



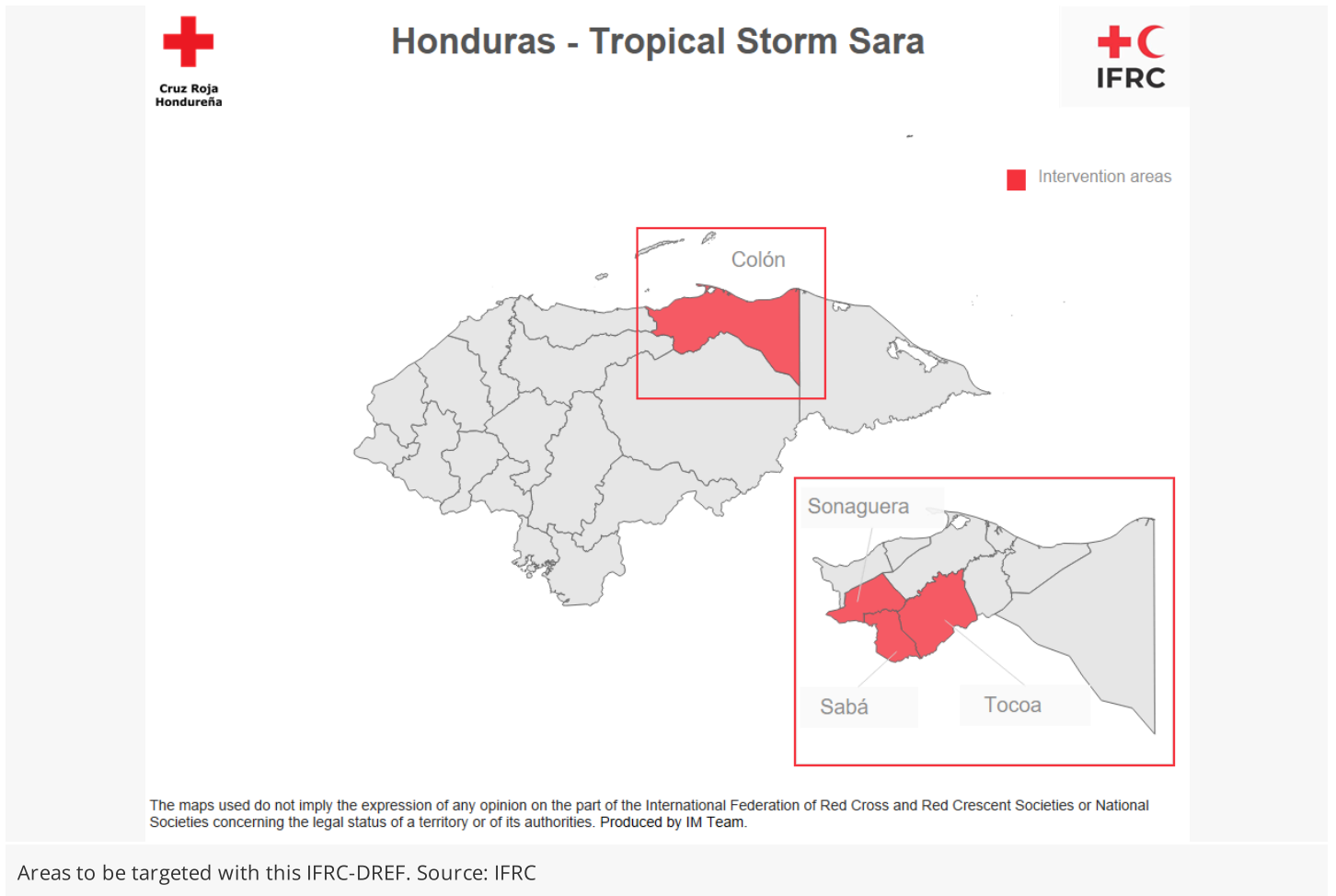
Heavy rains have caused flooding in communities and farming areas in Honduras following the passage of tropical storm Sara. Source: EFE

Appeal: MDRHN024	Country: Honduras	Hazard: Flood	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 472,837	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 213,104 people	People Targeted: 6,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 26-11-2024	Operation Timeframe: 6 months	Operation End Date: 31-05-2025	DREF Published: 29-11-2024
Targeted Areas: Colon			

Description of the Event

Date of event

15-11-2024



What happened, where and when?

Tropical Storm Sara began as a low-pressure system in the western Caribbean around November 11, 2024. From its formation, it was monitored by the National Hurricane Center (NHC), which warned of its potential development due to favorable conditions in the region, such as high humidity and warm sea surface temperatures. On November 14, the system organized and reached tropical storm status, receiving the name "Sara." That same day, it made landfall near Cabo de Gracias a Dios, on the border between Honduras and Nicaragua.

In this context, on November 14, the Honduran Red Cross activated its Early Action Protocol (EAP) for floods associated with tropical storms, after meeting both activation criteria.

The first criterion was met with the forecast from the National Hurricane Center (NOAA), which indicated a 50-60% probability that the Tropical Depression would develop into Tropical Storm "Sara." This forecast was confirmed on November 14 at 11:50 a.m., when the system intensified into a Tropical Storm with maximum sustained winds of 35 knots.

The second criterion was triggered by the forecast from the GLoFAS (Global Flood Awareness System), which showed return periods exceeding 10 years and flooding probabilities above 50% in the areas of Aguan, Patuca, and Ulua. According to the EAP intervention map, the municipalities most likely to be affected were Tocoa, La Lima, San Manuel, Pimienta, and Saba. Among these, the National Society prioritized the municipality of Tocoa for the implementation of early actions (1).

On November 15, the Government of Honduras declared a 30-day state of emergency for the areas affected by the storm, following recommendations from the Permanent Contingency Committee (COPECO) (2). According to projections from the National Center for Atmospheric, Oceanographic, and Seismic Studies of Honduras (CENAOS), Sara was expected to continue moving slowly along the northern coast of the Colón department before accelerating toward Belize. Along its path, a significant rise in the levels of the Patuca,

Sico, Aguán, and Lean rivers was anticipated, with impacts expected through November 18.

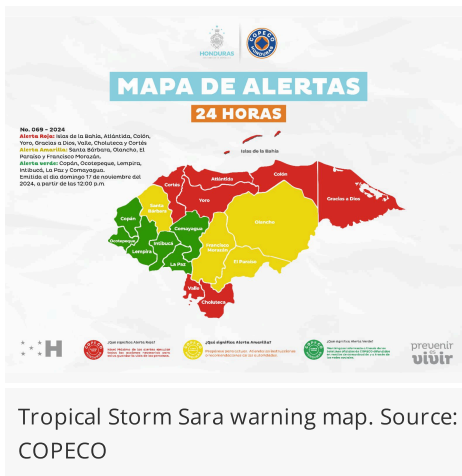
On November 17, CENAOS reported that the storm was located 145 kilometers northwest of Roatán, moving northwest at a speed of 7 km/h. Although it was beginning to weaken, with maximum winds of 65 km/h, the intense rains associated with Sara caused accumulations comparable to those experienced during Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020. The heavy rains pushed reservoirs to their limits and caused flooding in various regions. Additionally, Sara drew moisture from the Pacific Ocean, intensifying rainfall in El Salvador and southern Honduras, while Guatemala also reported significant damage (3).

As part of the national emergency declaration, On 17 November, COPECO extended the Red Alert to the departments of Islas de la Bahía, Atlántida, Colón, Gracias a Dios, Yoro, Cortés, Choluteca, and Valle. It also declared a Yellow Alert for Olancho, Santa Bárbara, Francisco Morazán, and El Paraíso, leaving the rest of the country under a Green Alert. As Sara advanced toward Belize, rains continued to cause damage in the region, although the storm began to gradually dissipate (4).

On November 20, COPECO released a national impact report revealing that the storm had affected 213,104 people and left 53,472 affected persons with specific needs. Sara, the eighteenth storm of the active 2024 Atlantic hurricane season, reflected the trend of a year marked by warmer sea surface temperatures in the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico, which contributed to the formation of 17 to 25 named storms, as predicted. Sara added to a series of recent extreme events, including the impact of Tropical Storm Rafael in Cuba in early November, Hurricane Oscar in late October, and two recent earthquakes in the region, which increased the vulnerability of affected communities.



Honduran Red Cross staff informing a woman affected by the rains about the need for evacuation. Source: HRC



Tropical Storm Sara warning map. Source: COPECO



Honduran Red Cross team preparing to support evacuation efforts. Source: HRC

Scope and Scale

Although Tropical Storm Sara has dissipated, its effects continue to severely impact Central America, with persistent rains keeping the region highly vulnerable. The storm, formed in the Caribbean, drew moisture from the Pacific Ocean, intensifying rainfall in El Salvador, southern Honduras, and Guatemala, where significant damage has also been reported. Saturated soils have increased the risk of landslides, posing an ongoing threat to communities.

According to the national report issued by the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO) as of November 20, Sara's impacts span 17 of Honduras's 18 departments and 85 of its 298 municipalities. An estimated 213,104 people have been affected, of whom 53,472 require specific assistance. To date, 16,084 people have been evacuated, and 10,128 remain in 129 active shelters. Additionally, 4,440 homes have been reported damaged, with 427 completely destroyed. The storm has left a toll of six confirmed deaths, four injured, five wounded, one missing, and 7,682 rescued.

The damage to critical infrastructure is extensive. Nationally, 31 bridges are damaged and 11 destroyed, along with 59 damaged roads, five destroyed, 82 affected streets, and 42 destroyed. At least 2,458 communities remain cut off. Regarding basic services, 976 water supply systems have been damaged, with 83 destroyed, significantly affecting access to potable water. Additionally, 50 health centers and four educational facilities have been reported damaged. Electrical services and sanitation systems have also suffered significant disruptions.

Beyond material damages, affected individuals face profound challenges that impact their well-being and hinder recovery. Agricultural and fishing communities have experienced severe losses to their livelihoods, with destroyed crops, lost tools, and disrupted markets, exacerbating food insecurity. Limited access to food and basic resources poses both an immediate and long-term threat to families.

On a psychosocial level, the stress and trauma caused by the loss of loved ones, material possessions, and forced displacement increase vulnerability, particularly among children, women, and the elderly.



Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. IFRC - Activation of the EAP for Floods Associated with Tropical Storms	https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=840322
2. Secretariat of the Presidency - Declaration of Emergency	https://www.sep.gob.hn/files/ugd/ce1f7a_d949bf45964b432ebe561edce2e38273.pdf
3. COPECO - Newsletter November 17	https://x.com/copecogob/status/1858122689463910648
4. COPECO - Alert Map	https://x.com/copecogob/status/1858210699559764078

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	No
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

Lessons learned:

The Honduran Red Cross previous experiences in emergency response operations have provided valuable lessons that have been considered in planning this proposal. Among the key lessons learned are:

Community engagement: Previous operations have highlighted the importance of actively involving and empowering affected communities. Active participation in the planning and execution of disaster response strategies not only improves the effectiveness of interventions but also promotes the long-term success of implemented initiatives.

Continuous evaluation and improvement: Past experiences emphasize the need for ongoing evaluations of disaster response operations to identify areas for improvement. This approach enables real-time adjustments to strategies, ensuring greater efficiency and effectiveness in future interventions.

Adaptation to the target audience: Tailoring activities and messages to specific audiences is essential to maximize impact. Additionally, integrating gender-sensitive approaches requires careful implementation, while consistency in applying the Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approach is critical to achieving set objectives and reaching the most vulnerable populations.

Effectiveness of interventions: Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) Programme have proven to be effective tools for providing emergency assistance, provided that their delivery is timely, transparent, and efficient. Maintaining accurate information and prioritizing the quality and safety of interventions are key aspects of these initiatives' success.

Psychosocial support and adapted education: Providing psychosocial support and culturally relevant education is essential to addressing community needs. Adapting to changing needs, identifying hidden health challenges, and ensuring proper assessments are critical factors for the success of emergency responses.



Effective prevention and response: Timely adjustments to strategies are key to ensuring their effectiveness. Community participation, combined with practical education, has been instrumental in preventing vector-borne diseases. Additionally, chlorine tablets and awareness campaigns have been essential to ensuring access to safe drinking water.

These lessons learned not only guide the planning of the current response but also reinforce a strategic approach focused on adaptability, sustainability, and long-term impact. By integrating these insights, the Honduran Red Cross seeks to optimize resource utilization, prioritize the specific needs of affected communities, and ensure timely and effective interventions. This strategic approach enables not only immediate emergency responses but also the development of community resilience, enhancing the capacity of communities to face future disasters with greater autonomy and effectiveness.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

14-11-2024

<p>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</p>	<p>The Honduran Red Cross has supported the Municipal Emergency Committee (CODEM) in the setup and activation of temporary shelters in the Bay Islands department. Additionally, it has assisted in the evacuation of families affected by Tropical Storm Sara, ensuring their safety and access to essential services.</p> <p>Additionally, the National Society has repositioned eight Restoring Family Links (RFL) kits—comprising mobile phones, routers, and chargers—across the branches of Atlántida, Tela, San Pedro Sula, La Lima, Chamelecón, and Puerto Cortés. These resources are aimed at facilitating communication and reconnecting families affected by the disaster.</p>
<p>Multi Purpose Cash</p>	<p>With the activation of the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for Tropical Storms, the National Society, as of November 19, has distributed 507 multipurpose rechargeable cards, each loaded with 8,000 lempiras. These cards have been distributed to families in the communities of Chiripa and Prieta, as well as in temporary shelters, to provide financial support for addressing urgent needs.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>The Honduran Red Cross has provided pre-hospital care, medical assistance, and psychosocial support (PSS) in the intervention areas, adopting a comprehensive approach to address the needs of affected individuals.</p> <p>Medical assistance includes vital signs monitoring, management and follow-up for patients with chronic illnesses, and initial care for common health conditions. In terms of psychosocial support, activities have included group sessions for emotional containment, recreational activities for children, and individual counseling for adults and the elderly.</p> <p>These interventions have primarily focused on displaced families, children, women, and older adults in shelters and affected communities, ensuring tailored support to promote recovery and resilience among the most vulnerable populations.</p>
<p>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</p>	<p>As part of the activation of the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for Tropical Storms, the National Society distributed, as of November 19, 1,986 water purification filters in the communities of Tocoa Centro, Cayo Campo, Zamora, Ceibita Nerones, and La Monroy. Additionally, 200 family hygiene kits have been distributed in Sabá.</p> <p>Each family hygiene kit includes: 1 bottle of insect repellent, 4 packs of sanitary pads, 1 bottle of hand soap, 1 deodorant for men, 1 deodorant for women, 1 bottle of shampoo, 1 bottle of hand sanitizer, 2 bars of neutral bath soap, 1 tube of toothpaste, 4 rolls of toilet paper, 1 pack of wet wipes, and 2 packs of diapers.</p> <p>Family hygiene kits have also been distributed to shelters in Roatán, Bay Islands,</p>



	ensuring access to essential hygiene supplies for displaced families and individuals in need.
Community Engagement And Accountability	The Honduran Red Cross has conducted community visits to identify local needs and coordinate with community leaders, ensuring they are informed about the actions being carried out by the National Society. Additionally, a network of Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) focal points is being reactivated to support monitoring visits, assess the impact of ongoing activities, and deliver key messages to populations affected by the floods. These efforts aim to strengthen communication and foster collaboration with affected communities.
Coordination	<p>The Honduran Red Cross has established coordination with the country's risk management authority, the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO), as well as with various institutions that are part of the National Risk Management System (SINAGER). These efforts aim to align strategies and optimize the overall response.</p> <p>A meeting with the technical advisory group has been coordinated to discuss and align the anticipatory actions currently being implemented, ensuring that efforts are well-targeted and efficient.</p> <p>The Strategic Monitoring Centers (CEM) have been activated and are fully operational to monitor developments, collect critical information, and guide decision-making in real-time.</p> <p>Regional coordination has been established with COPECO Emergency Operations Center (COER) to strengthen localized response efforts and ensure effective management of resources and personnel.</p> <p>Coordination with the Municipal Emergency Committee (CODEM) in Tocoa, Colón, has been initiated to identify areas most affected by the storm. This includes assessing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs to plan interventions and distribute water filters where necessary.</p> <p>Additionally, coordination with CODEM in San Pedro Sula has facilitated the technical deployment and installation of two water pumps in the Morales 3 and 4 neighborhoods of the Chamelecón sector, addressing urgent flooding issues and supporting local recovery efforts.</p>
National Society Readiness	The Honduran Red Cross has begun a detailed inventory of pre-positioned supplies at the Calpules warehouse in San Pedro Sula to identify the resources available for initial assistance to the affected population. Additionally, teams and personnel have been deployed to Tocoa to support the actions of the National Society local branche, ensuring a coordinated and efficient response.
Activation Of Contingency Plans	The National Society has activated its National Response Plan and the Early Action Protocol (EAP) for Tropical Storms to strengthen its response capabilities in areas beyond those prioritized under this IFRC-DREF operation.
National Society EOC	<p>The Honduran Red Cross activated its National Emergency Operations Center (EOC), where information is being collected from focal points in each branche of the National Society. These focal points are responsible for completing reports detailing incidents and actions taken.</p> <p>Additionally, the EOC has been monitoring activities via radio communication and ensuring the operational functionality of repeater stations nationwide, enabling efficient coordination and real-time updates.</p>



IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The Honduran Red Cross maintains constant communication with the IFRC through its Central America Country Cluster Delegation team. From the earliest hours of the emergency, this team has provided technical support, which has been crucial for the formulation of the IFRC-DREF proposal.</p> <p>Additionally, the National Society will continue this collaboration throughout the implementation of the operation, ensuring effective monitoring through regular meetings to evaluate progress, adjust strategies, and guarantee the achievement of the established objectives.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The Honduran Red Cross has held meetings with the Swiss Red Cross, which has pledged 100,000 Swiss francs to support emergency response efforts in the Marcovia area in southern Honduras. This contribution will strengthen the National Society capacity to respond effectively to the ongoing crisis.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The National Society does not anticipate receiving support from ICRC for the planning or implementation of this operation.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>On November 15, the government declared a state of emergency for the departments affected by Tropical Storm Sara and began developing a national response plan to address the storm impacts.</p> <p>As part of the response, the National Risk Management System (SINAGER) remains active, coordinating efforts across agencies and requesting international assistance to support relief operations. This centralized approach ensures that resources and actions are effectively managed to meet the needs of the affected population.</p> <p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has reached out to international cooperation offices, providing updates on the situation, outlining urgent needs for food, water, and non-food items (NFI), and facilitating international offers of support through the activated International Humanitarian Aid Coordination Center (CCAHI).</p> <p>In addition, the Honduran Civil Aviation Agency (AHAC) has reopened key airports in Roatán, La Ceiba, San Pedro Sula, and Tegucigalpa, restoring vital transportation links to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and the movement of emergency personnel.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>Coordination meetings have been held through the humanitarian network, following the activation of sectoral clusters on November 15. These efforts aim to streamline response actions, enhance collaboration among stakeholders, and ensure that assistance reaches the most affected populations efficiently.</p>

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Honduran Red Cross actively participates in the coordination table for the Sula Valley, ensuring its involvement in regional response efforts. Additionally, its local branches are integrated into local coordination spaces to guarantee a well-coordinated and effective response.

The National Society also plays an active role in several key clusters, including Shelter, Protection, Health, Food Security, the Cash



Transfer Working Group, and the Anticipatory Actions group, contributing to a comprehensive and collaborative approach to addressing the needs of affected communities.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The Honduran Red Cross has identified that Tropical Storm Sara has caused severe and widespread damage to the main livelihoods of affected individuals, exacerbating the economic vulnerability of impacted communities. Among the most affected sectors is agriculture, where essential crops have been destroyed by flooding, impacting both producers and agricultural workers who depend on these activities for their daily sustenance. Similarly, fishing has been severely disrupted due to the contamination of water bodies and the loss of equipment such as nets and boats. Local small businesses, which serve as a critical source of income for many families, have also suffered interruptions due to infrastructure damage, loss of inventory, and decreased demand. In both urban and rural areas, informal employment, another fundamental source of livelihood, has collapsed due to the paralysis of economic activities following the disaster.

In response to this situation, the National Society has identified the urgent need to implement Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), an intervention that allows affected individuals to freely decide how to allocate resources, whether for food, repairs, agricultural inputs, or any other immediate needs. This approach not only ensures that families can prioritize their own needs but also helps safeguard the dignity of individuals by providing them with autonomy and control over how to address the challenges arising from the emergency.



Health

The needs and gaps in the health sector, identified by the Honduran Red Cross following the impact of Tropical Storm Sara, reveal multiple challenges that affect both the impacted communities and the response teams. A priority issue is the high risk of communicable diseases such as acute diarrhea, leptospirosis, dengue, and malaria, which have been exacerbated by water contamination and the proliferation of vectors in flooded areas. This epidemiological context poses a significant threat to public health.

The lack of essential resources, such as first aid kits, limits the communities' ability to respond to immediate health emergencies, leaving the population vulnerable to critical situations. Additionally, weak community health organization has been identified, as the absence of organized and trained community health and surveillance committees hinders the ability to monitor health risks and prevent disease outbreaks sustainably.

Another significant gap lies in health education, where communities display limited knowledge about essential preventive practices, such as safe water management and hygiene promotion. This educational gap exacerbates epidemiological risks and underscores the need for interventions to strengthen healthy practices in the affected areas.

Similarly, emotional and psychosocial impacts emerge as a cross-cutting issue. Evacuated individuals face high levels of stress and anxiety due to the loss of their homes and uncertainty, while volunteers and employees of the National Society managing the emergency also experience significant emotional strain, highlighting the urgent need for mental health support for these groups.

Finally, there is a lack of adequate care for people with chronic illnesses, such as hypertension and diabetes, in shelters. These individuals lack regular medical follow-up, which increases the risk of severe complications in an already resource-constrained health context.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The Honduran Red Cross has identified that the interruption of safe water supply exposes communities to consuming contaminated water, increasing the risk of diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, and hepatitis. There is a significant lack of adequate containers for safe water storage, which heightens the vulnerability to unsafe water consumption. The lack of basic hygiene supplies, such as personal care and household cleaning products, worsens sanitary conditions and makes it difficult to maintain proper hygiene practices.

Additionally, communities lack the capacity and tools to assess the chemical and bacteriological quality of water, hindering the timely identification of contamination risks. The proliferation of vector breeding sites in flooded areas represents another critical gap, increasing the risk of diseases such as dengue and malaria, while the deterioration of sanitation infrastructure complicates proper waste management and personal hygiene, particularly menstrual hygiene for women and girls.





Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The Honduran Red Cross has identified needs related to PGI following Tropical Storm Sara, which disproportionately affect the most vulnerable groups, such as women, girls, boys, older adults, people with disabilities, and indigenous communities. Among the primary needs is the strengthening of awareness and knowledge among National Society staff and volunteers regarding minimum PGI standards in emergency contexts, which hinders the ability to deliver responses that address the specific needs of these groups. Additionally, there is a clear need to ensure commitment to key policies, such as the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, both within communities and among humanitarian actors.

Another significant gap is the limited availability of accessible, rights-focused information for affected communities, which restricts their ability to make informed decisions about their protection and well-being. Furthermore, there is a lack of a comprehensive mapping of actors and community services with a protection focus, hindering effective coordination and collaboration to address the most urgent needs.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The Honduran Red Cross has identified significant gaps related to CEA following Tropical Storm Sara. Among the main needs detected is the lack of structured spaces that allow communities to effectively express their needs, opinions, and feedback, limiting their active participation in the planning and implementation of the humanitarian response. There is also a lack of clear and accessible communication regarding the actions carried out or to be carried out by the National Society, creating uncertainty among communities about the interventions.

Additionally, communities lack functional and understandable mechanisms for submitting complaints, suggestions, or feedback in real time, which affects the ability to adjust responses according to their priorities. There is a need for greater inclusion of key actors, such as local authorities, community leaders, and local organizations, in decision-making processes. Moreover, the affected population lacks opportunities to participate in the planning of activities, weakening their sense of ownership and the sustainability of the interventions. Finally, there are insufficient tools to evaluate the communities' perception and satisfaction with the assistance received, limiting the ability to continuously improve the actions undertaken.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

At present, the National Society does not identify any significant challenges that could hinder the implementation and monitoring of the operation. Internally, the National Society has a well-defined structure for the functioning of DREF procedures. Externally, it maintains strong and collaborative relationships with the institutions and organizations involved in the emergency response. These factors enable real-time data and information sharing, as well as efficient coordination to ensure the avoidance of duplication in interventions.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

This IFRC DREF allocation aims to support 6,000 people (1,200 families) affected by Tropical Storm Sara in Honduras through actions focused on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), health, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI), and community engagement and accountability (CEA), in the most affected communities in the municipalities of Tocoa, Sonaguera, Saba in the department of Colon over a 6-month period.

Operation strategy rationale

The Honduran Red Cross has developed a comprehensive strategy to address the basic needs of populations most affected by Tropical Storm Sara. This approach is informed by data collected in coordination with the Emergency Operations Center (COE) of the National Risk Management System (SINAGER), ensuring a well-targeted and effective response.

As part of this strategy, and with the resources from this IFRC-DREF, the National Society aims to directly reach 6,000 people (1,200 families) in the hardest-hit communities within the three prioritized municipalities. This initial estimate is based on the identification of an average of 1,200 families in the target areas.



To ensure the most effective use of resources and maximize the impact on those who are most in need, the National Society will conduct a rapid multisectoral assessment at the start of the operation. This assessment will enable the precise identification of the most affected families and support the design of tailored interventions that address their specific needs.

The strategy prioritizes the following sectors:

MULTIPURPOSE CASH:

The strategy aims to support the comprehensive recovery of affected families through the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) program, focusing on meeting basic needs and fostering economic reactivation at both family and community levels. To ensure that support reaches those who need it the most, initial assessments will play a crucial role. These assessments will identify families in the most vulnerable situations, prioritizing those whose livelihoods have been severely impacted, whether through loss of income, destruction of productive assets, or lack of access to essential resources.

Additionally, a detailed analysis of local markets will be conducted to ensure that interventions are tailored to the socioeconomic context and promote a positive impact on local dynamics. This approach allows beneficiary families not only to access immediate resources but also to actively participate in the economic recovery of their communities. It is important to highlight that families reached through the CVA program may also be included in other actions related to the prioritized sectors of the operation.

Two transfers of L 9,000.00 (approximately USD 350.00) each will be made, spaced two and a half months apart (during the 2.5-month and 5-month marks of the operation).

The transfer amount was determined based on past experiences of both the National Society and other organizations. It aims to provide meaningful initial support to help individuals strengthen their livelihoods. The amount may vary depending on the results of feasibility and market studies.

The financial education workshops for entrepreneurs are designed to strengthen the capacities of individuals reached by the CVA program for strategic management of the resources provided through cash distribution, with the goal of promoting the sustainability and development of their livelihoods.

Additionally, collaboration with the Tocoa Chamber of Commerce and Industry is proposed to integrate the Market Systems Transformation (MST) methodology, providing individuals reached by the CVA program with additional tools to identify opportunities, improve participation in value chains, and adopt sustainable practices.

These workshops ensure that the resources provided are managed responsibly, promoting not only immediate subsistence but also the economic strengthening and resilience of individuals reached by the program against future adversities. Feedback mechanisms, post-distribution monitoring, and satisfaction surveys will foster an inclusive approach.

HEALTH:

The health strategy prioritizes capacity building and health promotion in affected communities. Honduran Red Cross volunteers will be trained in the Community-Based Health and First Aid (CBHFA) methodology to ensure effective technical interventions. Community First Aid (CFA) and communicable disease prevention workshops will be conducted with Health and Surveillance Committees, strengthening their local response roles. Community Health Committees will be formed and equipped with first aid kits and trained in surveillance and immediate action. Community health promotion campaigns will focus on disease prevention, aiming to reach entire communities directly and indirectly. Mental health sessions will also be provided to volunteers and staff involved in the operation, promoting well-being and resilience.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

The strategy focuses on ensuring access to safe water, basic sanitation, and the promotion of hygiene practices in affected communities. Differentiated hygiene kits, including menstrual hygiene supplies, household cleaning kits, and water storage containers, will be distributed alongside training to ensure their proper use. To address vector-borne disease risks, activities such as fumigation and the elimination of breeding sites will be carried out. Additionally, basic water quality analysis kits will be provided at the community level, supported by practical workshops to enhance water safety awareness.

The distribution of hygiene kits, cleaning kits, and implementation of vector control measures will prioritize the most vulnerable populations in affected areas. These include families significantly impacted by the disaster, such as those with damaged homes or disrupted access to water and sanitation, as well as households with high rates of vector-borne diseases. Special attention will be given to households with children under five, pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, and the elderly.

Priority will also extend to families in temporary shelters or overcrowded conditions, where hygiene needs are critical, and to communities lacking adequate water and sanitation infrastructure. Areas with high incidences of vector-borne diseases, such as dengue or malaria, identified through epidemiological reports, will also be targeted.



To ensure an equitable and effective response, community evaluations will be conducted to apply these criteria, guaranteeing that resources are directed to those with the greatest needs.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI):

PGI actions will focus on ensuring protection, inclusion, and equity during the implementation of activities, prioritizing vulnerable groups to ensure that all individuals have equal opportunities to access the actions carried out by the National Society. Workshops on PGI standards will be conducted for volunteers and key actors, alongside the dissemination and signing of the Prevention of and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy to ensure compliance. Community communication campaigns will focus on rights-based approaches, and protection pathways will be socialized to guarantee timely and appropriate attention. A mapping of local actors and services will strengthen support networks and promote inclusive and sustainable interventions, aligned with community-identified needs.

COMMUNITY, ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA):

The CEA strategy emphasizes active community participation and transparency in the response. Rapid community context analyses will be conducted to understand existing structures and identify information needs. Community engagement tools, such as surveys, focus groups, interviews, and household visits, will be used to develop work plans that incorporate local priorities. Feedback mechanisms, including suggestion boxes, phone lines, and email, will collect community opinions and address concerns. A community accountability session will present progress and results, while satisfaction surveys will evaluate the impact of actions and strengthen community trust in the intervention.

NATIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING:

The strategy seeks to enhance the technical and administrative capacities of the National Society to ensure efficient and timely interventions. Strategic staff will be hired for key roles to ensure sound technical and financial execution, incorporating lessons learned from previous operations. Visibility elements for staff and volunteers will be prioritized from the outset to enhance safety measures. Monitoring visits to intervention areas by the National Society's headquarters, including the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Unit (UMER), will be conducted. A lessons-learned workshop will conclude the operation to inform future efforts.

Regular meetings with the IFRC Central America Country Cluster Delegation team will support continuous monitoring through virtual and on-site visits to intervention areas.

The Honduran Red Cross activated its Early Action Protocol (EAP) for Floods Associated with Tropical Storms (MDRHN020) on November 14, 2024, when the flooding began, peaking on November 15. During this initial phase, the National Society focused its efforts on the communities of Prieta, Chiripa Colón, and the urban areas of Sabá and Tocoa.

Simultaneously, under the Programmatic Partnership (ECHO-PP), by November 19, 507 multipurpose rechargeable cards were distributed in the same areas where the EAP provided 1,986 water purification filters (in the communities of Tocoa Centro, Cayo Campo, Zamora, Ceibita Nerones, and La Monroy) and 2,000 family hygiene kits (in the communities of Zamora, Cuyulapa, and Sonaguera Centro). These distributions were carried out at strategic community points and, in specific cases, in community shelters set up in schools, facilitating access to the items.

The IFRC-DREF will complement these actions in specific communities in Tocoa and Sabá, extending the intervention to additional areas not previously covered by the EAP or the ECHO Programmatic Partnership. It is essential to note that there will be no duplication of efforts, as the National Society maintains a detailed record of the communities and families assisted. This ensures differentiated and coordinated distribution, directing each intervention to new areas or complementing efforts in previously assisted communities.

In cases where activities overlap geographically, complementary actions will be implemented to maximize the impact and reach of the assistance. This strategic approach guarantees efficient coordination, avoiding redundancies, optimizing available resources, and effectively addressing the needs of the affected communities.

Targeting Strategy

[Targeting Strategy Supporting Document](#)

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The Honduran Red Cross, leveraging data from national alert maps and impact reports issued by the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO), as well as internal impact analyses conducted by the National Society, has identified the target population for this IFRC-DREF operation. The intervention will focus on individuals residing in high-risk areas under red alert who have been relocated to temporary shelters for safety, as well as those affected who remain in their homes or with relatives/friends but have experienced partial



or total damage to their houses in seven communities within the municipalities of Tocoa, Sonaguera, and Saba in the department of Colón.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The Honduran Red Cross will apply the following technical selection criteria to ensure an effective and targeted response:

Geographic Location: Individuals and families residing in areas identified as vulnerable or high-risk, based on alerts issued by the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO).

Socioeconomic Conditions: Households with limited economic capacity to respond to the emergency, prioritizing those who lack access to basic resources or support mechanisms.

Vulnerable Groups: Prioritization of groups with heightened vulnerability, including but not limited to: Female-headed households, persons with disabilities, children and elderly individuals, indigenous populations and other vulnerable or at-risk groups.

The identification of affected communities and families will be guided by:

Preliminary Information: Data provided by the National Emergency Operations Center (COE), managed by COPECO, to pinpoint affected areas.

Data Cross-Referencing: Integration of COE data with assessments conducted by Honduran Red Cross branches in the affected zones.

Emergency Needs Assessments: Direct evaluations conducted in the field to identify immediate needs and prioritize response efforts.

This approach ensures that resources are allocated to those most in need while preventing duplication of efforts with other humanitarian organizations active in the response.

Total Targeted Population

Women	2,466	Rural	70%
Girls (under 18)	616	Urban	30%
Men	2,440	People with disabilities (estimated)	3%
Boys (under 18)	478		
Total targeted population	6,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Insecurity during resource distribution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with local authorities to ensure protection in distribution areas and shelters. - Train personnel in personal security protocols and conflict management. - Plan and clearly communicate distribution processes to minimize tensions and avoid overcrowding.
Damaged telecommunications infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use alternative communication devices, such as radios, in areas with limited coverage. - Establish control points and hold regular meetings to



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consolidate information and coordinate activities. - Implement a daily reporting system to keep teams informed.
Collapsed or flooded roads and bridges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify alternative routes in coordination with local authorities and SINAGER. - Set up distribution points close to isolated communities to reduce long travel distances.
Continued heavy rains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuously monitor weather conditions and adjust activities accordingly. - Implement safety protocols for staff and volunteers, including temporary suspension of activities if necessary. - Provide protective gear, such as raincoats and boots, for field staff.
Shortage of essential supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish agreements with local or regional suppliers to ensure a constant supply. - Prioritize distribution in the most affected areas based on assessments. - Coordinate with other humanitarian actors to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize resources.
Physical and emotional exhaustion of staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement work shifts to ensure adequate rest periods. - Provide psychosocial support, including decompression sessions and access to counseling. - Regularly monitor the team's health status and encourage open communication about well-being.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The territory where the IFRC-DREF will be implemented is recognized as one of the routes used for arms and drug trafficking, which results in the presence of organized groups in the area. This dynamic has led to an increase in violence in certain sectors.

However, the Honduran Red Cross enjoys a high level of acceptance, credibility, and access in these areas. To ensure the safety and effectiveness of the entire operation, the National Society will strengthen its security protocols and provide constant monitoring of its staff and volunteers, prioritizing the enhancement of their capacities in context analysis, security management, and operational communication. This approach ensures that personnel are prepared to operate in complex and sensitive environments while upholding the principles of neutrality and impartiality at all times.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 175,255

Targeted Persons: 1,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families reached through the CVA program, including their participation in financial education workshops.	200

Priority Actions

- Development of technical criteria for identifying individuals to be assisted, accompanied by a comprehensive needs assessment to ensure that interventions align with the priorities of the affected population.
- Identification of the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) mechanism: Conducting a feasibility study that includes a market analysis, identification of local capacities, and selection of the most suitable financial service provider to implement the transfer mechanism.
- Selection, registration, and validation of affected individuals who meet the established selection criteria, ensuring a transparent and equitable process.
- Implementation of the CVA mechanism, ensuring secure and efficient delivery to the selected individuals.
- Organization of training sessions for individuals reached through CVA to strengthen their financial management skills, promoting effective and sustainable use of the resources provided.



Budget: CHF 44,963

Targeted Persons: 1,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people trained at the community level in Community First Aid (CFA) and prevention of communicable diseases (Dengue, Malaria, etc.).	50
Number of people reached through community-level health promotion campaigns.	1,000
Number of Community Health and Surveillance Committees established, operational, and equipped with first aid kits.	7
Number of volunteers and staff trained in Community Health and First Aid (SPAC) and participating in Mental Health sessions.	50

Priority Actions

- Organize workshops for community health and surveillance committees focused on the prevention of communicable diseases such as dengue, malaria, and acute diarrheal diseases.
- Design and implement participatory and educational campaigns aimed at strengthening healthy practices in the affected communities. The campaigns will be integrated with actions from other sectors such as water, sanitation, and health to maximize their impact.
- Support the creation or strengthening of local community health and surveillance committees, promoting their sustainability and response capacity.
- Provide trained health committees with basic first aid kits as an essential resource for initial care in their communities.
- Conduct training sessions on the Community Health and First Aid (SPAC) methodology for volunteers of the Honduran Red Cross, who will support the implementation of the DREF Operation.
- Conduct mental health sessions aimed at volunteers and National Society staff participating in the activities of the DREF Operation, providing spaces for psychosocial support.
- Carry out workshops focused on teaching community first aid, aimed at health and surveillance committees in the assisted communities.



Budget: CHF 168,766

Targeted Persons: 6,000

Indicators

Title	Target
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Number of families receiving differentiated family hygiene kits, household cleaning kits, and benefiting from vector control activities.	1,200
Number of families receiving safe water and storage containers, along with guidance on proper usage.	200
Number of people trained in the water quality analysis workshop.	25
Number of communities provided with basic water quality analysis kits.	7

Priority Actions

- Distribution of family differentiated hygiene kits in communities.
- Provision of domestic cleaning kits with necessary supplies to maintain a healthy environment in households.
- Supply of safe potable water for consumption, prioritizing the most affected communities.
- Conducting a practical workshop for communities to learn how to analyze water quality from chemical and bacteriological perspectives.
- Distribution of basic kits that enable communities to autonomously test water quality.
- Carrying out activities such as fumigation and elimination of vector breeding sites in affected communities.
- Delivery of containers designed for safe water storage, preventing contamination and contributing to the prevention of waterborne diseases.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 19,394

Targeted Persons: 325

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people participating in community communication campaigns with a rights-based approach.	300
Number of key stakeholders and community services identified through participatory mapping.	10
Number of volunteers and staff participating in workshops and socialization sessions related to PGI, including the PEAS policy and Protection routes.	25

Priority Actions

- Implement a training process to strengthen the capacities of volunteers in applying PGI minimum standards in emergency situations, ensuring their effective implementation.
- Conduct a workshop to present the PEAS policy, including the signing of acceptance and commitment to comply with the policy by participants.
- Design and implement community campaigns to promote awareness and understanding of fundamental rights, encouraging their exercise and respect.
- Conduct participatory mapping of key actors and community services with a protection focus. This process will be coordinated with Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) actions to ensure effective coordination and adequate community support.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 9,373

Targeted Persons: 120

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people participating in community meetings for the development of the DREF work plan.	20
Number of feedback mechanisms implemented and operational in the communities.	7
Number of satisfaction surveys conducted and analyzed.	100

Priority Actions

- Conduct informational sessions in communities to explain the objectives, scope, and benefits of the DREF operation, fostering participation and understanding of the operation.
- Hold meetings with local authorities, community leaders, and local NGOs to coordinate actions, ensure inter-institutional collaboration, and strengthen the operation impact.
- Implement training sessions for community members to inform them about the available mechanisms for suggestions, feedback, or complaints, ensuring their active participation.
- Organize open meetings to enable the community to actively participate in activity planning, promoting a collaborative approach tailored to local needs.
- Host specific events to present the results achieved through the DREF operation to communities, key stakeholders, and authorities, promoting transparency and trust.
- Design, conduct, and analyze satisfaction surveys to evaluate the quality of the intervention and the assistance provided by the Honduran Red Cross, using the results for continuous improvement.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 11,636

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of field monitoring visits conducted.	3

Priority Actions

- Cover the costs associated with conducting field monitoring visits to supervise and evaluate the implementation of operational activities.
- Ensure the necessary resources to process and send relevant operation documentation, guaranteeing administrative and financial traceability.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 43,450

Targeted Persons: 50

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers and staff who receive uniforms.	50



Number of individuals hired specifically for the operation.	6
Number of lessons-learned workshops conducted.	1

Priority Actions

- Conducting a lessons-learned workshop at the end of the operation.
- Hiring specialized technical personnel for the operation.
- Field monitoring and follow-up visits by National Society headquarters authorities.
- Procurement of uniforms for staff and volunteers involved in the operation activities.

About Support Services

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

The Honduran Red Cross has designated a team of 50 active volunteers for the implementation of the IFRC-DREF. Additionally, the recruitment of six (6) key professionals is planned to ensure the technical and operational efficiency of the operation. This structure is based on lessons learned from previous DREF operations implemented by the National Society, where challenges were encountered in administrative processes, procurement follow-up, and payments to suppliers.

The team to be recruited will include:

- DREF Coordinator: Responsible for the technical and strategic management of the operation.
- Field Administrative Assistant: Tasked with overseeing and correcting financial processes at the field level.
- Central Office Administrative Assistant: Responsible for budget monitoring, procurement, and payments to suppliers, ensuring efficiency in financial reporting.
- Two Field Technicians: Focused on implementing community activities in the intervention areas.
- Driver with a logistics focus: Will support staff mobilization and logistical operations in the field.

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

The Honduran Red Cross has a robust procurement structure for goods and services, with defined procedures that are fully compatible with the IFRC system. Additionally, it operates a spacious and secure warehouse to ensure the proper storage of supplies.

All procurement activities related to this operation will adhere to the IFRC standard procedures and align with established humanitarian standards, such as the Sphere standards. Specifically, hygiene kits and first aid kits will be procured directly through the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit, ensuring compliance with technical requirements and the efficient use of resources.

How will this operation be monitored?

The supervision and monitoring of activities will be carried out by the National Society's Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Unit (UMER), which will conduct at least one field verification visit during the implementation of the project and another upon its completion. These visits will focus on measuring indicators, evaluating results, reviewing deliverables, and ensuring compliance with planned activities.

Additionally, the Administration and Finance Unit (UAP) will be responsible for managing administrative processes, including procurement, payments, and other related tasks, ensuring the efficient and appropriate use of allocated resources. Both units will work in close coordination to ensure accountability and transparency throughout all phases of the project, thereby strengthening trust and the overall effectiveness of the operation.



Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Communications and Image Management Department will be responsible for covering and disseminating the main actions of the operation, ensuring the visibility of interventions. Its work will include producing digital content focused on key activities, such as the distribution of humanitarian aid, community training sessions, and health promotion campaigns. This content will be shared through institutional channels, including social media, internal bulletins, and audiovisual materials. Additionally, the department, in coordination with the project team and the CEA focal point, will develop narratives highlighting the impact of the interventions, strengthening the National Society institutional image, and fostering greater engagement with communities and stakeholders.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

- Honduran Red Cross Honduras: Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	417,751
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	175,255
Health	44,963
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	168,766
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	19,394
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	9,373
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	55,087
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	11,636
National Society Strengthening	43,450
TOTAL BUDGET	472,837

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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[Click here for the reference](#)

