially in contexts where access and security conditions are challenging, as in the case of La Guajira and Chocó. Additionally, it created opportunities for integration and awareness-raising among volunteers with the Red Cross.
- In the case of Chocó, the operation support the distribution of life jackets to volunteers and river transport costs due to communities could only be accessed by river. Due to the amount of humanitarian aid in the Chocó Branch, adjustments were made to the warehouse to ensure the quality of the kits that would be delivered to the community.
- In terms of technical and operational strengthening, training and refresher courses were held, such as the DREF Workshop, enabling the National Society to expand and appropriate the DREF mechanism, as well as to understand and update its criteria and standards.
- The Lessons Learned Workshop provided an opportunity to analyze the challenges faced and identify opportunities for improvement, consolidating institutional learning that has been extended to the national disaster risk management team and its regional offices to strengthen their capacities in future emergencies.

Lessons Learnt

- Including an institutional transport vehicle allows operations to be carried out in areas with limited conditions or difficult access, ensuring adequate logistics and safety conditions for volunteers and staff in the field.
- It is recognized as a lesson learned and applied that providing uniforms and personal protective equipment (PPE) to volunteers involved



in the project strengthened the execution of operational activities and reinforced the volunteers' sense of belonging, institutional visibility, and safety during their work in emergencies.

- The importance of positioning the Lessons Learned Workshop is recognized in order to create spaces for reflection on the actions carried out and to collectively build realistic and sustainable improvement measures. This information, identified collectively, allows for the creation of follow-up mechanisms to achieve medium- and long-term strengthening actions.
- Through the use of the participation mechanisms available to the National Society's communication network, it is possible to conduct a proactive search for communications referents who can generate optimal results with limited capacities and in difficult contexts such as an emergency operation.
- Involving ENI volunteers with experience in developing emergency operations in priority areas allows for more efficient adaptation with Branch team, as well as coordination with local actors and understanding of the context and sociocultural dynamics of the intervention area.

Challenges

- The availability of ENI volunteers was limited during the operation due to demand and constraints in covering the entire territory, especially in areas with complex contexts, which created challenges for the rapid deployment of the ENI volunteer team. It is recommended that the capacities of ENI teams be strengthened through continuous training, technical updates, and expansion strategies.
- For some of the local staff, this operation was the first DREF modality they had implemented (though not the first in the area). This presented a challenge in terms of striking a balance between the time available for implementation and the planned objectives.
- Not having an institutional vehicle available at the start of the operation for operational activities created challenges in completing the proposed planning during the first months of intervention, specifically in departments where capacities are limited and access is difficult.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRCO028 - Colombia - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 21 Nov 2024 to 31 May 2025

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024/11-2025/10	Operation	MDRCO028
Budget Timeframe	2024/11-2025/5	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 26/Nov/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	450,016
DREF Response Pillar	450,016
Expenditure	-340,670
Closing Balance	109,346

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	23,660	16,009	7,651
PO02 - Livelihoods	48,951	55,222	-6,270
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health			0
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	229,720	161,914	67,806
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	27,466	1,793	25,672
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	2,867	378	2,489
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	332,664	235,316	97,348
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	18,881	14,915	3,966
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	98,471	90,440	8,031
Enabling Approaches Total	117,352	105,355	11,998
Grand Total	450,016	340,670	109,346

[Click here for the complete financial report](#)

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF [450,016] was allocated from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for the implementation of this operation. By the end of the operation, total expenditures amounted to CHF [340,670]. The unspent balance of CHF [109,346] will be returned to the DREF.

The most notable variances between the budgeted and actual expenditures include: The monetization rate of the total budget exceeded the projected local currency required for the implementation of planned activities, achieving the technical targets with the exception of the WASH sector, which, as described in the "Planned Intervention" section, experienced contingencies that required the suspension of

some activities. The international staff line and the shared office and services costs line are offset by the travel item, since everything was recorded under this budget line. However, the actions comply with what was established in the response lines proposed in the DREF.



Contact Information

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[Click here for reference](#)

