



PRÊTS À SERVIR, ENGAGÉS POUR L'HUMANITÉ

Volontaires de la Croix-Rouge Congolaise en action lors de l'opération de préparation aux Élections Présidentielles 2026

Dispositif de premiers secours déployé pour protéger les populations et promouvoir une élection pacifique, inclusive et sécurisée.



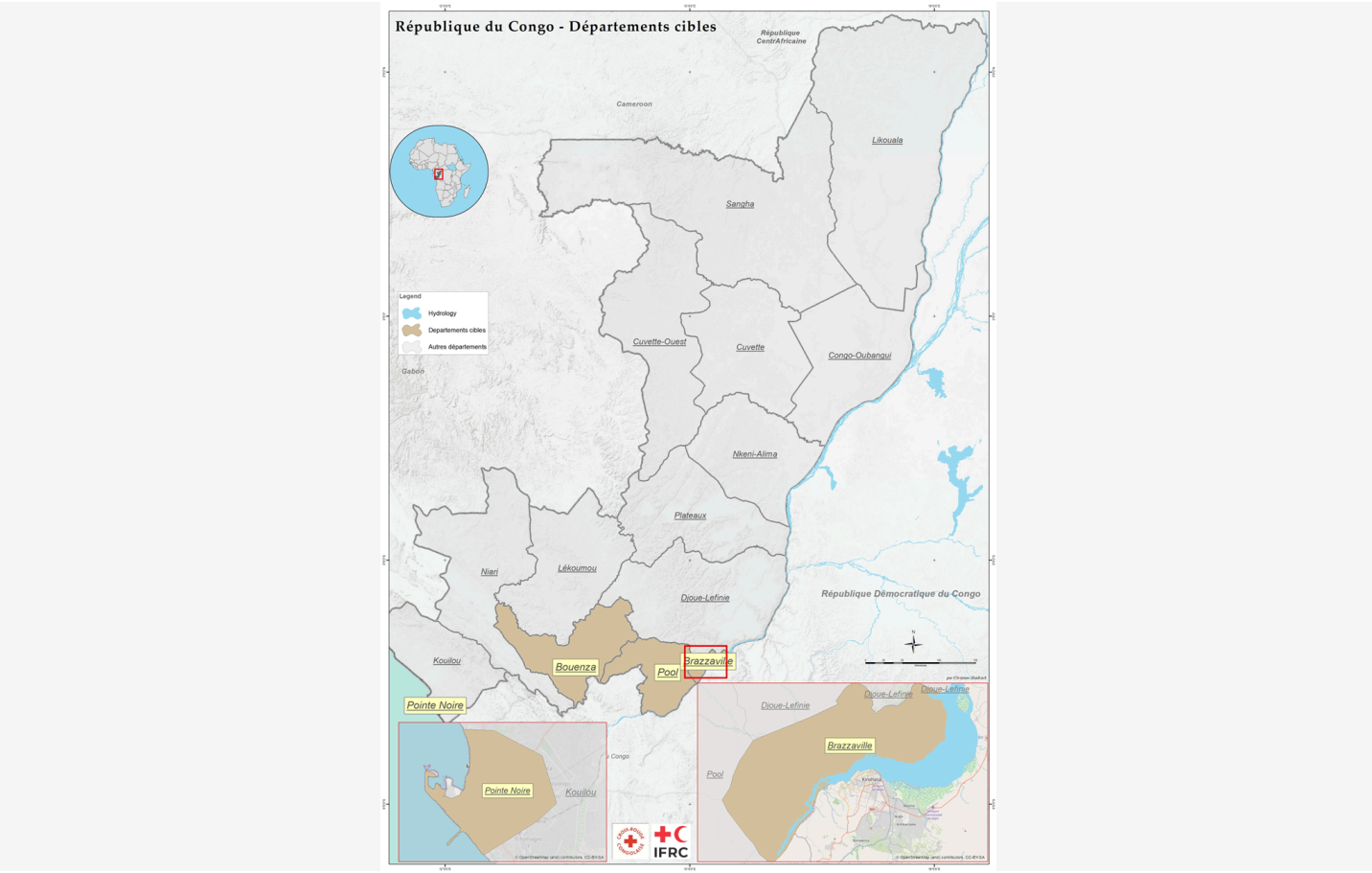
CRC volunteers evacuate a pregnant woman

Appeal: MDRCG027	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 148,132	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Other
Glide Number: -	People Affected: -	People Targeted: 5,000 people	People Assisted: 7,886 people
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 13-02-2026	Operational End Date: 31-05-2026	Total Operating Timeframe: 3 months

Targeted Regions: **Bouenza, Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Pool**

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

Description of the Event



Affected Areas

Date when the trigger was met

20-01-2026

What happened, where and when?

The Republic of Congo held its presidential election on 15 March 2026, following the official campaign period from 28 February to 13 March and early voting for security forces on 12 March. The electoral period took place against a backdrop of heightened political tensions and previous localized security incidents, which had led the Congolese Red Cross (CRC) to anticipate potential humanitarian consequences, including localized violence, population displacement and disruption of essential services.

Based on its contingency planning and risk analysis, the CRC identified Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Pool and Bouenza as priority areas for enhanced preparedness. The DREF operation therefore focused on strengthening the readiness of CRC teams and volunteers in these four departments, while complementary preparedness measures were implemented in other parts of the country through the National Society's Election Contingency Plan, with support from the ICRC and the National Society's own resources.

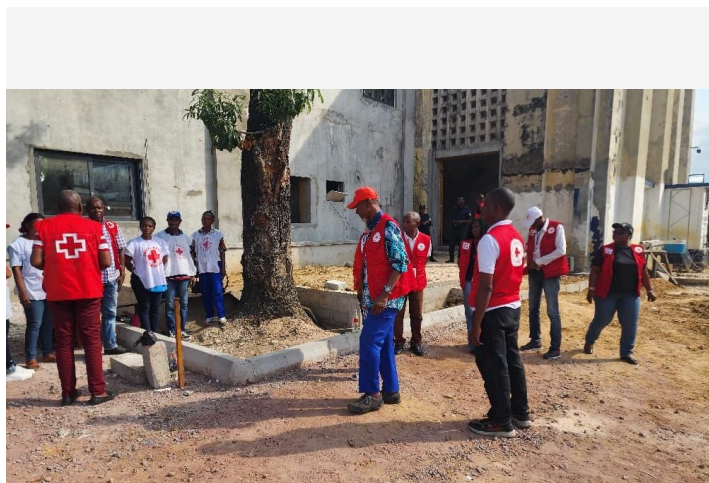
During implementation, the anticipated escalation of electoral violence did not materialize at the scale initially feared. The electoral process remained largely peaceful, and no widespread humanitarian crisis requiring a large-scale emergency response was reported under the operation. As a result, the DREF preparedness measures were primarily used to strengthen the CRC's readiness to respond to potential localized incidents, rather than to deliver a large-scale emergency response.

The operation contributed to maintaining the CRC's operational readiness throughout the electoral period, including the preparedness of volunteers and response teams and the availability of mechanisms to support a rapid response if incidents occurred. The post-electoral monitoring period continued until the proclamation of the final results, the inauguration of the elected President and the formation of



the new Government, after which the operation was closed.

At closure, the experience highlighted the continued need to strengthen the CRC's preparedness for future electoral and other complex emergencies. In particular, further investment is required to maintain and regularly update contingency plans, strengthen early warning and information management mechanisms, reinforce the capacity of branches and volunteers for rapid deployment, and ensure that essential preparedness resources and response arrangements are maintained beyond individual operations.



Supervision visit to a polling station in Brazzaville ,CRC



Provision of first aid and referral of patients to a health centre,CRC

Scope and Scale

The DREF operation focused on Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Pool and Bouenza, which were identified through the National Society's contingency planning and risk analysis as priority areas for electoral preparedness. These departments include densely populated urban and peri-urban communities, major public institutions, transport hubs, markets and other locations where large gatherings could have increased the risk of injuries, localized violence, population movements and disruption of access to essential services during the electoral period.

The main potential humanitarian impacts identified included injuries, temporary displacement, disruption of livelihoods and essential services, protection concerns and reduced access to health and other basic services in the event of significant unrest. The potential impact was expected to be greater in densely populated areas and among people whose mobility, access to services or ability to cope with disruptions was more limited.

Groups considered particularly vulnerable included children, older persons, persons with disabilities, women and people living in socio-economically vulnerable urban and peri-urban communities. Young people were also considered an important group in the preparedness planning because of their participation in public and political gatherings and their potential exposure to crowd-related incidents. People already experiencing displacement or other forms of vulnerability could also have faced additional challenges in accessing services and protection in the event of deterioration of the security situation.

The geographical prioritization was also informed by the country's previous experience of election-related and politico-military tensions. The 2021 presidential election was associated with reported loss of life, injuries, destruction of property, population displacement and disruption of livelihoods. In addition, communities in the Pool Department have experienced recurrent politico-military crises, contributing to pre-existing vulnerabilities and reduced coping capacities. These experiences reinforced the need for preparedness measures, particularly in first aid, volunteer readiness, community engagement, protection and coordination.

During the 2026 electoral process, however, the anticipated large-scale humanitarian impact did not materialize. No widespread election-related violence was reported in the DREF-supported departments. The CRC nevertheless maintained enhanced preparedness and monitoring capacity to respond to localized incidents, public demonstrations or other situations that could have generated humanitarian needs.

By the end of the operation, the overall situation had progressively stabilized following the completion of the electoral process, the announcement of the final results, the inauguration of the elected President and the formation of the new Government. The CRC

progressively deactivated its emergency preparedness arrangements as the risk of widespread unrest decreased.

The operation nevertheless demonstrated the importance of maintaining trained and deployable volunteers, updated contingency plans, effective early warning and information-sharing mechanisms, and adequate preparedness resources at branch and national levels. These remain priority areas for further strengthening to ensure that the National Society can respond effectively to future electoral periods, localized civil unrest and other complex emergencies.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Radio France International	https://www.rfi.fr/fr/afrique/20250811-congo-brazzaville-processus-%C3%A9lectoral-en-ordre-de-marche-pr%C3%A9sidentielle-mars-2026

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	No
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IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) based in Kinshasa provided technical, operational and strategic support to the Congolese Red Cross throughout the DREF operation. As the Republic of Congo does not host an IFRC country delegation, the Kinshasa CCD coordinated Secretariat support to the National Society throughout the preparedness, electoral and post-electoral periods. During implementation, the IFRC maintained regular technical exchanges with the Congolese Red Cross to monitor the evolving political and humanitarian context, review the implementation of preparedness measures and address operational issues as they arose. This support enabled the National Society to maintain its readiness throughout the electoral period and to adjust its preparedness posture as the anticipated escalation of violence did not materialize. Technical support was provided in key areas including PMER, Information Management, Finance, Administration, Logistics and Supply Chain, Security, Communications and National Society Development. This contributed to strengthening operational follow-up, financial and administrative compliance, procurement and logistics processes, information management and reporting throughout the operation. The IFRC also supported coordination within the Movement, including regular exchanges with the ICRC, to promote complementarity between the DREF-supported preparedness measures and the National Society’s broader Election Contingency Plan. Regional and global technical focal points provided additional guidance and remote support when required. As the electoral process remained largely peaceful and did not require a large-scale
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	humanitarian response, the IFRC support remained primarily focused on preparedness, operational readiness, monitoring and coordination, rather than emergency response. The support also helped the CRC maintain its humanitarian role and operational presence while ensuring respect for the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. At closure, the operation had strengthened coordination between the CRC, IFRC and Movement partners and contributed to improved readiness of the National Society. However, continued support will be needed to institutionalize and sustain these capacities, particularly in contingency planning, information management and early warning, volunteer readiness, operational coordination and the maintenance of preparedness resources beyond the DREF operation.
Participating National Societies	No Participating National Societies were present or directly involved in the implementation of the DREF operation in the Republic of Congo. The operation was implemented by the Congolese Red Cross with support from the IFRC and coordination with Movement partners as relevant. At closure, no PNS presence or direct operational involvement was reported in the country.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) maintained close coordination with the Congolese Red Cross throughout the electoral period. Although the ICRC did not directly support the implementation of the DREF operation, it complemented the National Society's preparedness and response efforts through its support to the Election Contingency Plan, which was implemented in six additional departments outside the DREF operational area. This complementary support contributed to strengthening the overall humanitarian preparedness of the Congolese Red Cross at the national level while ensuring clear operational complementarity between the two interventions.

Throughout the operation, regular coordination and information-sharing were maintained between the ICRC, the IFRC and the Congolese Red Cross to monitor the evolving security situation, share operational updates and promote a coordinated humanitarian approach in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement. The ICRC also continued its long-standing support to the National Society in areas such as Restoring Family Links (RFL) and protection activities, particularly in departments affected by previous humanitarian crises, including Pool.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	Throughout the electoral period, the Congolese Red Cross maintained coordination with national and local authorities in the four DREF-supported departments to facilitate preparedness activities and monitor the evolving security and humanitarian context. This coordination supported the deployment and positioning of volunteers, the establishment of first aid posts at strategic locations, and the implementation of preparedness and response arrangements during the electoral period. It also facilitated the exchange of information on the security situation and helped ensure



	that CRC activities were implemented in accordance with its humanitarian mandate and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. As the electoral process remained largely peaceful and did not result in a large-scale humanitarian crisis, the coordination mechanisms were primarily used to maintain operational readiness and ensure timely communication in case of localized incidents, rather than to support a large-scale emergency response. National and local authorities also participated in the end-of-operation lessons learned workshop, contributing to the review of achievements, challenges and recommendations for future electoral preparedness. The operation highlighted the importance of maintaining clear coordination and information-sharing mechanisms between the authorities and the CRC, particularly at decentralized level. At closure, the collaboration provided a useful foundation for future preparedness efforts. Further strengthening of joint contingency planning, information-sharing, early warning and coordination mechanisms at national and local levels will remain important to ensure timely and coordinated action during future electoral processes and other emergencies.
UN or other actors	Throughout the DREF implementation period, the Congolese Red Cross maintained coordination and information-sharing with relevant humanitarian, development and civil society actors to monitor the evolving context and promote complementarity of interventions. Other actors, including United Nations agencies, development partners and civil society organizations, continued to support governance, peacebuilding, social cohesion, civic education and conflict-prevention initiatives during the electoral period. These efforts contributed to maintaining a relatively stable operating environment and complemented the preparedness measures implemented by the Congolese Red Cross, although they were not directly part of the DREF operation. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continued its work on governance, peacebuilding and institutional strengthening, while civil society and election-related organizations supported peaceful participation, civic awareness, dialogue and conflict prevention. As the electoral process remained largely peaceful, no large-scale international humanitarian response specifically linked to the elections was activated during the DREF implementation period. The CRC continued to share relevant information with authorities, Movement partners and other actors as required, particularly in relation to the evolving security and humanitarian context. This coordination supported the monitoring of potential risks and helped maintain complementarity between the CRC's preparedness activities and broader peacebuilding and social cohesion efforts. At closure, the operation highlighted the continued importance of stronger information-sharing and coordination mechanisms between the CRC, authorities, humanitarian and development actors, and civil society, particularly at local level. Maintaining these linkages will be important for future electoral processes and other situations where political, security and humanitarian risks may overlap.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Health

During the implementation of the operation, the humanitarian needs identified during the preparedness phase were confirmed through field monitoring, volunteer observations and community feedback mechanisms. Although the electoral process remained largely peaceful, localized incidents, crowd gatherings and medical emergencies highlighted the importance of maintaining preparedness and ensuring the availability of humanitarian services throughout the electoral period.

The primary humanitarian needs addressed through the operation included:

- **First aid and emergency health services:** The deployment of trained volunteers and the establishment of first aid posts near strategic polling locations ensured timely assistance to individuals experiencing injuries, medical emergencies and stress-related conditions during election-related activities. Referral mechanisms also facilitated access to appropriate health facilities when specialized care was required.
- **Operational readiness and emergency equipment:** The pre-positioning of first aid kits, stretchers, personal protective equipment and other operational supplies strengthened the National Society's capacity to respond rapidly and safely to localized incidents while protecting volunteers during deployment.
- **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS):** The operation addressed psychosocial needs by providing Psychological First Aid (PFA) and basic psychosocial support to individuals affected by stress, anxiety and other election-related incidents. Volunteers also facilitated referrals for individuals requiring additional support.
- **Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI):** The operation identified the need to ensure safe, inclusive and equitable access to humanitarian services, particularly for women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. Volunteers supported awareness-raising on gender-based violence (GBV), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), available referral pathways and community protection mechanisms, contributing to a more protective response environment.
- **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):** Continuous dialogue with communities, supported by feedback and complaint mechanisms, enabled the Congolese Red Cross to better understand community concerns, address rumours and misinformation, and adapt operational activities where necessary. This contributed to strengthening trust, accountability and community acceptance throughout the response.
- **Volunteer preparedness and capacity strengthening:** Refresher training in first aid, psychosocial support, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) enhanced volunteers' capacity to respond safely, effectively and in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The electoral context confirmed the importance of integrating Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) across all preparedness and response activities. Although the electoral process remained largely peaceful, community engagement activities, rapid PGI assessments and field observations identified protection concerns affecting vulnerable groups and highlighted the need to ensure that humanitarian assistance remained safe, inclusive and accessible.

The operation addressed the following priority PGI needs:

- **Protection risk prevention and mitigation:** Volunteers supported the identification of protection concerns and promoted safe access to humanitarian services throughout the electoral period. Community engagement activities and referral mechanisms contributed to reducing protection risks and ensuring that individuals requiring specialized support could be referred to appropriate services.
- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) prevention and referrals:** Awareness-raising activities on Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and available referral pathways were conducted throughout the operation. These activities strengthened community awareness of protection risks and facilitated the referral of vulnerable individuals and survivors to appropriate support services.



- Child protection: Child protection considerations were integrated into community engagement and protection activities. Volunteers were sensitized to identify children at risk, prevent family separation where possible, and refer child protection concerns through existing referral mechanisms.

- Inclusion of older persons and persons with disabilities: Particular attention was given to ensuring that older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups had equitable access to information, first aid services and community engagement activities. Focus group discussions and community consultations helped identify barriers to access and informed measures to improve the inclusiveness of the response.

Strengthening PGI capacities of volunteers: The operation reinforced the capacities of volunteers and staff through refresher training on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), safeguarding principles and survivor-centred approaches. These capacity-strengthening activities improved volunteers' ability to identify protection risks, communicate appropriately with affected populations and systematically integrate PGI considerations into humanitarian service delivery.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Throughout the implementation of the operation, the electoral context confirmed the importance of effective Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in supporting humanitarian preparedness and maintaining public trust. The rapid circulation of rumours, misinformation and concerns related to the electoral process highlighted the need for continuous communication with communities before, during and after the elections.

The operation addressed the following priority CEA needs:

- Access to timely and reliable information: Communities required clear and accurate information on the humanitarian role of the Congolese Red Cross, the services available during the electoral period and the different channels through which assistance and referrals could be accessed. A combination of community meetings, door-to-door awareness sessions, local media and information materials was used to ensure that key messages reached diverse population groups.

- Community feedback and rumors management: The operation confirmed the importance of maintaining accessible feedback and complaint mechanisms to collect, analyse and respond to community concerns in a timely manner. Community feedback, rumors, complaints, questions and suggestions were systematically monitored and analyzed throughout the operation, allowing the National Society to adapt its communication and operational activities where necessary and to strengthen community confidence in the response.

- Promotion of peaceful behavior and social cohesion: Community engagement activities contributed to promoting peaceful coexistence, non-violence and respect for humanitarian principles throughout the electoral process. Risk communication and community dialogue helped reduce misinformation, manage expectations and reinforce acceptance of the National Society's neutral and impartial humanitarian role.

- Strengthening CEA capacities: The operation reinforced the capacity of volunteers and staff to implement CEA activities through refresher training on community engagement, feedback management, risk communication and accountability. Coordination and information-sharing with local authorities, community leaders and other stakeholders further supported consistent messaging and strengthened the effectiveness of community engagement throughout the operation.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC DREF operation aimed to strengthen the preparedness and response capacity of the Congolese Red Cross to mitigate the humanitarian impacts of potential civil unrest associated with the March 2026 presidential elections in the Republic of Congo. The operation targeted 5,000 vulnerable people in the four priority departments of Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Pool and Bouenza through preparedness and response activities focusing on first aid, psychosocial support, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), volunteer preparedness and operational coordination. The operation was implemented over a three-month period, ensuring that trained volunteers, emergency equipment and coordination mechanisms were in place before, during and immediately after the electoral process.

Despite the electoral process remaining largely peaceful, the operation successfully achieved its preparedness objectives by strengthening the operational readiness of the Congolese Red Cross and maintaining humanitarian response capacity throughout the electoral period. The National Society was able to deploy trained volunteers, establish first aid services at strategic locations, strengthen community



engagement and feedback mechanisms, and promote safe, inclusive and accountable humanitarian assistance in the four targeted departments.

The operation significantly enhanced the preparedness and response capacity of the Congolese Red Cross ahead of and during the presidential election. A total of 300 volunteers and 10 staff received refresher training in first aid and emergency response prior to deployment, while 200 (part of the total of 300) volunteers were trained on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Emergency response capacity was reinforced through the pre-positioning of first aid equipment, including 150 first aid kits, 50 stretchers, and personal protective equipment for volunteer teams. Throughout the operation, community feedback mechanisms remained operational, enabling the collection and analysis of 1,182 feedback entries, while awareness activities on protection and gender-based violence reached 7,886 people and facilitated the referral of vulnerable individuals to appropriate services. These achievements strengthened the National Society's preparedness, volunteer capacity, community trust and coordination mechanisms, leaving the Congolese Red Cross better equipped to respond to future electoral and civil unrest emergencies.

Operation strategy rationale

The operational strategy was designed to strengthen the preparedness and response capacity of the Congolese Red Cross before, during and immediately after the March 2026 presidential election. Building on the National Society's contingency planning and risk analysis, the operation adopted a multi-sectoral approach combining health preparedness, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and strengthened coordination and institutional capacity. Although the electoral process remained largely peaceful, the operation enabled the Congolese Red Cross to maintain operational readiness, provide timely humanitarian assistance where needed, and reinforce its capacity to respond effectively to localized incidents while promoting safe, inclusive and accountable humanitarian action.

1. Health

The operation strengthened the preparedness and emergency response capacity of the Congolese Red Cross to provide timely first aid and basic psychosocial support throughout the electoral process. Although the elections remained largely peaceful, trained volunteers maintained a visible humanitarian presence before, during and after polling day, ensuring rapid response to medical emergencies, crowd-related incidents and stress-related conditions.

To achieve this, 300 volunteers and 10 staff received refresher training in first aid and emergency response before deployment. Emergency response capacity was reinforced through the pre-positioning of 150 first aid kits, 50 stretchers, personal protective equipment and other emergency supplies in the four targeted departments. Volunteers were deployed at strategic locations throughout the campaign, polling day and the immediate post-election period, where they provided first aid, basic psychosocial support and referrals to health facilities whenever additional medical care was required. These interventions strengthened the National Society's readiness to respond rapidly while contributing to the safety and well-being of populations affected by election-related incidents.

2. Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) was systematically integrated throughout the operation to ensure that humanitarian assistance remained safe, inclusive and accessible to all population groups, particularly women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities.

Rapid PGI risk assessments informed operational planning and helped identify potential protection concerns during the electoral period. Volunteers received refresher training on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), safeguarding, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), child protection and disability inclusion, strengthening their capacity to identify protection risks and provide safe and appropriate referrals.

Community awareness sessions promoted prevention of gender-based violence, safeguarding and available referral pathways, while vulnerable individuals identified during community engagement activities were referred to specialized services whenever necessary. Particular attention was given to ensuring equitable access to information, first aid services and community engagement activities for persons with disabilities, older persons and other vulnerable groups. Sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) were collected throughout the operation to support inclusive planning, monitoring and reporting.

The operation also strengthened the National Society's safeguarding environment through the promotion of the Code of Conduct, awareness on PSEA and safeguarding principles, and the use of accessible reporting and referral mechanisms, including the toll-free feedback system.

3. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) was a central component of the operation and contributed significantly to strengthening community trust, reducing rumors and promoting peaceful behavior throughout the electoral process.

Trained volunteers disseminated information on the humanitarian mandate of the Congolese Red Cross, violence prevention, available



humanitarian services and peaceful coexistence through community meetings, door-to-door awareness sessions, local media and engagement with community and religious leaders. Community feedback and complaint mechanisms remained operational throughout the response, enabling communities to report rumors, concerns, complaints and suggestions while receiving timely responses.

The systematic collection and analysis of community feedback enabled the National Society to adapt communication and operational activities where necessary, contributing to improved accountability and acceptance. Continuous dialogue with local authorities, community representatives and other stakeholders also strengthened understanding of the neutral, impartial and independent role of the Red Cross and facilitated safe access to operational areas.

4. Coordination and institutional capacity

The operation significantly strengthened the operational preparedness and coordination capacity of the Congolese Red Cross before, during and after the presidential election.

Volunteers and staff received regular operational and security briefings prior to deployment, together with the necessary protective equipment and guidance to ensure safe access while operating in sensitive environments. Continuous monitoring of the political and security context enabled the National Society to adapt its operational posture according to the evolving situation and maintain effective communication between headquarters and branch teams.

Close coordination was maintained throughout the operation with national and local authorities, the IFRC, the ICRC and other relevant stakeholders, ensuring complementarity of interventions and effective information sharing. Standard operating procedures and contingency arrangements guided volunteer deployment and emergency response throughout the electoral period.

At the end of the operation, a Lessons Learned Workshop was organized with the participation of the Congolese Red Cross, Movement partners and public authorities. The workshop documented operational achievements, identified challenges and produced recommendations to strengthen preparedness, coordination and response capacity for future electoral processes, including the legislative, senatorial and local elections planned for 2027. The IFRC supported the documentation of lessons learned and provided continuous technical assistance throughout the implementation and reporting of the DREF operation.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The operation targeted populations considered to be at the highest risk of experiencing humanitarian consequences associated with the March 2026 presidential election in the Republic of Congo. Based on the National Society's risk analysis and contingency planning, preparedness and response activities were implemented in the four priority departments of Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Pool and Bouenza, where the likelihood of election-related incidents and humanitarian needs was assessed to be greatest.

The operation prioritized individuals requiring immediate humanitarian assistance during the electoral period, including people affected by crowd-related incidents, accidents and localized security events requiring first aid or referral to health facilities. Particular attention was given to vulnerable groups, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, who faced increased protection risks and barriers to accessing essential services during periods of heightened political tension. Community engagement and protection activities also focused on populations living in densely populated urban areas, where large gatherings and political mobilization increased the potential for humanitarian incidents.

Geographical targeting focused on strategic locations within the four operational departments, including major polling centres, public gathering areas and other locations identified through the National Society's risk analysis as presenting an increased likelihood of humanitarian needs during the electoral process. Volunteer deployment and operational resources remained flexible throughout the operation, allowing the Congolese Red Cross to adjust its presence according to the evolving security context and operational priorities.

The Congolese Red Cross maintained close coordination with the Ministry of Health, local authorities, civil protection services and Movement partners throughout the operation to facilitate referrals, information sharing and operational coordination while fully preserving its independence, neutrality and impartiality. This collaborative approach contributed to ensuring timely humanitarian assistance and effective coordination without compromising the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The operation adopted a vulnerability-based targeting approach, prioritizing individuals and communities considered to be at the highest risk of experiencing humanitarian consequences associated with the electoral process. Targeting was guided by the National Society's risk analysis, contingency planning and continuous monitoring of the evolving political and security context throughout the operation.

The primary target groups included individuals requiring immediate first aid and referral services following localized incidents, crowd-related accidents or medical emergencies occurring during election-related activities. Community engagement, protection and psychosocial support activities were designed to reach populations living in the four high-risk departments, where large public gatherings, political mobilization and previous experiences of electoral violence increased humanitarian risks.

Particular attention was given to groups facing heightened protection risks and barriers to accessing humanitarian services, including women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities. These groups were prioritized during awareness-raising activities, community consultations, psychosocial support and referral services to ensure that assistance was delivered in a safe, dignified and inclusive manner. Focus group discussions and community feedback mechanisms further informed the identification of specific vulnerabilities and enabled the National Society to adapt interventions to the needs of different population groups.

Recognizing that men represented a significant proportion of individuals directly affected by crowd-related incidents and medical emergencies during the electoral period, the operation also ensured that protection, Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) activities remained responsive to the distinct needs of women, men, girls and boys. Sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) were collected throughout the operation to support evidence-based targeting, monitor equitable access to services and strengthen accountability to affected populations.

The targeting strategy remained flexible throughout the operation, allowing volunteer teams to adapt their deployment and prioritize assistance based on the severity of needs, the evolving operational context and information collected through community engagement and coordination mechanisms. This approach ensured that limited resources were directed to the individuals and communities with the greatest humanitarian needs while maintaining the principles of neutrality, impartiality and non-discrimination.

Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	4,562	Rural	35%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	523	Urban	65%
Assisted Men	2,458	People with disabilities (estimated)	15%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	343		
Total Assisted Population	7,886		
Total Targeted Population	5,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

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

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

Risk	Mitigation action
The operation also anticipated the possibility of movement restrictions, roadblocks, curfews or communication disruptions that could have affected humanitarian access and coordination during the electoral period.	While these risks did not significantly materialize, the Congolese Red Cross maintained close coordination with national and local authorities, community leaders and Movement partners throughout the operation to facilitate safe humanitarian access and timely information sharing. Continuous monitoring of the political and security context enabled the National Society to adapt volunteer deployment and maintain operational continuity throughout the electoral process. The visibility of the Congolese Red Cross as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian actor contributed significantly to community acceptance and facilitated the safe implementation of activities in the four targeted departments. No major operational interruptions related to access constraints or communication failures were reported during the operation.
At the start of the operation, the Congolese Red Cross had not yet fully formalized institutional policies and procedures on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) and Child Protection. This represented a potential risk that safeguarding concerns might not be systematically prevented, identified or appropriately managed during the deployment of volunteers.	To mitigate this risk, safeguarding principles were integrated throughout the operation. All staff and volunteers deployed under the DREF were required to adhere to the Code of Conduct and received refresher training on PSEA, safeguarding and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) prior to deployment. Community awareness sessions also included information on available reporting and referral mechanisms, while the National Society promoted the use of its feedback and complaint mechanisms, including the toll-free hotline, to facilitate the confidential reporting of concerns. No safeguarding incidents involving Red Cross personnel or volunteers were reported through the established feedback mechanisms. The operation nevertheless highlighted the importance of continuing to strengthen institutional safeguarding systems, including the formalization of PSEA and Child Protection policies and the reinforcement of confidential reporting and case management procedures for future operations.
Given the sensitive electoral context, there was a significant risk that volunteers deployed at first aid posts and public gathering areas could be exposed to violence, crowd disturbances or other security incidents. Operational assets, including vehicles and emergency equipment, were also considered at risk of damage or loss.	Although the electoral process remained largely peaceful and no major civil unrest occurred in the operational areas, localized tensions and isolated incidents required volunteers to remain on a heightened state of preparedness throughout the operation.



To reduce security risks, all deployed volunteers and staff received security briefings covering personal safety, safe access, crowd management, conflict de-escalation and operational communication procedures. Volunteers were deployed according to clearly defined security protocols and remained easily identifiable through Red Cross vests, bibs and other visibility materials. Operational movements were continuously monitored, and deployment plans were adjusted whenever required based on the evolving security situation.

No major security incidents affecting volunteers, staff or operational assets were reported during the implementation of the operation, demonstrating the effectiveness of the preventive security measures adopted.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The DREF operation was implemented in a politically sensitive environment characterized by heightened tensions before, during and immediately after the March 2026 presidential election. Based on the National Society's contingency planning and security risk analysis, preparedness and response activities focused on the four priority departments of Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire, Pool and Bouenza, where the likelihood of election-related incidents was considered highest.

Although the electoral process remained largely peaceful and did not escalate into widespread violence, localized tensions, large public gatherings and isolated security incidents required continuous monitoring throughout the operation. These conditions presented potential risks to volunteers deployed at first aid posts, public gathering areas and other strategic locations, as well as to operational assets and humanitarian access.

To mitigate these risks, the Congolese Red Cross implemented comprehensive security measures before and throughout the operation. All staff and volunteers received security briefings covering personal safety, safe access, security awareness, crowd management, conflict de-escalation and emergency communication procedures. Volunteers were deployed in accordance with established security protocols and remained clearly identifiable through Red Cross visibility materials, including vests, bibs and marked equipment. Operational movements were continuously monitored, and deployment plans were regularly adjusted based on updates from branch teams and the evolving security situation.

Close coordination was maintained with national and local authorities, the Ministry of Health, civil protection services, Movement partners and community leaders to facilitate safe humanitarian access, information sharing and operational coordination while preserving the neutrality, independence and impartiality of the National Society. Regular security assessments enabled the Congolese Red Cross to adapt its operational posture and maintain preparedness throughout the electoral period.

No major security incidents affecting Red Cross personnel, volunteers, vehicles or operational assets were reported during the implementation of the DREF operation. The preventive measures adopted, together with the strong acceptance of the National Society by communities and authorities, contributed significantly to ensuring the safe implementation of activities across the four targeted departments. The operation nevertheless confirmed the importance of maintaining robust security procedures, continuous context monitoring and regular volunteer security briefings during future electoral preparedness and response operations.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Implementation



Budget: CHF 40,468
Targeted Persons: 5,000
Assisted Persons: 7,886



Targeted Male: 2,800
Targeted Female: 5,086

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers who received first aid refresher training	300	300
# of first aid kits purchased	150	150
# of first aid stretchers purchased	50	50
# of deployed volunteers	300	300
# of people supported by first aid services	5,000	104
# of people reached / beneficiaries of psychosocial support activities	2,000	104
# of volunteers who received personal protective equipment	300	300

Narrative description of achievements

- The health component of the operation strengthened the capacity of the Congolese Red Cross to provide timely and coordinated first-aid and emergency health support throughout the electoral period.
- A total of 310 volunteers and staff (300 volunteers and 10 staff members) received refresher training on first aid, including casualty assessment, stabilization, safe patient handling, infection prevention and control, referral procedures and coordination during mass gatherings. This contributed to strengthening the National Society's pool of trained responders and its preparedness to respond to health incidents during the electoral period.
- To support rapid deployment, 150 first-aid kits, 50 stretchers and the required personal protective equipment were pre-positioned in the four priority departments. These resources enabled trained teams to provide immediate assistance when required and supported the referral of cases requiring further medical attention.
- During the operation, 104 first-aid cases were managed by trained volunteers and first-aid teams. The available activity reports indicate that these cases mainly involved minor injuries, health-related complaints and other situations requiring immediate first-aid assistance. A total of 50 people were referred to appropriate services, including six pregnant women and 44 individuals presenting with illness or distress requiring further medical assessment and care. The referrals were primarily directed to health facilities.
- Basic Psychological First Aid (PFA) was integrated into first-aid interventions and community outreach activities to provide immediate emotional and practical support to people experiencing stress or distress related to the electoral context. However, PFA was not systematically recorded as a separate service, and therefore no separate quantitative figure can be provided.
- The number of people requiring direct first-aid assistance was lower than initially anticipated. This was mainly due to the generally peaceful evolution of the electoral process, which resulted in fewer incidents requiring emergency health assistance than expected. This lower caseload therefore reflects the context during implementation rather than a gap in preparedness or service availability. The trained personnel and pre-positioned equipment nevertheless remained available to respond to potential incidents throughout the electoral period.



Lessons Learnt

- The operation confirmed that investing in preparedness before high-risk public events significantly enhances the effectiveness, timeliness and quality of humanitarian response. The refresher first aid training, practical simulation exercises and the pre-positioning of emergency medical equipment ensured that volunteers remained operationally ready throughout the electoral period and were able to respond rapidly to localized incidents while maintaining safe and accountable service delivery.
- The operation also demonstrated the importance of integrating Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) into emergency health interventions. Providing Psychological First Aid alongside medical assistance enabled volunteers to address both the physical and emotional needs of affected individuals, contributing to a more comprehensive and people-centered humanitarian response.
- Another key lesson was the value of maintaining a visible and well-prepared humanitarian presence during large public gatherings. The deployment of trained first aid teams at strategic locations not only facilitated rapid medical assistance but also strengthened public confidence in the Congolese Red Cross as a neutral and trusted humanitarian actor.

The lessons generated through this section will be integrated into the Congolese Red Cross' emergency preparedness framework to strengthen future responses to electoral processes, public events and other emergencies involving mass gatherings. The first aid training package and practical simulation exercises will be incorporated into the National Society's regular volunteer capacity-building program to maintain a pool of qualified first responders across branches. Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for first aid deployment, referral mechanisms and coordination with health authorities will be reviewed and updated based on operational experience from this DREF. The pre-positioning strategy for first aid equipment and personal protective equipment will also be maintained and refined to ensure faster deployment during future emergencies.

In addition, the National Society will continue to strengthen volunteers' competencies in Psychological First Aid (PFA) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), recognizing their importance in responding not only to election-related incidents but also to disasters, epidemics and other humanitarian crises. The findings and recommendations from the Lessons Learned Workshop will be disseminated to headquarters and branch teams and incorporated into contingency planning, volunteer training curricula and preparedness planning for future electoral processes, including the legislative, senatorial and local elections scheduled for 2027. This institutionalization of lessons learned will contribute to continuously improving operational readiness, service quality and community resilience.

Challenges

Although the electoral process remained generally peaceful and no large-scale emergency occurred, maintaining volunteer deployment and operational readiness throughout the electoral period required continuous coordination, supervision and logistical support. The uncertainty surrounding the security situation also required regular adaptation of deployment plans based on evolving risk assessments.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 26,048
Targeted Persons: 5,000
Assisted Persons: 7,886
Targeted Male: 2,800
Targeted Female: 5,086

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of child-safeguarding risk analyses conducted	1	1
# of people referred to integrated services	1,000	50
# of volunteers and staff who received refresher training on PGI aspects	320	310



# of referral mechanisms (referral pathways) established	1	1
# of referral mechanisms (referral pathways) established	5,000	1
# of referral mechanisms (referral pathways) established	300	1

Narrative description of achievements

- The Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) component significantly strengthened the Congolese Red Cross' capacity to anticipate, identify and mitigate protection risks throughout the electoral process. Although the presidential election remained largely peaceful and no large-scale protection incidents were reported, the operation ensured that appropriate safeguarding measures, referral mechanisms and community awareness activities were in place to prevent and respond to potential protection concerns affecting vulnerable populations.
- A rapid PGI risk assessment and child safeguarding risk analysis were conducted before volunteer deployment to identify groups most exposed to protection risks and inform operational planning. The assessment highlighted potential risks related to crowd movements and public gatherings, harassment and violence, and the specific vulnerability of children, women, older persons and persons with disabilities during the electoral period. These findings informed volunteer deployment, community engagement and the integration of protection and safeguarding measures throughout the operation.
- The operation also strengthened institutional safeguarding by establishing and disseminating referral pathways for survivors of violence and individuals requiring specialized protection services. Volunteers and staff received refresher training on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), the Code of Conduct, child protection, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), disability inclusion and the management of sensitive feedback. These capacity-strengthening activities enhanced volunteers' ability to identify protection concerns, communicate safely with communities and ensure appropriate referrals while upholding humanitarian principles.
- Community awareness sessions and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials promoted safeguarding, prevention of gender-based violence, child protection and available referral services. Through these activities, 7,886 people (4,562 women, 2,458 men, 523 girls and 343 boys) were reached with key protection messages, contributing to increased awareness of protection risks, available support services and the importance of safe and inclusive participation throughout the electoral period. The operation also facilitated the referral of vulnerable individuals requiring specialized assistance through existing protection and health services. A total of 50 people were referred to appropriate services, including six pregnant women and 44 individuals presenting with illness or distress requiring further medical assessment and care. Although the operation initially targeted 1,000 referrals, the presidential election remained largely peaceful, resulting in significantly fewer incidents requiring referral to specialized services than anticipated. The lower number of referrals therefore reflects the favourable operational context rather than a shortfall in implementation. Functional referral pathways remained operational throughout the electoral period, enabling volunteers to promptly refer individuals requiring health or specialized support whenever needed.
- Beyond the immediate results, the operation strengthened the National Society's institutional capacity to mainstream Protection, Gender and Inclusion across future emergency operations. Volunteers demonstrated improved confidence in applying safeguarding principles, while stronger referral mechanisms and coordination with specialized service providers enhanced the overall quality, safety and accountability of humanitarian assistance.
- A total of 300 volunteers and 10 staff members successfully completed the refresher training on Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), child safeguarding, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), disability inclusion and safe referral procedures, representing 97% of the planned target (310 out of 320 participants). The slight variance was due to the unavailability of a small number of participants initially identified for the training because of operational commitments and administrative constraints during the election period. However, this did not affect the quality or coverage of the operation, as the number of trained personnel was sufficient to ensure the effective deployment of qualified teams across all four targeted departments and to fully implement the planned PGI activities.

Lessons Learnt

- The operation confirmed that integrating Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) into preparedness activities before a high-risk event significantly strengthens the quality, safety and inclusiveness of humanitarian response. Conducting rapid PGI and child safeguarding risk assessments before deployment enabled the Congolese Red Cross to better understand the specific vulnerabilities of different population groups and to adapt interventions accordingly.



- The refresher training on PGI, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), the Code of Conduct, child protection, disability inclusion and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) substantially improved volunteers' knowledge and confidence in identifying protection risks, managing sensitive cases and applying safe referral procedures. The operation also demonstrated that integrating safeguarding messages into community engagement activities contributes to increasing community awareness of available protection services and reinforces trust in humanitarian actors.
- The operation further highlighted the importance of establishing functional referral pathways and coordinating with specialized service providers before emergencies occur. Although the electoral process remained largely peaceful and relatively few protection cases required referral, having these mechanisms in place strengthened preparedness and ensured that volunteers were able to respond appropriately whenever protection concerns arose.

The experience gained through this operation will be used to further institutionalize PGI and safeguarding within the Congolese Red Cross' emergency preparedness and response systems. The PGI, PSEA and safeguarding training modules developed and delivered under this DREF will be integrated into the National Society's regular volunteer training program to ensure that future emergency response teams possess standardized protection competencies. The referral pathways and coordination mechanisms established during the operation will be reviewed, updated and incorporated into future contingency plans and standard operating procedures (SOPs), strengthening the National Society's capacity to provide timely and appropriate referrals during future emergencies. The operation also demonstrated the value of systematically collecting sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data (SADDD) and conducting rapid protection risk assessments to support evidence-based decision-making. These approaches will be mainstreamed into future emergency assessments and operational planning to improve targeting, inclusiveness and accountability.

Finally, the recommendations emerging from the Lessons Learned Workshop will inform the revision of the National Society's preparedness plans and volunteer deployment procedures for future electoral processes, public events and other emergencies. Continued efforts will also be made to strengthen institutional safeguarding by advancing the formalization of PSEA and Child Protection policies, reinforcing confidential reporting mechanisms and promoting a safeguarding culture across all levels of the National Society.

Challenges

No major challenges were encountered during the implementation of the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) component. The peaceful conduct of the electoral process significantly reduced the occurrence of protection incidents and allowed the Congolese Red Cross to implement the planned preparedness, awareness-raising and capacity-strengthening activities as intended.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 21,367
Targeted Persons: 5,000
Assisted Persons: 7,886
Targeted Male: 2,800
Targeted Female: 5,085

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of feedback mechanisms established	1	1
# of people reached / who used the hotline	1,000	12
# of people to be reached through CEA (Community Engagement and Accountability) activities	5,000	7,886

Narrative description of achievements

The CEA component reached a total of 7,886 people through community engagement, information-sharing and feedback activities during the electoral period, against an initial target of 5,000. The operation established safe and accessible feedback mechanisms, including the National Society's toll-free hotline, focus group discussions (FGDs), door-to-door engagement and direct interaction with volunteers. These mechanisms enabled communities to raise concerns, ask questions and provide suggestions throughout the operation.

More than 20 FGDs were conducted with community members, creating safe spaces for dialogue and allowing the National Society to better understand community perceptions and concerns. In total, 1,182 feedback records were collected and analysed, including 229 rumours, 375 complaints, 111 questions and 467 suggestions. For example, questions and rumours related to the security situation and possible disruptions during the electoral period prompted the CRC to reinforce safety and risk-communication messages. Security concerns raised through feedback channels also informed follow-up by volunteers and helped maintain preparedness and community engagement in the concerned areas.

To strengthen access to reliable information, 36 radio programmes were broadcast through Radio Rurale de Brazzaville, Radio Congo Pointe-Noire and Radio Beb FM. These programmes provided a wider platform to share information on the humanitarian role and mandate of the Red Cross, its Fundamental Principles and available services, while allowing community members to ask questions directly. Radio therefore provided an important channel for reaching a broader audience, while FGDs and door-to-door engagement supported more direct two-way communication and feedback collection.

The National Society also maintained an operational toll-free hotline, which was promoted through community outreach and the distribution of more than 300 information flyers. While more than 300 people were informed about the hotline and its purpose, only 12 community members actively used the hotline to provide feedback. This lower level of use was largely associated with the generally peaceful electoral environment and the preference of communities for face-to-face communication. The hotline therefore served as a complementary feedback mechanism, while most feedback was collected through direct engagement with communities and volunteers.

Overall, the CEA component exceeded its outreach target, reaching 7,886 people against a target of 5,000. The combination of radio, direct community engagement and accessible feedback mechanisms enabled the National Society to provide timely information, address rumours and concerns, and strengthen accountability and community confidence throughout the electoral period.

Lessons Learnt

- The operation confirmed that early and continuous Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) is a critical element of preparedness for high-risk public events. Establishing communication channels before the electoral period strengthened trust between communities and the Congolese Red Cross, facilitating the acceptance of humanitarian activities and reducing the potential impact of rumours and misinformation.

The experience gained during this operation will be used to further institutionalize Community Engagement and Accountability within the Congolese Red Cross' emergency preparedness and response framework. The feedback management system, including the toll-free hotline and community consultation mechanisms, will continue to be strengthened and integrated into future emergency operations to ensure systematic two-way communication with affected communities.

- The operation also demonstrated the importance of maintaining functional community feedback mechanisms throughout emergency operations. The systematic collection and analysis of questions, complaints, suggestions and rumours enabled the National Society to better understand community perceptions, rapidly adapt communication messages and reinforce accountability to affected populations. The tools and methodologies developed for collecting, analysing and responding to community feedback will be incorporated into standard operating procedures (SOPs) and volunteer training programmes, enabling branches to rapidly establish effective CEA mechanisms during future emergencies.

- Close collaboration with local authorities, community leaders and other stakeholders further contributed to improving humanitarian access, strengthening coordination and reinforcing recognition of the Congolese Red Cross as a neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian actor. The operation also highlighted the importance of proactively addressing rumors and misinformation during politically sensitive events. Future preparedness plans will therefore continue to prioritize risk communication, community engagement and stakeholder coordination to strengthen public trust, improve humanitarian access and support evidence-based operational decision-making. Lessons and recommendations generated through the operation will be integrated into contingency planning and preparedness activities for future electoral processes and other emergencies requiring strong community engagement.

Challenges

- No major challenges were encountered during the implementation of the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) component. The generally peaceful electoral environment enabled volunteers to conduct awareness-raising activities, engage with communities and operate feedback mechanisms as planned.



Although the number of rumours and misinformation remained lower than initially anticipated, maintaining active communication channels and analysing community feedback throughout the electoral period proved essential to reinforcing public confidence, addressing concerns in a timely manner and supporting evidence-based decision-making.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 17,178

Targeted Persons: 500

Assisted Persons: 500

Targeted Male: 300

Targeted Female: 200

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of follow-up missions organized	3	2
# of security briefings organized	1	1
# of insured volunteers	500	500

Narrative description of achievements

Operational support activities contributed to the safe, efficient and well-coordinated implementation of the DREF operation throughout the electoral period. The IFRC Delegation conducted two field follow-up missions across the four targeted departments to monitor implementation progress, provide technical support to the National Society and identify any issues requiring follow-up. These missions also supported coordination with the National Society and helped ensure that operational activities remained aligned with the agreed preparedness measures.

Volunteer safety was also prioritized throughout the operation. The National Society subscribed to a group insurance scheme covering up to 500 volunteers, providing coverage for volunteers mobilized under the operation and allowing flexibility for rotation and replacement according to operational needs.

In addition, 1 security and context briefings were organized with the National Society team before and during key phases of the electoral process. These briefings provided updates on the evolving context, reinforced key security procedures and promoted safe and responsible engagement by volunteers and staff. Together, the follow-up missions, volunteer insurance and security briefings helped maintain operational readiness and support the safe implementation of activities throughout the electoral period.

Lessons Learnt

The operation confirmed that investing in volunteer safety is fundamental to ensuring an effective humanitarian response in politically sensitive contexts. The combination of regular security briefings, Safe Access training and comprehensive insurance coverage enhanced volunteer confidence, strengthened compliance with security procedures and enabled teams to operate safely while maintaining community acceptance.

The operation also demonstrated that regular field supervision and close engagement with branch teams are essential for maintaining implementation quality, strengthening accountability and rapidly addressing operational issues. Continuous communication between headquarters and branches facilitated timely decision-making and contributed to consistent implementation across all operational areas.

The Congolese Red Cross will continue to institutionalize group insurance coverage as a good practice for emergency operations requiring the deployment of large numbers of volunteers. This flexible approach provides continuous protection while accommodating volunteer rotation and replacement during prolonged emergency responses.



The National Society will also continue to integrate Safe Access training, regular security briefings and field supervision missions into its standard preparedness and response procedures. These practices will be incorporated into contingency plans, volunteer deployment protocols and standard operating procedures to further strengthen operational safety, response quality and institutional preparedness for future elections, civil unrest, disasters and other complex emergencies.

Challenges

No major challenges were encountered in implementing this component. Regular supervision missions, comprehensive volunteer insurance coverage and continuous security briefings enabled the National Society to maintain effective operational oversight while ensuring the safety and well-being of volunteers and staff throughout the electoral period.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 34,031
Targeted Persons: 310
Assisted Persons: 310
Targeted Male: 131
Targeted Female: 179

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of visibility items (vests, bibs, caps, banners, etc.) procured	310	310
# of security/context briefings organized with the team	6	6
# of follow-up missions conducted in the field	6	6
# of coordination meetings held with the ICRC	12	12
# of volunteers and staff trained in safe access / security	110	110
# of disaster/election coordination meetings/workshops to which the NS participated.	5	5
# of lessons-learned workshops conducted	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

The National Society significantly strengthened its operational preparedness and coordination capacity throughout the electoral period. A total of six security and context briefings were organized for volunteers and staff, ensuring that deployment plans were continuously adapted to the evolving political and security situation. In addition, 110 volunteers and staff received training on Safe Access, security management, the Fundamental Principles of the Movement and operational safety, reinforcing their ability to operate safely and effectively in a politically sensitive environment.

To ensure effective implementation and operational oversight, the Congolese Red Cross conducted six field monitoring and follow-up missions across the four targeted departments. These missions enabled headquarters to provide technical support to branch teams, monitor progress, identify operational challenges and ensure compliance with operational standards. Regular engagement with field teams also strengthened coordination between headquarters and branches and facilitated timely decision-making throughout the



A total of 310 visibility materials, including Red Cross bibs and identification items, were procured and distributed to volunteers deployed across the four targeted departments. This enhanced the visibility, acceptance and protection of Red Cross teams during field activities and reinforced recognition of the National Society's neutral, impartial and independent humanitarian role.

Regular security monitoring and operational briefings were conducted throughout the electoral period to assess the evolving political and security context and adapt deployment plans accordingly. Volunteers and staff received continuous updates on security measures, movement restrictions, safe access procedures and contingency arrangements before each deployment. This proactive risk management approach contributed to ensuring the safety of personnel while allowing uninterrupted implementation of planned activities.

Coordination remained a cornerstone of the response. The National Society participated in five disaster and election coordination meetings and workshops at national and departmental levels and held 12 coordination meetings with the ICRC, strengthening information sharing, security coordination and complementarity between Movement partners. These coordination mechanisms contributed to maintaining a common operational understanding, reinforcing humanitarian access and ensuring a coherent and well-coordinated response throughout the electoral process.

Field monitoring and supervision missions were conducted to support branches, monitor implementation progress and provide technical guidance where required. These missions strengthened accountability, improved reporting quality and enabled timely resolution of operational issues while reinforcing coordination between headquarters and branch teams.

At the end of the operation, a Lessons Learned Workshop brought together representatives from headquarters, branch committees and technical departments to review operational achievements, analyse challenges and identify recommendations for future emergency responses. Key lessons highlighted the importance of early preparedness and contingency planning, regular security monitoring and briefings, strong coordination between headquarters and branches, and continuous engagement with local authorities and communities to facilitate safe humanitarian access. Participants also emphasized the value of investing in volunteer capacity building, pre-positioning emergency equipment, and maintaining effective Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) mechanisms to address rumors, strengthen community trust and support evidence-based decision-making. The workshop further recommended strengthening institutional preparedness through the regular updating of contingency plans, standard operating procedures and volunteer training programmes, while systematically documenting and capitalizing on operational experiences to enhance the National Society's readiness for future electoral processes and other emergencies.

Overall, the operation contributed not only to preparedness for the 2026 presidential election but also to the long-term institutional development of the Congolese Red Cross by reinforcing operational systems, coordination mechanisms and staff and volunteer capacities that can be mobilized during future emergencies.

Lessons Learnt

- The operation confirmed that continuous security monitoring and regular operational briefings are essential preparedness measures in politically sensitive contexts. Maintaining up-to-date security analysis enabled the National Society to adapt deployment strategies and ensure volunteer safety throughout the electoral period. The recommendations generated during the lessons learned workshop will be incorporated into the Congolese Red Cross' contingency plans, standard operating procedures and volunteer training programmes. Security monitoring procedures, coordination arrangements and supervision mechanisms developed during this operation will continue to be institutionalized to strengthen preparedness for future electoral processes and other complex emergencies.
- The lessons learned workshop also demonstrated the value of documenting operational experiences immediately after the response. Bringing together branch representatives and technical departments facilitated the identification of good practices, strengthened institutional learning and promoted harmonized approaches for future emergency operations.
- Close coordination with the IFRC, ICRC, public authorities and other humanitarian stakeholders further reinforced operational effectiveness, information sharing and preparedness planning, demonstrating the importance of maintaining strong coordination mechanisms before, during and after emergencies.

The experience also highlighted the importance of maintaining a trained volunteer network, effective communication systems and strong coordination between headquarters and branches. These capacities constitute a lasting institutional asset that will enhance the National Society's ability to respond rapidly, safely and effectively to future humanitarian crises.

Challenges

No major operational or coordination challenges affected the implementation of this component. The generally peaceful electoral process enabled the National Society to carry out monitoring, coordination, supervision and preparedness activities as planned. Continuous

security monitoring and regular communication between headquarters and branches facilitated timely decision-making and ensured that volunteers could operate safely throughout the operation.



Financial Report



DREF Operation

Final Report (CHF)

Date from: 30 Jan 2026 to 14 Oct 2026

MDRCG027 - Congo - Election Readiness

Operating timeframe: *Start date: 30-Jan-2026 End date: 30-Apr-2026*

Appeal launch date: *16-Feb-2026*

I. Summary

	Actual (CHF)
Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	148,132
DREF Response Pillar	148,132
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	
Expenditure	-145,409
Closing Balance	2,723

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			
PO02 - Livelihoods			
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			
PO04 - Health	40,468	35,174	5,294
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene			
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	16,837	17,931	-1,094
PO07 - Education			
PO08 - Migration			
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	9,041		9,041
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	21,367	22,741	-1,374
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			
Planned Operations Total	87,712	75,845	11,867
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			
EA02 - Secretariat Services	17,178	2,728	14,450
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	43,242	66,836	-23,594
Planned Operations Total	60,420	69,563	-9,144
Total	148,132	145,409	2,723

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Prepared on 14-Oct-2026

Page 1 of 2

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

Please explain variances (if any)

The operation had an approved budget of CHF 148,132, of which CHF 145,409 was spent during the implementation period, representing an overall expenditure rate of approximately 98%. Overall, the available resources were used to support the planned response activities and operational follow-up.

Final expenditure recorded under National Society Strengthening amounted to CHF 66,836, compared with an initial budget of CHF



43,242. The significant variance is mainly linked to accounting and coding adjustments made during the financial recording and allocation of expenditures across budget lines.

Expenditure under Protection, Gender and Inclusion amounted to CHF 17,931, compared with an initial budget of CHF 16,837. The variance reflects the final expenditures recorded for the implementation of PGI, protection and safeguarding activities during the operation.

The variance under PO04 – Health There was lower expenditure than initially budgeted. This was attributable to implementation efficiencies and lower-than-anticipated operational costs.

P09 under DRR: - The allocation of CHF 9,041 was due to system coding adjustments not included in the initial budget. No expenditure was recorded against this line during the reporting period.

EA02 Under secretariat services, the variance CHF 14,450 was mainly due to the cost being covered by other projects, reducing personnel costs charged to this budget line, personnel, logistics.

Under EA03 National Society Strengthening: Higher needs arose during implementation, requiring additional expenditure on this line, covered through savings from other budget lines leading to a -23,594 CHF variance.

Overall, the operation was implemented within the available funding envelope and closed with a balance of CHF 2,723. This remaining balance will be returned to the DREF fund in accordance with the applicable financial procedures.



Contact Information

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

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National Society Hotline: 8080

[Click here for reference](#)



MDRCG027 - Congo - Election Readiness

Operating timeframe: *Start date: 30-Jan-2026 End date: 30-Apr-2026*

Appeal launch date: *16-Feb-2026*

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Total	148,132	145,409	2,723

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Date from: 30 Jan 2026 to 14 Oct 2026

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Operational Forecasting		0	0
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,631		1,631
Logistics Services	2,446		2,446
Logistics, Transport & Storage	4,077		4,077
International Staff		943	-943
National Staff	4,832	2,726	2,106
Volunteers	717		717
Personnel	5,549	3,669	1,880
Workshops & Training	3,020	0	3,020
Workshops & Training	3,020	0	3,020
Travel	4,530	418	4,112
Financial Charges	2	1	1
General Expenditure	4,532	419	4,113
National Society Expenditure	121,913	132,446	-10,533
Contributions & Transfers	121,913	132,446	-10,533
Programme & Services Support Recovery	9,041	8,875	166
Indirect Costs	9,041	8,875	166
Total	148,132	145,409	2,723