



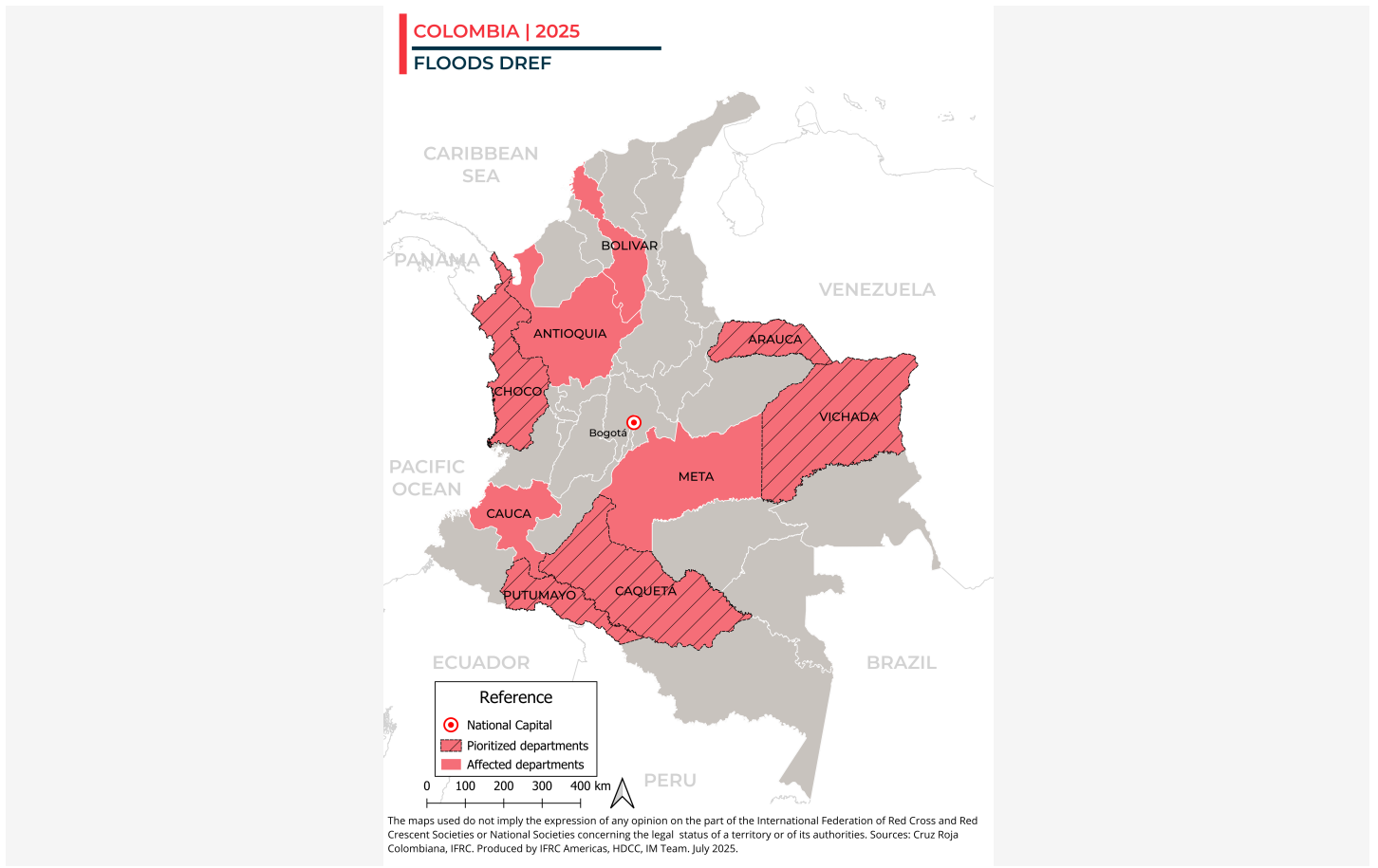
Emergency humanitarian assistance delivery at the Arauca Branch. July 2025.

|                               |  |  |   |
|-------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Appeal:<br><b>MDRCO032</b>    | Total DREF Allocation:<br><b>CHF 339,570</b> | Crisis Category:<br><b>Yellow</b>          | Hazard:<br><b>Flood</b>                       |
| Glide Number:<br><b>-</b>     | People Affected:<br><b>407,957 people</b>    | People Targeted:<br><b>12,800 people</b>   | People Assisted:<br><b>14,450 people</b>      |
| Event Onset:<br><b>Sudden</b> | Operation Start Date:<br><b>09-07-2025</b>   | Operational End Date:<br><b>31-12-2025</b> | Total Operating Timeframe:<br><b>5 months</b> |

Targeted Regions: **Arauca, Caqueta, Choco, Putumayo, Vichada**

*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, Germany, 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



Departments prioritized for flood response in Colombia. Source: IFRC, 2025.

## Date of event

04-07-2025

## What happened, where and when?

During 2025, the rainy season between May and July caused severe impacts in the departments of Arauca, Caquetá, Chocó, Putumayo, and Vichada. Heavy rainfall led to river overflows, flooding both municipal urban centers and rural areas. As a result, families and their homes were severely affected by this emergency. On 5 July, according to a report from the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM), a red alert was issued due to the probability of rising river levels and flooding in the Pacific, Orinoco, and Amazon regions. However, rainfall in several of these regions had already begun in May and intensified throughout June and July.

In the department of Arauca, heavy rains since May caused flooding that affected more than 16,623 Colombians (4,155 families) and 2,571 refugees and migrants (642 families) in the municipalities of Arauca, Arauquita, Fortul, Saravena, Puerto Rondón, and Tame. In this context, 1,036 people were affected in the municipality of Saravena following the overflow of the Madre Vieja River, which led to the declaration of a red alert. In Arauquita, approximately 14,290 people were affected due to the rupture of the Arauca River dike. In Puerto Rondón, the overflow of the Casanare River caused flooding in both urban and rural areas, affecting 292 people. In Fortul, the overflow of the Caranal River affected more than 1,000 people in rural areas. Finally, in the municipality of Arauca, a red alert was declared due to rising water levels in the Arauca River, and in Tame, the overflow of the Casanare River caused impacts that left families isolated and resulted in losses of crops and livestock.

In the department of Caquetá, the first floods occurred in June, affecting the municipalities of Cartagena del Chairá, Curillo, and Solano, with significant intensity. In July, large-scale flooding occurred again, repeatedly affecting Curillo, Solano, and Solita. The rainy season was more intense than usual, highlighting the region's vulnerability and the need for a coordinated and urgent institutional response. The

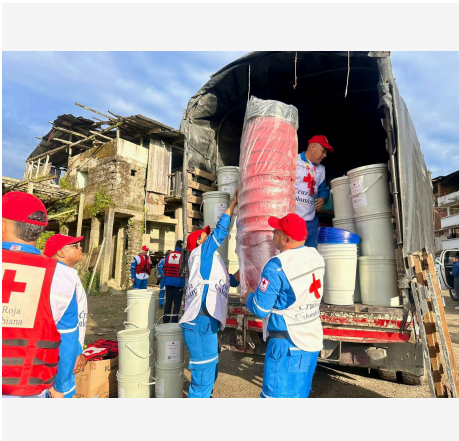


emergency affected more than 1,500 families due to river overflows, particularly the Caguán River. Its overflow damaged crops and livestock—key sources of livelihood—as well as homes and main access roads. Due to the magnitude of the emergency, response agencies were activated and evacuated several families.

In the department of Chocó, at the beginning of July, a red alert was issued by IDEAM due to possible flooding in the Pacific region as a result of the rainy season. It is worth noting that Chocó is one of the regions with the highest rainfall levels in the country. Consequently, it was one of the most affected areas, with rising river levels reported across several municipalities. The municipality of Riosucio was among the hardest hit, with the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Council (CMGRD) reporting approximately 12,000 affected families due to the overflow of the Salaquí and Truandó rivers. In the urban area, around six neighborhoods were impacted. As a response, temporary stilt bridges were constructed to restore connectivity between isolated areas. It should also be noted that Riosucio is highly prone to flooding due to significant river sedimentation. Similar flood emergencies were recorded in previous years, including 2010, 2017, 2021, and 2023.

In the department of Putumayo, communities in the Lower Putumayo region (municipalities of Puerto Guzmán and Puerto Asís) have faced recurrent flooding, while communities in Upper Putumayo (municipalities of Colón and Sibundoy) experience flash floods in streams and landslides due to mountainous and unstable terrain. During the rainy season, the Mocoa River—fed by tributaries such as the Rumiaco, Tarauquita, Pepino, Sangoyaco, Dantayaco, and Mulato rivers—overflowed, affecting the municipalities of Mocoa, Villagarzón, Sibundoy, Colón, and Santiago. Additionally, the Putumayo River overflowed, causing flooding in both urban and rural areas of Puerto Guzmán and Puerto Asís. Flooding also occurred due to the overflow of the Putumayo River in Upper Putumayo (affecting Sibundoy and Colón) and the Caquetá River in Middle Putumayo (affecting Puerto Guzmán and Puerto Asís). Municipal authorities in Sibundoy, Colón, Puerto Guzmán, and Puerto Asís declared a state of emergency due to the rainy season.

In the department of Vichada, a yellow alert for flood risk was issued in mid-June, which quickly escalated to orange and then to red alert by late June and early July. Alerts were issued for the Orinoco, Bitá, and Meta rivers. Following the red alert, the Unified Command Post (PMU) began operating continuously to monitor flooding, which reached levels of up to 15 meters and affected rural and Indigenous communities in the municipalities of Puerto Carreño, Santa Rosalía, La Primavera, and Cumaribo. Municipal authorities evacuated families and provided humanitarian assistance in their role as first responders. Likewise, the departmental government declared a state of public calamity (No. 0462) due to the scale of the emergency.



Preparation of humanitarian aid for delivery in Putumayo department



Humanitarian assistance in Caquetá department



Distribution of safe water in Caquetá



Humanitarian assistance in Riosucio, Chocó department

## Scope and Scale

As a result of its geographical location and the constant influence of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ)—which moves from south to north during the first half of the year and from north to south during the second half—Colombia is highly vulnerable to hydrometeorological events. This situation is further exacerbated by the predominantly flat topography across large regions of the country, which facilitates water accumulation. Consequently, Colombia has vast areas prone to flooding, especially during periods of heavy rainfall. In this context, rainfall levels exceeding historical averages triggered multiple natural disaster emergencies due to river overflows. On 8 July 2025, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) reported the following impacts from the rainy season emergency:

- 31 departments
- 601 municipalities
- 1,627 rainfall-related events
- 130 fatalities
- 407,957 people affected
- 113,906 families affected
- 2,206 homes affected
- 131 water supply systems affected

In the department of Arauca, rising water levels in the Arauca and Madre Vieja rivers affected the municipalities of Arauca, Arauquita, and Saravena, impacting 8,349 families and 36,337 people.

In the department of Caquetá, flooding affected 1,500 families and 3,200 people in the municipalities of Curillo, Solita, Solano, Milán, San Vicente del Caguán, and Cartagena del Chairá.

In the department of Chocó, the overflow of the Atrato, Truandó, and Salaquí rivers impacted the municipalities of Quibdó, Atrato, Carmen de Atrato, Istmina, Medio San Juan, and Riosucio, affecting 12,304 families and 49,576 people.

In the department of Putumayo, the overflow of the Caquetá, Putumayo, and Mocoa rivers affected 4,300 families and 17,200 people in the municipalities of Sibundoy, Colón, Puerto Guzmán, and Puerto Asís.

In the department of Vichada, rising water levels of the Orinoco River negatively affected the municipalities of Puerto Carreño, Santa Rosalía, Cumaribo, and La Primavera, impacting 2,316 families and 8,201 people.

Affected communities face conditions of socioeconomic vulnerability, characterized by low income levels and limited capacities and resources to cope with risks and adverse events. Most families rely on subsistence agriculture, small-scale livestock rearing, and fishing; however, the rains caused losses of crops and animals, as well as contamination of water sources. Additionally, families whose income depends on the goods and services sector—through informal or occasional employment—were also affected, as some commercial areas were flooded, weakening local economic activity. As a result, the floods severely impacted food security and livelihoods.

Moreover, some families live on the outskirts of municipalities and in areas that are regularly prone to flooding. Combined with the fragile materials used for housing construction, this has led to increasing structural deficiencies in their homes. Likewise, due to their location in remote areas, access to basic services and institutional support is limited or delayed.

Finally, there were impacts on people's emotional well-being due to the psychosocial effects of the floods, including the loss of household belongings and a resulting sense of uncertainty. In addition, flooding increases the risk of gastrointestinal, respiratory, and dermatological diseases, thereby also affecting physical well-being.

## Source Information

| Source Name   | Source Link   |
|---|---|
| 1. Declaration of Public Calamity No. 462 - Vichada                               | <a href="https://www.vichada.gov.co/normatividad/decreto-0426-del-2025-por-el-medio-del-cual-se-declara">https://www.vichada.gov.co/normatividad/decreto-0426-del-2025-por-el-medio-del-cual-se-declara</a> |
| 2. Decree N° 49, situation of Public Calamity, municipality of Saravena - Arauca. | <a href="https://www.saravena-arauca.gov.co/normatividad/decreto-49-de-2025">https://www.saravena-arauca.gov.co/normatividad/decreto-49-de-2025</a>   |



|   |   |
|---|---|
| 3. PMU follow-up floods in Colombia. More than 100,000 families affected.   | <a href="https://web.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1119084303581209&amp;id=100064389501516&amp;mibextid=wwXlfr&amp;rdid=wAlTicKpPHlksmhS#">https://web.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1119084303581209&amp;id=100064389501516&amp;mibextid=wwXlfr&amp;rdid=wAlTicKpPHlksmhS#</a>   |
| 4. Decree N°53, situation of Public Calamity, municipality of Tame - Arauca | <a href="https://web.facebook.com/AlcaldiadeTame/posts/el-municipio-de-tame-declara-la-calamidad-p%C3%BAblica-ante-la-emergencia-invernal-%EF%B8%8F%F0%9D%97%97/1273160151482286/? rdc=1&amp; rdr#">https://web.facebook.com/AlcaldiadeTame/posts/el-municipio-de-tame-declara-la-calamidad-p%C3%BAblica-ante-la-emergencia-invernal-%EF%B8%8F%F0%9D%97%97/1273160151482286/? rdc=1&amp; rdr#</a> |
| 5. Decree N°100.08.03-036 Urgent Manifest, Arauquita - Arauca               | <a href="https://arauquitaarauca.micolombiadigital.gov.co/sites/arauquitaaarauca/content/files/000943/47134_decreto-urgencia-manifiesta-n-036-del-20-de-junio-de-2025.pdf">https://arauquitaarauca.micolombiadigital.gov.co/sites/arauquitaaarauca/content/files/000943/47134_decreto-urgencia-manifiesta-n-036-del-20-de-junio-de-2025.pdf</a>   |

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Secretariat</b>                      | <p>The IFRC Delegation in Colombia provides support to the Colombian Red Cross and provides ongoing support to the National Society in finance, operations, PMER, internal coordination with Movement partners in the country, and external coordination with the humanitarian team in the country.</p> <p>For this emergency, the 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 is being provided in the identification of the departments and municipalities with the greatest needs, gaps and priority actions.</p> |
| <b>Participating National Societies</b> | <p>The participating National Societies present in the country - American, German, Spanish and Norwegian Red Cross - together with the Colombian Red Cross, have convened a meeting of the Movement's partners to define the lines of support and coordination within the response Plan.</p> <p>The German Red Cross is currently analyzing the possibility of activating the crisis indicator to support the response action plan of the Colombian Red Cross.</p>  |

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC has a presence in the country and coordinates with the Colombian Red Cross through its Operational Partnership Agreement. For this intervention, it is planned to coordinate with the ICRC to ensure that there are safe conditions and safer access for the intervention of National Society staff and volunteers in the field.



# Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Government has requested international assistance</b></p> | <p>No</p>  |
| <p><b>National authorities</b></p>                              | <p>The National Unit for Disaster Risk Management has been monitoring the situation from the Telecommunications Central. However, the UNGRD has declared in recent communications that they do not have the funds necessary to cover the affectations of the emergency.</p> <p>Of the 601 affected municipalities, 14 municipalities have been declared in a situation of public calamity in accordance with the Departmental and Municipal Councils for Disaster Risk Management.</p> |
| <p><b>UN or other actors</b></p>                                | <p>The European Commission published on 8 July a report on the situation, stating that the first rainy season of 2025 triggered 1,769 events, reporting grave affectations in the departments of Putumayo, Vichada, Caquetá and Arauca which identifies the primary humanitarian needs facing the department and its affected municipalities.</p>  |



## Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

Due to the emergency caused by heavy rains and flooding, various inter-institutional coordination mechanisms were activated at the local, departmental, and national levels. The aim was to coordinate the humanitarian response, ensure efficiency in assisting affected families, and avoid duplication of efforts among different entities.

In the department of Arauca, due to the impacts and the declaration of a state of public calamity, humanitarian organizations present in the department mobilized their response capacities through the Local Coordination Team (ELC), an articulation platform in which the Arauca Branch actively participates. Through the coordination framework of the ELC and ongoing dialogue with local authorities (Disaster Risk Management Office, Government Secretariats, and Municipal Ombudsman Offices), it was possible to identify the needs of affected communities, prioritize areas, and define the humanitarian response in each municipality. Additionally, to implement the humanitarian response, the Arauca Branch coordinated with community leaders, with whom the different distribution activities were organized. These activities were accompanied by government secretariats and municipal ombudsman offices.

In the department of Caquetá, the branch coordinated with the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Councils (CMGRD) and Community Action Boards (JAC) to address the humanitarian needs of families in the municipalities of Solano, Solita, Curillo, Milán, San Vicente del Caguán, and Cartagena del Chairá. Due to repeated flooding, municipal and departmental authorities exhausted their response capacity, prompting a call to humanitarian organizations in the department. In this context, the Colombian Red Cross Society (SNCRC), through the Caquetá Branch, initiated its humanitarian response. This was formalized through Official Letter ODGRD No. 058 dated 7 July 2025. Specifically, in the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán, the municipal administration requested potable water assistance (Official Letter No. 10, July 13, 2025) due to damage caused by the rains to the municipal water system. As a result, the deployment of a drinking water treatment plant (DWTP) was prioritized.

In the department of Chocó, particularly in the municipality of Riosucio, the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Council (CMGRD) served as the main coordination body, led by the Mayor's Office through the Disaster Risk Management Office. This council included representatives from local institutions such as the Government Secretariat, Planning Secretariat, Health Secretariat, Education Secretariat, Colombian Civil Defense, National Police, National Army, the Colombian Red Cross (Chocó Branch), and community leaders from the most affected areas. The CMGRD was responsible for collecting damage and needs assessments (DANA), coordinating the establishment of temporary shelters, managing humanitarian aid, and defining access routes for supply distribution in affected communities. The Chocó Branch coordinated with the CMGRD to determine the specific neighborhood where emergency humanitarian assistance would be delivered, thus avoiding duplication of efforts and aligning with the institutional response already in place, as the CMGRD had conducted the municipal census. In this way, the El Paraíso neighborhood was prioritized, where, through joint work between the Community Action Board (JAC) and the CMGRD, a detailed review of the census was conducted to deliver 500 emergency assistance packages. The activity was also accompanied by the Mayor's Office and JAC members.

In the department of Putumayo, the branch became a key actor in the humanitarian response to flood-affected communities, as municipal authorities had limited response capacity. Coordination between the Putumayo Branch and the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Councils (CMGRD) enabled the collection of information on the main needs of communities and estimates of affected families. Additionally, priority rural and urban areas for intervention were identified jointly. Once these areas were defined, coordination with community leaders enabled the delivery of emergency humanitarian assistance.

In the department of Vichada, due to the climate emergency and the establishment of the Unified Command Post (PMU), multiple territorial entities—including government secretariats, security forces, emergency response agencies, and international cooperation organizations—were brought together. Following the declaration of a state of public calamity and the exhaustion of institutional response capacity, humanitarian organizations were called upon to support the affected population. In response, the Colombian Red Cross Society, specifically the Vichada Branch, coordinated actions with the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Council (CMGRD) to target and prioritize humanitarian assistance. Additionally, coordination with Community Action Boards (JAC) supported the process of beneficiary identification and the delivery of multipurpose cash transfers to families.

Finally, the combination of these coordination efforts strengthened the legitimacy of the humanitarian response carried out by the Colombian Red Cross across all departments.



# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The current floods have caused serious damage to the livelihoods of its inhabitants, where crops, livestock, homes and other goods have been lost. The rising of the tributaries has caused damage to infrastructure, mobility and health conditions, affecting vulnerable communities, indigenous people and agricultural areas, generating great economic losses for producer families and also affecting consumers of these production chains, causing food insecurity in the most vulnerable communities. In addition, the floods have caused several municipalities in the country, especially in the departments of Arauca, Caquetá, Choco, Putumayo and Vichada, to lose their belongings and basic necessities, and in some cases to completely lose their homes.

These emergencies have led to the mobilization of resources and humanitarian relief efforts by the government and non-governmental organizations. However, the magnitude of the disaster has tested the response and resilience of affected communities.

Floods have a significant impact on the local economy in several ways:

- Losses in agriculture and livestock: The floods have destroyed crops and killed livestock, directly affecting agricultural and livestock production, the main livelihood of many families.
- Business interruption: Local businesses can suffer damage to their facilities and equipment, disrupting their operations. This can result in significant economic losses and job reductions.
- Recovery costs: Recovery and reconstruction efforts require considerable financial resources. This can divert funds from other major projects and affect long-term economic development.
- Displacement of people: Floods can force people to leave their homes, leading to additional costs in terms of temporary accommodation and social assistance
- Disruption of mobility and access to services: The floods have blocked access roads, making it difficult to transport food, medicine and other essential goods, as well as access to basic services.



## Multi purpose cash grants

The current floods have caused serious damage to livelihoods such as crops, livestock and other goods, in some cases even the homes of several communities. The loss of livelihoods and other goods generate that the most affected communities reduce their access to economic resources, complicating the coverage of family's basic needs and posterior recovery of the damage caused by the disaster.

Specifically, the geographical conditions of the Vichada department pose several constraints to the delivery of other kinds of humanitarian assistance, such as food kits or water filters. The access to the most affected communities in this department is only by river or air, making it extremely difficult to take on a timely and effective delivery of other goods in the area. Therefore, the National Society has evaluated the possibility of the delivery of cash grants to the most affected communities.

The delivery of cash grants not only helps families to cover their basic needs but also mobilizes the economy of the community and reactivates the local economic activities. Furthermore, assistance through cash grants is more efficient, as the response times are optimized and do not depend on the department's accessibility. On the other hand, it has been seen that the delivery of cash grants gives more freedom and autonomy to the beneficiaries, as they can choose how to direct the grants received according to their priorities, especially considering some of the most affected communities are indigenous.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Water supply infrastructures in municipal and rural areas are at risk of being affected by heavy rainfall, which can cause damage mainly in water intakes and adduction and conduction networks, as well as an increase in the levels of contamination and turbidity due to the presence of drag material and organic matter that hinders water treatment. This makes it difficult to access water for basic needs at the family level, for food, hydration, and the implementation of daily hygiene and sanitation practices.

Considering the above, the community seeks alternative sources for access to water, which may present contamination levels, representing a significant risk to people's health due to the possibility of gastrointestinal diseases, skin diseases and vector-borne diseases.



Therefore, among the most urgent needs are safe access to water for human consumption and also for daily hygiene practices by affected communities and the most vulnerable population groups, as well as ensuring that populations have information and technical knowledge to apply in their homes, and promoting vector mitigation habits.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

It is necessary to validate Community Risk Management Plans, as well as the preparation and knowledge of local actors, in order to ensure more resilient communities and aware of the threats and risks to which they are exposed.

Given the constraints of local authorities in these affected departments, it is important to propose actions to strengthen community committees and boards and promote dialogue and action around family emergency plans, identification of evacuation routes, emergency coordination, response planning, and formulation of climate-smart solutions.

Considering that the greatest impact of this emergency has occurred during the last few days, it is necessary to validate the capacity of institutions in the disaster risk reduction process, through articulation with communities through early warning systems and climate adaptation actions, to ensure that recovery efforts are sustainable in the territory, and planned services are performed in an adequate and dignified manner for the families currently affected. Due to the scope of the operation and the focus of DREF funds, these are processes that cannot be addressed with the communities.

In some communities and municipalities, there are limitations to maintaining and securing communications on the ground, particularly in the department of Vichada, due to a telecommunications infrastructure with limited capacity and, in some areas of flooding.



## Environment Sustainability

Floods and torrential floods generate 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, restore their minimum conditions of dignity, where, for example, one of the main needs is 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 operation, the Colombian Red Cross aimed to support 12,800 people (3,200 families) in need affected by the floods in the departments of Arauca, Caquetá, Chocó, Putumayo and Vichada for 5 months, through the implementation of actions in the sectors of Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, Livelihoods, Cash, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, and Community Engagement and Accountability.

At the end of operation, 14,450 people (4,044 families) were reached in the departments prioritized.

## Operation strategy rationale

Through the DREF operation, the Colombian Red Cross supported the "Floods 2025" Action Plan, developed to respond to the negative impacts caused by heavy rains in the country during 2025. This operational strategy was designed taking into account community needs, recommendations from Red Cross branches, and local priorities. To achieve broader coverage and avoid duplication of people reached across the identified sectors, activities were carried out in different municipalities. This response strategy aims to reach the most affected municipalities in the prioritized departments, while supporting and complementing the response of the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD). Due to the institutional track record and strong recognition of the Colombian Red Cross within communities, humanitarian access was a key enabling factor for reaching affected communities.

The description of the intervention includes:



1) A multisectoral assessment of the needs in the two departments (Arauca and Putumayo) to better understand the needs and deficiencies of the communities and guide the operational intervention of the following lines of intervention.

### 3) LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

With the aim of ensuring food security and addressing the basic needs of families affected by flooding, the Colombian Red Cross procured and distributed family food kits in the Arauca, Caquetá, and Putumayo branches. The family food kit was designed to cover the nutritional needs of a household of four people for one week. Its composition was as follows: (white rice, lentils, corn flour for arepas, refined white sugar, beans, salt, coffee, chocolate, cooking oil, guava paste, soup pasta, dry pasta - spaghetti, sugarcane panela, tuna chunks in vegetable oil).

The food package described above provides nutritional value to families in terms of proteins, fats, carbohydrates, and cereals. A total of 800 family food kits were distributed in the department of Putumayo, 500 in Arauca, 500 in Caquetá, and 500 in Chocó, for a total of 2,300 family food kits under this line of intervention. This assistance was complemented with family hygiene kits. Finally, in the department of Chocó, the need was identified to deploy an ENI volunteer to provide operational and technical support for the distribution of kits in the municipality of Riosucio.

### 4) WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The actions under this line of intervention include the distribution of hygiene kits, distribution of water kits, maintenance of a water treatment plant, and the provision of safe drinking water.

In line with the above, a total of 2,300 family hygiene kits were distributed. Their composition is as follows: (Medium-bristle toothbrush for adults and children, toothpaste, bath soap bars, unscented sanitary pads, disposable razor for men and women, large traditional plastic comb, thread hand towels, double-ply toilet paper rolls, safety pins for diapers, sunscreen, disposable diapers). The hygiene kits were distributed together with the food packages described in this report. This joint distribution aimed to address two key needs of the affected population and provide a comprehensive humanitarian response. The distribution of hygiene kits was carried out as follows: 800 kits in Putumayo, 500 in Arauca, 500 in Caquetá, and 500 in Chocó, for a total of 2,300 family hygiene kits.

Additionally, family kits for household water storage and treatment were distributed, including the following items:

- A filtration unit made of microporous clay with activated carbon and colloidal silver (8-liter capacity), along with a 12-liter polyethylene storage tank suitable for drinking water.
- A 20-liter jerrycan for potable water storage.
- A 50-liter high-resistance polyethylene storage container.
- A cotton cloth and a soft-bristle brush.

These kits were delivered to families requiring supplies to maintain or improve the quality of the water they consume. Water storage is also a common practice due to both rainy and dry seasons. These kits have a lifespan of more than six months, as they are made of high-resistance plastic materials, while the clay filter has an estimated lifespan of up to three years, depending on proper use and maintenance. A total of 200 household water treatment and storage kits were distributed in Putumayo, 200 in Arauca, and 200 in Caquetá.

Regarding the provision of safe drinking water, the Colombian Red Cross deployed a water treatment plant in the department of Caquetá, as the water supply system was affected in the municipality of San Vicente del Caguán. Additionally, maintenance was carried out on a water point at the Vichada Branch headquarters, through which families in the municipality of Puerto Carreño can access potable water. It is worth noting that the Departmental Health Secretariat of Vichada conducted water quality testing at this point, confirming that the water is safe for human consumption and meets physicochemical standards.

Finally, it is important to highlight that for the activities carried out in the Vichada Branch, a National Intervention Team (NIT) volunteer specialized in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) was deployed. This significantly strengthened the technical capacities of staff and volunteers in this line of intervention.

### 5) MULTIPURPOSE CASH

Due to the access conditions in the department of Vichada, particularly in the municipality of Puerto Carreño, and the high costs associated with transporting goods, it was determined that the most appropriate form of humanitarian assistance was the delivery of multipurpose cash transfers. In this regard, a feasibility study was conducted in the municipality to assess the viability of this type of assistance. The study considered three key criteria: (a) availability of and access to local markets; (b) socioeconomic characterization of households; and (c) verification of the presence and operation of local financial service providers with which agreements exist for cash delivery, as well as a risk analysis.

Given that this type of humanitarian assistance was deemed viable based on the feasibility study, 300 multipurpose cash transfers were delivered, each amounting to COP 700,000. This value was estimated in accordance with the guidelines of the Cash Transfer Working Group (GTM), which indicates that this amount covers approximately 50% of the basic household needs for a family of four living in



departments with the presence of Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs).

During the implementation of this DREF, a pilot test was conducted with a new financial service provider, Supergiros, as these types of transfers had previously been carried out through the operator Efecty. In addition, post-distribution monitoring surveys were conducted to assess the effectiveness and impact of the intervention and to gather community perceptions regarding the process. Finally, for the implementation of this activity, the support of a NIT volunteer specialized in cash transfers was considered essential. She led the feasibility study, household targeting and characterization, and the delivery of the cash assistance.

#### 6) RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RECOVERY

For the implementation of humanitarian response activities, coordination with government entities—such as Municipal Disaster Risk Management Councils (CMGRD), government secretariats, and municipal ombudsman offices—proved essential. This coordination enabled the prioritization of areas and communities for humanitarian assistance, while also mitigating duplication of efforts in light of the institutional response and the activities of other humanitarian organizations present in the municipalities.

These coordination efforts reinforced the mission-driven role of the Colombian Red Cross in emergency response and strengthened institutional preparedness for crisis situations. This was achieved by emphasizing the importance of having updated information on affected families and individuals, thereby enabling the efficient mobilization of humanitarian aid within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Additionally, maintenance was carried out on the telecommunications network of the Vichada Branch and the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Council (CMGRD). This will enhance both the branch's and the council's capacity for emergency monitoring and response. In this regard, improvements were made to the infrastructure housing the communication system, electrical network points, repeater equipment, and portable radios at the Vichada Branch; and for the CMGRD, the repeater system was activated.

At the National Directorate level, IT process was strengthened to provide internet connectivity in remote areas and during emergency situations where internet service is weak or unavailable. This equipment will be managed by the Disaster Risk Management area and deployed as needed. Additionally, a satellite telephony service was acquired for three months to ensure the availability of a satellite phone for various missions carried out by the National Directorate or any Branch requiring this resource.

#### 7) NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

To strengthen the operational capacity of the Colombian Red Cross Society, full uniforms were provided to volunteer teams, along with personal protective equipment such as goggles, gloves, steel-toe boots, rubber boots, insect repellent, and sunscreen. Additionally, branches received flags to properly emblem vehicles and operational spaces, as well as life jackets. Furthermore, each branch procured a set of supplies to strengthen the programmatic activities carried out in each department in the framework of the DREF operation. In this way, the branches received: Arauca (2 executive chairs; 1 multifunction printer; spare parts to repair 3 printers; 1 wireless microphone; first aid kits, among others), Caquetá (1 tent; 2 folding chairs; 1 folding table; traffic cones; safety tape and megaphone), Chocó (rooftop tents; megaphone; traffic signs; hydraulic jack; basic road emergency kits, among others), Putumayo (banquet tables; tents; fans; and flashlights).

Regarding training processes, a session was conducted for all branches to understand what the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) is and how it operates between the National Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Additionally, the following trainings were carried out:

- Livelihoods workshop with an emphasis on multipurpose cash transfers in the Vichada Branch.
- Knowledge transfer on telematics in the Vichada Branch.
- Knowledge transfer on the maintenance of the water point in the Vichada Branch.
- Workshop on the use and maintenance of water filters.
- Capacity strengthening on water quality testing to verify the presence or absence of coliforms.
- Capacity strengthening on the completion of verification documents.
- Capacity strengthening on administrative/financial reporting (legalization) processes.
- Training on conducting focus group discussions and sharing related methodologies.

All of the above trainings contributed to strengthening the capacities, knowledge, and skills of staff and volunteers of the National Society at local level. It is also important to highlight the audiovisual materials produced by the NIT volunteer in the Vichada Branch, as well as the collection of videos and photographs taken by teams from other branches. Using this material, each branch and the National Directorate made regular social media publications to showcase the impact of the DREF across different regions of the country.

Additionally, support visits were conducted to the branches of Arauca, Chocó, Putumayo, Caquetá, and Vichada. These visits supported project activities and strengthened various technical and operational aspects. Finally, a lessons learned workshop was held with the participation of the branches, the National Directorate, and IFRC. This space highlighted the importance of joint reflection to identify processes that should be replicated in order to achieve effective and efficient implementation.

#### 8) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY



Activities carried out in each municipality were implemented in coordination with community leaders to organize dates, schedules, and locations. Likewise, together with these leaders, census data was validated and field visits were conducted in areas affected by flooding. In this way, community participation in the process was ensured, allowing for the identification of humanitarian needs, priorities, and the areas where communities reside.

In line with the above, the “Red Cross Listens to You” mechanism was activated, and several post-distribution monitoring processes were conducted to gather community feedback and assess the impact of the activities on their quality of life. This information supports evidence-based adjustments in humanitarian assistance delivery and emergency response processes. The monitoring activities carried out included:

- Post-distribution monitoring of multipurpose cash transfers
- Focus group discussions on food kits and hygiene kits

Additionally, it is important to highlight that, although humanitarian assistance was delivered with a short-term duration due to its emergency nature, longer-lasting items were also provided—such as water treatment and storage kits—as well as sustainable actions, including maintenance of the telecommunications system and the water point at the Vichada Branch.

#### 9) PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

During the implementation of activities, a protection-focused approach was mainstreamed; that is, the response was aligned with the humanitarian needs of the communities, taking into account humanitarian principles as well as those related to the mission of the Red Cross. Likewise, the delivery of humanitarian assistance considered aspects such as subsidiarity—meaning that priority was given to households that had not previously received assistance from any entity—and a differential approach, through which priority was given to female-headed households, households with members with disabilities, with children, older adults, and pregnant women.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who was targeted by this operation?

In the implementation of the DREF operation, the most affected households have been prioritized in the departments of Arauca, Caquetá, Chocó, Putumayo, and Vichada. These households are typically located in low-lying areas and/or along riverbanks where water levels rise during the rainy seasons. While this is a recurrent situation, it has been exacerbated by climate change, leading to a significant increase in flooding events.

For the prioritization of departments and municipalities under this operation, factors such as humanitarian access, logistical conditions, operational security, complementarity with public institutions, and the broader humanitarian architecture were considered. As a result, the territorial breakdown is as follows:

- In Arauca, 700 families were prioritized in the municipalities of Arauca, Arauquita, and Saravena.
- In Caquetá, 700 families were prioritized in the municipalities of Curillo, Solano, Solita, Milán, Cartagena del Chairá, and San Vicente del Caguán.
- In Chocó, 500 families were prioritized in the municipality of Riosucio.
- In Putumayo, 1,000 families were prioritized in the municipalities of Puerto Guzmán, Puerto Asís, Sibundoy, and Colón.
- In Vichada, 300 families were prioritized in the municipality of Puerto Carreño.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The criteria used to prioritize families were as follows:

- Families with children under 5 years of age and adolescents.
- Families with pregnant or breastfeeding women.
- Families with persons with disabilities (physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual) or with chronic or degenerative illnesses that prevent them from working.
- Families with two or more dependents per working-age adult with the capacity to work (dependency ratio equal to or greater than 2). Dependents include individuals under 18, over 60, and persons with disabilities or health conditions.
- Individuals at protection risk (due to armed conflict and contexts of violence).
- Single adult heads of household with dependent children.
- Persons over 60 years of age.

Due to the flooding, families with the following impacts were also prioritized:

- Households with homes that were partially or totally flooded.



- Households that lost essential belongings.
- Households with interrupted or unsafe access to water.
- Households with affected livelihoods.
- Households with socioeconomic vulnerability.
- Households living in informal settlements or communities with limited access to basic service infrastructure.
- Households that had not received any type of humanitarian assistance.

It is important to note that all branches used official registries collected by government entities. In line with the auxiliary role of the Colombian Red Cross in emergency response, these official lists of affected populations were used and further validated with community leaders and through field visits in each of the affected areas.

## Total Assisted Population

|                           |        |                                      |     |
|---------------------------|--------|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Assisted Women            | -      | Rural                                | 49% |
| Assisted Girls (under 18) | -      | Urban                                | 51% |
| Assisted Men              | -      | People with disabilities (estimated) | 1%  |
| Assisted Boys (under 18)  | -      |                                      |     |
| Total Assisted Population | 14,450 |                                      |     |
| Total Targeted Population | 12,800 |                                      |     |

## 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 |
|------|-------------------|
|------|-------------------|



|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>Health risks due to exposure to non-potable 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.</p>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Strict use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staff supporting the operation.</li> <li>-Attention to self-care and public health measures for National Society personnel.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Security risks due to the presence of armed actors in the area, where there is currently an armed strike in some of the municipalities of the department and therefore armed confrontations may be a risk for access to some areas.</p>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Ensure that all personnel have the required insurance prior to deployment and have taken the safety training courses requested by the IFRC.</li> <li>-Induction and prior training in Operational Safety, delivery of the 1000 Series Manual to the Offices and Operational personnel involved.</li> <li>-Operational communication with the delivery of the summary of the Humanitarian Intervention to be delivered by the CRC in the areas of intervention, as well as an appropriate briefing before any mission.</li> <li>-Prior security monitoring with the support of the ICRC at the local and national levels.</li> <li>-Visibility and institutional 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" decals for institutional vehicles.</li> <li>-Continuous reporting and monitoring during the development of humanitarian intervention activities.</li> </ul> |
| <p>Risks of access to some communities. Given the conditions of floods, 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.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A first field survey assured that there are currently access roads to the communities by river and land means of transport in accordance with the current conditions of the territory.</li> <li>-Coordination with the river authorities operating in the area is proposed.</li> <li>-Synergy with the UNGRD and the Municipal DRM Councils.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>Administrative and supply chain risks</p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of compliance measures with suppliers in relation to the logistics processes linked to the contract.</li> </ul>  |

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

Currently, the departments of Arauca, Caquetá, Chocó and Putumayo are immersed in scenarios of armed conflict and other situations of violence, which have been perpetuated over the years and continue to date. For this reason, the Colombian Red Cross has monitored the minimum security conditions and the current efforts to deliver humanitarian assistance that are being carried out in the prioritized departments and have not presented any security contingencies. The National Society has the acceptance of all parties and has therefore guaranteed safe access to the affected area, maintaining constant monitoring in case of developments to activate its action protocol, which includes prevention and security measures for personnel on the ground.

All actions carried out by the Colombian Red Cross and other members of the Movement present in the territory are obliged to follow the rules, protocols and safety procedures, as well as compliance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. To this end, the Operational Safety Manual (Series 100) and the provisions established in the Tripartite Agreement between the International Federation, the ICRC and the Colombian Red Cross will be applied. In addition, the Multilateral Coordination framework and the Security Agreement will be applied, in compliance with the responsibility of carrying out its mandate in the country as a Movement (Seville Agreement).



Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

# Implementation



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

**Budget:** CHF 51,633

**Targeted Persons:** 6,900

**Assisted Persons:** 6,425

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

### Indicators

| Title                                | Target | Actual |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| # of families reached with food kits | 2,300  | 2,300  |

### Narrative description of achievements

- In order to provide comprehensive assistance, the food kits were delivered together with the hygiene kits. In the Chocó Branch, technical support was provided by a NIT volunteer, who assisted in the delivery of emergency humanitarian aid in the municipality of Riosucio alongside the local volunteer support group.
- The emergency humanitarian assistance provided through food and hygiene kits was delivered in municipalities where no other governmental or non-governmental actors had planned to provide support. In this regard, the assistance delivered by the Colombian Red Cross represented the first and only humanitarian aid received by these families. Finally, dispersed rural communities were successfully reached, meaning that the humanitarian response was not limited to municipal urban centers.
- Staff and volunteers carried out a territorial approach by visiting the different affected areas. This was recognized by the communities, as the teams from each branch were able to identify the most severely affected sectors. Furthermore, strong inter-institutional coordination was highlighted, which significantly accelerated the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Altogether, this ensured a timely, well-organized response focused on the needs of affected families.
- In the Caquetá Branch, humanitarian assistance was delivered in the municipalities of Solita and Solano, areas where the Colombian Red Cross had not operated through this branch for more than 30 years due to the access complexity and security issues. In this regard, resuming activities in the region required rebuilding community relationships and institutional linkages, with excellent results.

### Lessons Learnt

- During the focus group discussions conducted as part of the monitoring process for this type of distribution, it was identified that coffee was not well received due to its taste. Additionally, participants expressed a preference for receiving larger quantities of carbohydrates such as rice. Regarding the kits, it is recommended to avoid using cardboard boxes, as they deteriorate quickly and may lead to product damage.
- Household registries (censuses) should include complete information on all family members, not only the head of household, in order to avoid duplication of assistance or the artificial division of households. In this regard, it is also important to engage with municipal authorities to maintain updated community databases, as having pre-established records reduces humanitarian response times.
- Regarding the optimization of cargo reception and storage processes, the need for adequate storage spaces was identified. In this sense, the importance of adapting spaces within branch infrastructure to ensure proper storage of humanitarian aid supplies was highlighted.

### Challenges

- The Colombian Red Cross does not conduct censuses of the affected population; this process is the responsibility of government entities. However, the validation of these censuses in each territory and community is carried out jointly by the Red Cross and



community leaders in order to mitigate risks of inclusion and exclusion errors. Despite this, during distribution activities, some families who were not previously targeted may appear, and the prior targeting process is explained to them in order to prevent community conflicts.

- On the other hand, the Chocó Branch faced challenges related to the transportation of humanitarian aid due to road conditions, as heavy rains left sections of the road in poor condition. As a result, travel time extended to approximately 36 hours. In relation to this same aspect, in branches such as Putumayo and Caquetá, humanitarian aid was transported via river routes, which posed a risk of the cargo getting wet, even though food kits are protected by plastic bags and hygiene kits are packed in plastic containers.

- In line with the above, transporting humanitarian aid between municipalities—whether by river or land—entails high costs. Although transport costs are estimated during project formulation, actual costs tend to be higher once implementation begins. Additionally, when using third-party transport providers, it is important to properly emblem vehicles (boats and trucks) and to brief transporters on the humanitarian principles guiding the work of the Colombian Red Cross.

- Furthermore, in municipalities where there are no local units or support groups, coordination and operational implementation may take longer and require more detailed planning for deployment.



## Multi Purpose Cash

**Budget:** CHF 50,776

**Targeted Persons:** 1,200

**Assisted Persons:** 1,398

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

### Indicators

| Title   | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| # of feasibility studies carried out                | 1      | 1      |
| # of families receiving multipurpose cash transfers | 300    | 300    |
| # of post-distribution interviews developed         | 90     | 116    |

### Narrative description of achievements

- During the implementation, a pilot was conducted with an alternative Financial Service Provider. In addition to Efecty, which is the traditionally used for cash transfers. Consequently, 200 transfers were delivered through Efecty and 100 through Supergiros. This confirmed the operational feasibility of engaging two Financial Service Providers in Vichada with efficient and reliable processes for the delivery of this type of humanitarian assistance.

- Regarding the results of the post-distribution monitoring, which capture the perceptions of a sample of 116 households, the following key findings are highlighted: 1) 114 heads of household reported feeling safe when withdrawing the cash and considered the process to be fair. 2) Only 16 people reported difficulties related to fingerprint verification and identification data. 3) The main needs covered through the cash transfer were food, housing repairs, purchase of household items and payment of basic utilities. 4) 115 heads of household confirmed that they would prefer cash transfers as humanitarian assistance. 5) Recipients reported being satisfied and very satisfied with both the delivery process and the amount transferred.

- This CASH intervention enabled the Colombian Red Cross – Vichada Branch to strengthen its presence in the territory as a key actor within the disaster risk management system at both departmental and municipal levels. Feedback collected from the communities included messages such as: “This assistance was very timely and well targeted; we trust the Red Cross and this support gives us great hope,” “It was gratifying to see how the families most in need were prioritized,” and “Thank you for paying attention to Vichada during such a difficult situation; with this support, my family was able to meet our basic needs while we were able to return to our home”.



## Lessons Learnt

- During previous implementations of Multipurpose Cash Transfers by the Colombian Red Cross, Efecty was typically the sole Financial Service Provider (FSP). However, under the Floods DREF 2025, a commercial agreement was established with Supergiros in order to increase diversity and coverage among financial service providers, especially in rural areas where the capacity is limited. This provider offers more comprehensive and faster options for making adjustments when required. Despite these operational differences, both providers are characterized by their effectiveness in delivering payments and their nationwide coverage, which facilitates the implementation of programmes in any area of the country.
- Staff and volunteers were trained in Multipurpose Cash Transfers, resulting in the Branch currently having the technical and operational capacities to implement this type of activity.
- The importance of accompanying households at the payment points, as this allows for the timely resolution of issues related to personal identification information, addresses beneficiaries' questions, and further reinforces key messages on fraud and corruption prevention.
- While time is limited in emergency response operations and must be fully optimized, the importance of conducting a double-check process of the household profiling information provided by local authorities was identified, particularly through validation with community leaders—especially in rural areas, where household composition may differ from traditional structures.

## Challenges

- Among the challenges identified were difficulties related to the consolidation of the census of households affected by the floods in the municipality of Puerto Carreño, due to the following situations:
  - Duplication of records.
  - Splitting of households when members belonged to the same family unit.
  - Households not located within the prioritized neighbourhoods.
  - Households displaced as a result of the floods that were not included in the census.
- Additionally, communication with households proved challenging, as many did not have access to mobile phone lines and/or WhatsApp, and mobile network coverage was limited. As a result, communications were often ineffective, and most information had to be relayed through third parties, such as neighbours or community leaders.
- Many of the volunteers who supported the CASH intervention were themselves affected by the floods, which placed additional psychosocial pressure on the availability of personnel for the operation. Nevertheless, volunteers remained consistently present and willing to carry out the required actions to support affected families, highlighting their strong commitment and vocation to assist those in need. As one volunteer shared: "I get up, and even when I see my house flooded, I put on my boots, because I know there are people who need support, and that is what drives me—to help others."



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

**Budget:** CHF 126,765  
**Targeted Persons:** 11,600  
**Assisted Persons:** 12,562  
**Targeted Male:** -  
**Targeted Female:** -

## Indicators

| Title   | Target  | Actual  |
|---|---------|---------|
| # of water treatment plants deployed  | 1       | 2       |
| # of liters of drinking water delivered through mobilization and operation of mobile water treatment plants | 450,000 | 413,153 |



|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| # of families reached with domestic water transport, storage and treatment kits | 600   | 600   |
| # of families reached with hygiene kits   | 2,300 | 2,300 |

## Narrative description of achievements

- According to the above information, family hygiene kits containing commonly used products for any household member were successfully delivered. This is significant, as one of the gaps identified among families affected by the floods was access to hygiene products that would allow them to maintain adequate sanitary and health conditions.
- The distribution of water treatment and storage kits was accompanied by awareness-raising sessions on filter assembly, use, and maintenance. This proved to be a positive action, as it aims to ensure the sustainability of the filters. Additionally, it was explained that the filtration system and the importance of pre-filtering using a cloth (included in the kit) was emphasized. Storage containers such as jerrycans and bins are essential, as communities traditionally store water. Therefore, providing specific supplies for this activity has enabled families to ensure water safety starting from the source. Through the implementation of this DREF, water filters were distributed along with exclusive containers for water storage. In this sense, a humanitarian response tailored to the needs and water storage practices of families was designed.
- According to the territorial context, the water distribution point at the Vichada Branch (Puerto Carreño) was improved and refurbished to ensure the sustainability of the WASH actions carried out in the framework of the DREF Operation. Additionally, to ensure water distribution to families in need, the Caquetá Branch managed a water tanker truck, ensuring the coverage of safe water to the families affected by the emergency. Recognizing the ability of national delegations to adapt to local conditions in order to ensure the Red Cross's humanitarian mission.

## Lessons Learnt

- It has proven to be a good practice to distribute jerrycans and storage containers as complementary items to the water filter, as this provides families with the necessary supplies to ensure proper water safety. Additionally, the provision of these complementary items serves as an incentive for the use of the water filter.
- In line with the above, it is worth noting that, due to the large size of the supplies and the fragility of the clay vessel, it was important to design a different logistics plan from the one used for the distribution of food and hygiene kits, as well as to arrange for alternative types of cargo transport and packaging to prevent any damage to the items.
- During the focus group discussions, no dissatisfaction with the hygiene kits was identified. Therefore, the kit composition is adaptable to different contexts.

## Challenges

- The water point established at the Vichada Branch requires continuous maintenance to ensure proper use and the provision of safe water. This maintenance is carried out by the branch's professional team and will eventually require financial resources.
- During the distribution of water treatment and storage kits, Red Cross teams assessed which households required additional support for filter installation and provided tailored assistance to each family. In this way, the aim is to ensure proper use of the water treatment kit in every household, guaranteeing that the supplies are used appropriately.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

**Budget:** CHF 24,123

**Targeted Persons:** 0

**Assisted Persons:** 0

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

## Indicators

| Title | Target | Actual |
|-------|--------|--------|
|-------|--------|--------|



|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| # of Colombian Red Cross branches that receive support for the maintenance of their telecommunications network | 1 | 1 |
|--|---|---|

## Narrative description of achievements

- In emergency response operations, it is essential that Branches are prepared to monitor crisis situations and have the appropriate tools to do so. Accordingly, a NIT volunteer specialized in telematics was deployed to the Vichada Branch with the support of telematics technical focal point of the National Society, who carried out the following activities related to the telecommunications infrastructure of the Branch and the municipality.

Actions at the Vichada Branch:

- Improvement of the communications facility infrastructure, particularly the waterproofing of the roof.
- Installation of a 110V AC power supply point through a photovoltaic system, ensuring continuity of operations.
- Improved functionality of the repeater equipment.
- Maintenance of 12 handheld radios and 2 mobile radios.

Actions at the municipal level:

- Activation of the repeater equipment of the Municipal Disaster Risk Management Council.

- Additionally, due to the efficiency of the expenditures incurred, support was provided to the Branch's connectivity services in order to enhance its emergency response capacity through functional communication equipment.

- It is worth highlighting that the efforts undertaken by the Red Cross to improve the infrastructure of the communications facility (waterproofing) encouraged local authorities to invest in the missing strengthening measures to ensure that the personnel responsible for operating the facility had minimum conditions to work with dignity. During one of the follow-up visits, the person in charge of security at the facility approached Red Cross staff to express their appreciation, stating: "Before, it was impossible to stay inside the communications facility; carrying out a workday was almost unmanageable. Thank you for this."

## Lessons Learnt

- Given the emphasis of DREFs on emergency response, it is important to identify Branch-level infrastructure and equipment needs in order to address these gaps and ensure an effective response in future emergencies.

## Challenges

- Telecommunications services in the department of Vichada present significant challenges, and the Branch does not currently have trained personnel to address network requirements or deficiencies. In this context, support from the National Headquarters and the deployment of specialized NIT volunteers were required to achieve the planned activities, highlighting the importance of incorporating telematics capacities within the Branch.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 1,020

**Targeted Persons:** 30

**Assisted Persons:** 81

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

## Indicators

| Title   | Target | Actual |
|---|--------|--------|
| # of feedback mechanisms activated "Red Cross listens to you" | 1      | 1      |
| # of focus groups conducted                                   | 5      | 6      |



## Narrative description of achievements

With the delivery of humanitarian assistance, the "Cruz Roja te escucha" mechanism was activated, enabling the establishment of a communication channel with communities and allowing feedback to be received regarding the humanitarian response process. In line with this, and with the objective of closely monitoring the delivery of food kits and hygiene kits at the household level, five focus group discussions were conducted as follows:

- Two focus group discussions in the Putumayo Branch.
- One focus group discussion in the Chocó Branch.
- One focus group discussion in the Caquetá Branch.
- One focus group discussion in the Arauca Branch.
- One focus group discussion in the Vichada Branch.

The following findings emerged from the focus group discussions in response to the questions outlined below:

1) Did the humanitarian assistance address basic needs?

- Households reported having very limited or no economic resources; therefore, the assistance provided helped to alleviate one of their most pressing needs, such as food. In line with this, participants indicated that having access to food gave them the strength and energy to carry out other activities.
- Overall, the humanitarian assistance provided adequately met the families' needs at that time.

2) Was the humanitarian assistance delivered within the expected timeframe?

- In some areas, households mentioned that the assistance provided was the only response they received. Likewise, the support arrived at a moment when it was most needed.
- Participants also indicated that the food and hygiene items provided brought a sense of relief, allowing families to focus on repairing their homes.

3) What would you change about the humanitarian assistance?

Beneficiaries highlighted the following points regarding the items provided:

- The food kit was very comprehensive, but it only lasted approximately one week.
- The coffee had an unpleasant taste.
- The toothbrush wore out very quickly.
- Beneficiaries would have liked to receive porridge (colada) and powdered milk, as well as larger quantities of rice and cooking oil.
- The hygiene kit was considered appropriate.

4) What was done well? What could be improved?

- Households reported that distributions were well organized, the information provided was clear and easy to understand, and they highlighted the humility of the Red Cross team, as well as the respectful and dignified treatment received at all times.
- On the other hand, regarding areas for improvement, participants mentioned the need for greater availability of humanitarian assistance and the delivery of shelter kits including mattresses, mosquito nets, and rubber boots.

## Lessons Learnt

- Within operational planning, it is essential to prioritize the conduct of needs assessments as one of the first actions to be implemented, as this allows for reasonable adjustments to the humanitarian response, the validation of household profiling information received by the Colombian Red Cross from disaster risk management authorities, and the application of operational methodologies that incorporate the voices of affected communities.

- In addition, the use of focus group discussions is a timely approach to demonstrate the impact of emergency humanitarian assistance and to identify improvements that should be introduced both to the kits and to the operational processes for community engagement. For some Branches, the focus group methodology is new; therefore, it is important to provide guidance from the National Headquarters and, where possible, to lead the implementation of this activity so that staff and volunteers can effectively adopt and apply the methodology in future exercises.

## Challenges

- Needs assessments present a high level of complexity during emergency periods, when the needs of affected communities must be addressed in a timely manner.





## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 8,673

**Targeted Persons:** 0

**Assisted Persons:** 0

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

### Indicators

| Title                  | Target | Actual |
|------------------------|--------|--------|
| # of monitoring visits | 2      | 1      |

### Narrative description of achievements

- The monitoring visit was conducted in November 2025 at the Vichada Branch in the city of Puerto Carreño, with the participation of staff from the IFRC Secretariat – Colombia Delegation and the Disaster Risk Management Team of the Colombian Red Cross National Headquarters. Within the framework of this follow-up visit, the following achievements are highlighted:

- Coordination between National Headquarters, the Branch, and the Secretariat to identify operational needs on the ground and assess the contextual conditions of the area for future operations.
- Engagement with local disaster risk management authorities at departmental and municipal levels, as well as evidence of actions implemented in the field, enabling informed decision-making at a critical stage of the project.
- Conduct of focus group discussions and interviews with reached households, allowing for first-hand understanding of achieved results and direct feedback from communities.
- Recognition of the Branch for its response to the emergency and strengthened positioning of its vision and experience within national-level disaster risk management efforts.

### Lessons Learnt

- It is essential to conduct a greater number of IFRC field visits to the Branches prioritized under the DREF. This enables the strengthening of technical, administrative, and operational aspects from the Secretariat's perspective and within the scope of the DREF mechanism.

### Challenges

- Due to security conditions and access constraints in the prioritized areas, not all of the visits planned for the operation could be conducted, which affected the scheduling and the expected outcomes of these visits.



## National Society Strengthening

**Budget:** CHF 76,579

**Targeted Persons:** 50

**Assisted Persons:** 63

**Targeted Male:** -

**Targeted Female:** -

### Indicators

| Title  | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # of National Intervention Teams volunteers deployed | 4      | 4      |



|   |    |    |
|---|----|----|
| # of field missions conducted by the National Society team                                  | 6  | 13 |
| # of volunteers who receive uniforms and personal protective equipment for their activities | 20 | 20 |
| # of staff trained in DREF guide and standard procedures                                    | 30 | 63 |
| # of lessons learned workshop developed   | 1  | 1  |

## Narrative description of achievements

- In line with the strengthening of the branches, uniforms, flags, life jackets, and personal protective equipment (footwear, repellent, sunscreen, etc.) were procured. These items were delivered to each branch, which may in turn provide them to branch volunteers and to those who have actively supported DREF activities. In this way, adequate conditions are maintained for the service of staff and volunteers.
- The deployment of NIT volunteers helped strengthen technical processes at the local level across the different lines of intervention. This was the case in the Vichada Branch, where, although active volunteers were already in place, the Branch highlighted the importance of having specialized technical support, which is essential for emergency preparedness and response. It should also be noted that this deployment enables efficient progress in the technical implementation of the various planned activities, contributing to the overall operational framework in the field.
- On the other hand, in September, a session was held to socialize the DREF guidelines with the National Society. Consequently, a broad invitation was extended to all branches with the aim of ensuring they understood what a DREF is, its characteristics, the information required, and the requirements for the National Society to apply for this emergency fund, thereby expanding its reach at the national level. Through this activity, different branches were able to better understand the scope of a DREF and recognize the importance of its activation in emergency situations.
- In addition, 10 accompaniment visits have been carried out to the branches. Through these visits, emergency humanitarian assistance deliveries (food kits and hygiene kits) and water filters have been supported; meetings have been held to address technical, programmatic, and administrative aspects; and audiovisual material has been collected. Regarding the latter, coverage by Noticias Caracol was secured in the department of Putumayo, through which the humanitarian response provided by the Colombian Red Cross in rural areas and in the urban center of the municipality of Puerto Asís was showcased.
- More than 10 publications were produced within the framework of the operation to position the DREF Fund and the actions of the Colombian Red Cross in emergency response, in addition to the content published through the National Society branches' social media channels.

## Lessons Learnt

- In visibility processes involving national media, it is important to establish a collaboration agreement specifying the conditions of the coverage and the timelines for publishing the news piece. On the other hand, it is essential that the Communications Department of the National Directorate accompanies the various emergency assistance distribution activities and community support visits. In this way, it is possible to produce a communications product that reflects the implementation of the DREF at the territorial level.
- It is relevant to engage NIT volunteers, as their technical knowledge, competencies, and experience represent a significant and efficient contribution to the implementation of activities under a Fast Track DREF modality. Furthermore, the engagement of a General NIT constitutes a key support during the initial months of implementation, as it helps streamline and strengthen operational processes.
- The socialization of the DREF mechanism with the entire National Society is highly positive, as it ensures that branches are informed about how it operates, its requirements, and the commitments assumed when deciding to engage with this emergency fund.

## Challenges

- The payments required for the deployment of NIT volunteers experienced delays from the accounting area, despite the fact that the administrative process was completed in a timely manner. This represents a challenge for the volunteer support service, as volunteers are required to cover their living expenses with their own resources while awaiting the transfer of funds.



# Financial Report

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## DREF Operation

| Selected Parameters |                 |           |          |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2025/07-2026/04 | Operation | MDRCO032 |
| Budget Timeframe    | 2025/07-2025/12 | Budget    | APPROVED |

### FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 25/May/2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRCO032 - Colombia - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 09 jul 2025 to 31 dic 2025

#### I. Summary

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Opening Balance                 | 0               |
| <b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b> | <b>339.570</b>  |
| DREF Response Pillar            | 339.570         |
| <b>Expenditure</b>              | <b>-327.250</b> |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>          | <b>12.320</b>   |

#### II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

| Description  | Budget         | Expenditure    | Variance       |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items               |                |                | 0              |
| PO02 - Livelihoods                                     | 51.633         | 57.843         | -6.210         |
| PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash                              | 50.776         | 51.210         | -434           |
| PO04 - Health  |                |                | 0              |
| PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene                     | 126.765        | 115.861        | 10.905         |
| PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion                |                |                | 0              |
| PO07 - Education                                       |                |                | 0              |
| PO08 - Migration                                       |                |                | 0              |
| PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery | 24.123         | 3.789          | 20.334         |
| PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability         | 1.020          | 719            | 302            |
| PO11 - Environmental Sustainability                    |                |                | 0              |
| <b>Planned Operations Total</b>                        | <b>254.317</b> | <b>229.421</b> | <b>24.896</b>  |
| EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships                   |                |                | 0              |
| EA02 - Secretariat Services                            | 8.673          | 6.086          | 2.587          |
| EA03 - National Society Strengthening                  | 76.579         | 91.743         | -15.163        |
| <b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>                       | <b>85.253</b>  | <b>97.829</b>  | <b>-12.576</b> |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                     | <b>339.570</b> | <b>327.250</b> | <b>12.320</b>  |

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## Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 339,570 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 327,250. The unspent balance of CHF 12,320 will be returned to the DREF. The most notable variances between the budgeted and actual expenditures include: Most of the technical indicators were met and the target number of people was exceeded; therefore, the change is attributable to the optimization of resources through the monetization of funds and savings in procurement processes, as the operational team sought to maintain cost efficiency.



# Contact Information

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

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**IFRC Project Manager:** Edwin Armenta, edwin.armenta@ifrc.org

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

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