

<b>Emergency Appeal №: MDREC027</b> <b>Emergency appeal launched: 23/03/2025</b> <b>Operational Strategy published: 07/04/2025</b>	<b>Glide №:</b> <b>AC-2025-000037-ECU</b> <b>FL-2025-000026-ECU</b>
<b>Operation update #4</b> <b>Date of issue: 19/03/2026</b>	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> From 26/04/2025 to 25/01/2026
<b>Operation timeframe: 18 months</b> (10/03/2025 – 30/09/2026)	<b>Number of people being assisted: 187,386</b>
<b>Funding Needs (CHF):</b> CHF 4 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal CHF 4.5 million Federation-wide	<b>Initially allocated DREF amount:</b> CHF 1,000,000

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks to raise CHF 4,000,000, is 52.72% funded, enabling continued progress in the implementation of planned actions across the operational strategy's sectors. This Operational Update presents the progress achieved up to the end of January 2026 and confirms the extension of the implementation timeframe by an additional six months, with a revised end date of September 2026.



Through the operation, 25,019 litres of 1% sodium hypochlorite were distributed to families in vulnerable health conditions affected by the rainy season, strengthening access to safe water and household hygiene. The solution enables the disinfection of water and food, allowing between 80 and 120 litres of water to be treated per family per day, thereby contributing to reducing exposure to pathogens and preventing disease. This action forms part of WASH interventions aimed at strengthening community resilience through the provision of supplies and the promotion of safe hygiene and sanitation practices.

Sodium hypochlorite distribution to the community, January 2026, Santa Elena. Source: ERC.

# A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

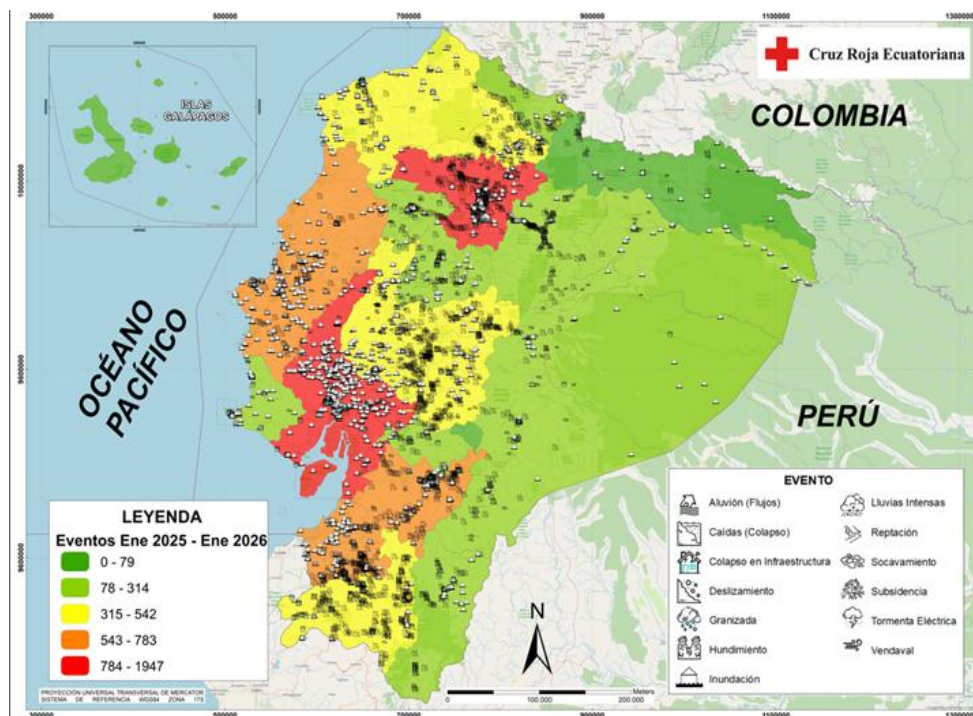
## Description of the crisis

### National emergency due to rainfall (January 2025 – January 2026)

Since 1 January 2025, Ecuador has faced a prolonged period of intense rainfall that has caused recurrent impacts across the national territory. According to SitRep No. 146 of 2025<sup>1</sup>, issued by the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), between 1 January and 31 December 2025, a total of 4,443 adverse events were recorded, affecting 24 provinces, 219 cantons and 967 parishes. Subsequently, between 1 and 25 January 2026, 107 additional rainfall-related events were reported in 19 provinces, 52 cantons and 81 parishes (SitRep No. 08<sup>2</sup> of 2026).

Between January 2025 and January 2026, the most frequent events were landslides (47.66%), floods (28.97%), structural collapses (4.67%), water erosion (3.74%), heavy rainfall (3.74%), subsidence (3.74%) and windstorms (3.74%).

The intensity and continuity of the rainfall have caused sustained impacts on road infrastructure, drinking water networks, drainage systems and livelihoods. As a result, Emergency Operations Committees (EOCs) were progressively activated at national, provincial and cantonal levels, particularly in areas where impacts were recurrent or affected critical infrastructure and essential services.



Adverse events in Ecuador, January 2025 – January 2026. Source: ERC.

<sup>1</sup> Available at: [Infografía Nacional Lluvias 01/01/2025 al 31/12/2025](#)

<sup>2</sup> Available at: [SitRep No. 08 Lluvias 01/01/2026 al 23/01/2026](#)

In this context, the intense rainfall translated into specific emergencies at the provincial level, all linked to the same hydrometeorological pattern and the progressive saturation of soils and infrastructure.

## Provincial emergencies

- **Zamora Chinchipe and Napo Provinces**

Between 30 June and 24 July 2025, intense rainfall significantly increased adverse events in the Amazon region (SitRep No. 19 - SNGR). During this period, 60 events were recorded in Napo, affecting 561 people, and 16 events in Zamora Chinchipe, impacting 2,528 people, causing damage to housing, road networks and strategic infrastructure linked to the Heavy Crude Oil Pipeline (OCP) and the Trans-Ecuadorian Pipeline System (SOTE).

In response to the scale of the impacts, the National Secretariat for Risk Management declared both provinces under Regional Emergency due to the rainy season on 4 August 2025, through Resolution SNGR-234-2025. In addition, the National EOC has remained activated since 2 July 2025 to coordinate the inter-institutional response.

- **Metropolitan District of Quito (Pichincha Province)**

On 9 July 2025, at 13:42, a landslide disrupted the main transmission line of the Mica Quito Sur drinking water system, the primary source of supply for the southern area of the Metropolitan District of Quito.

The event caused the rupture of approximately 350 metres of pipeline and the displacement of 600,000 cubic metres of material. As a result, the service was interrupted for 506,999 people, corresponding to 126,749 families, across six parishes and 217 neighbourhoods.

On 10 July 2025, the Metropolitan EOC declared a state of emergency and activated a contingency plan that included water distribution through more than 100 water tankers, installation of inflatable water bladders, deployment of mobile water treatment plants and distribution of chlorination kits. On 14 July 2025, the National EOC was activated to strengthen institutional coordination.

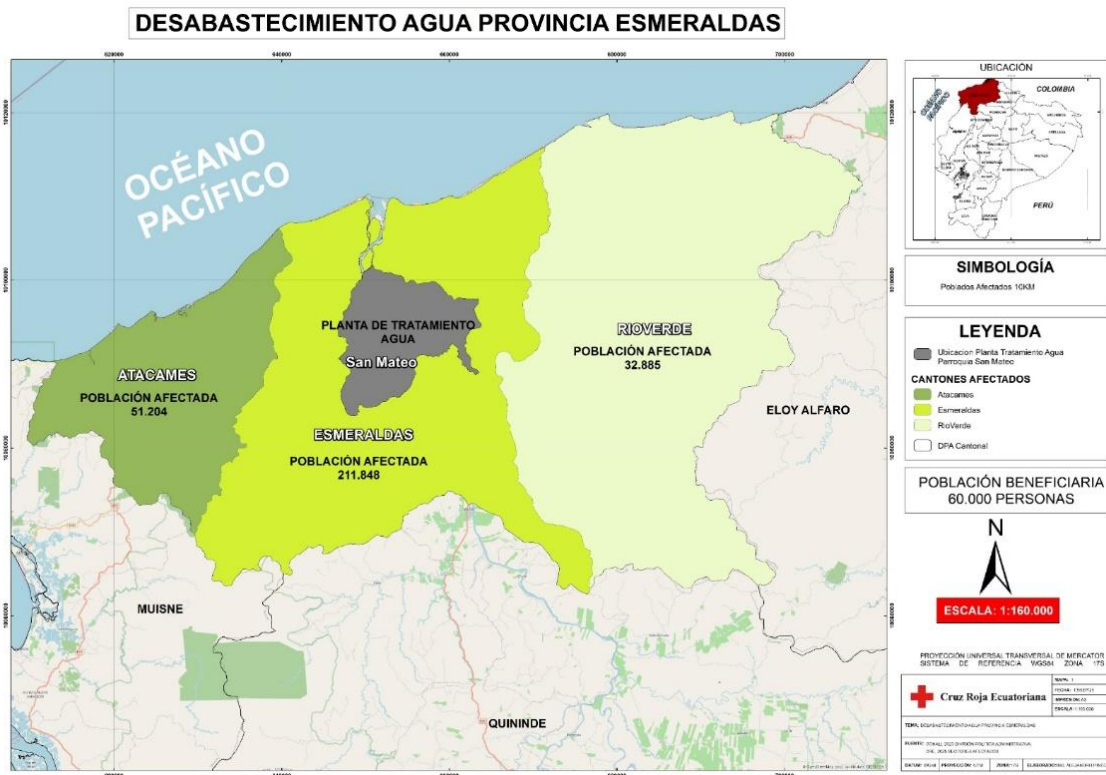


Transmission line, Mica Quito Sur system, 2025. Source: ERC.

- **Esmeraldas: multiple emergency**

During 2025, the province of Esmeraldas faced a sequence of emergencies that overlapped over time, deepening the vulnerability of the population and progressively reducing their recovery capacity, due to sustained pressure on basic services, particularly water, sanitation and housing.

- **Floods:** In February 2025, rainfall caused floods and landslides that affected approximately 7,057 people, leading to the declaration of a provincial red alert between February and May 2025.
- **Landslides:** On 13 March 2025, landslides caused the rupture of the Trans-Ecuadorian Pipeline System (SOTE), resulting in an oil spill that contaminated the Caple estuary, the Viche River and the Esmeraldas River. It was estimated that more than 500,000 people were affected, primarily due to loss of livelihoods and environmental damage.
- **Earthquake:** On 25 April 2025, an earthquake of magnitude 6.1 MLv affected 8,241 people, including 2,391 who were displaced due to total or partial loss of housing, and 49 people injured.
- **Water supply disruption:** On 12 September 2025, a failure in the transformer at the San Mateo Drinking Water Treatment Plant disrupted supply in the cantons of Esmeraldas, Atacames and Rioverde, affecting approximately 300,000 people. The service was restored on 25 September 2025.



Water supply disruption, Esmeraldas, 2025. Source: ERC.

## Current situation as of 25 January 2026

- **Esmeraldas**

Following the emergency in September 2025, between October and November 2025 the province remained under national yellow alert, with preventive monitoring actions and drainage cleaning activities. However, the onset of the rainy season at the end of 2025, together with the intensification of the Intertropical Convergence Zone, once again increased the saturation of urban drainage systems.

As of 25 January 2026, high-intensity rainfall caused the total collapse of the stormwater drainage system in low-lying areas of the city of Esmeraldas, leading to the declaration of a provincial orange alert.

Flooding resulted in prolonged water accumulation, the intrusion of mud and wastewater into homes, and a significant deterioration in living conditions. EOCs remain activated to coordinate pumping, cleaning and humanitarian assistance in the affected areas.

- **At national level**

Adverse events related to rainfall continue to be recorded across 19 provinces, in a context where several communities had already experienced significant impacts during 2025, increasing vulnerability and limiting recovery capacity in the face of new events<sup>3</sup>.

From 1 January to 23 January 2026, rainfall triggered 107 adverse events across 52 cantons and 81 parishes nationwide, affecting 185 people, of whom 48 were displaced, 2 injured, and 46 homes affected, with 3 destroyed. Precipitation has mainly caused landslides (47.66%) and floods (28.97%), as well as structural collapses and falls, water erosion, subsidence and windstorms.

Rainfall has been more intense and impactful in the Coastal and northern Sierra regions, with Guayas being the most affected province, with 60 people impacted across 16 events, followed by Esmeraldas with 47 people in 3 events, Manabí with 20 people in 5 events, and Pichincha with 17 people in 21 events. The days with the highest concentration of rainfall-related events were 9, 11, 12 and 13 January, while the greatest impact on the population was recorded on 9, 10 and 15 January. In response, the SNGR has distributed 150 humanitarian assistance items in the provinces of Manabí, Pichincha, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas and Esmeraldas.

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<sup>3</sup> SitRep No. 08, 1 January to 23 January 2026. Available at: [SitRep-No-08-Lluvias-01012026-al-23012026-1600.pdf](#)

# Summary of response

## Overview of the host National Society and the ongoing response

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) carries out its work through four key programmatic areas: Disaster Risk Management, Health and Community Development, Fundamental Principles and Values of the Movement, and Youth. The National Society currently operates with 829 paid staff, 7,721 volunteers, and 24 provincial branches, with national headquarters in Quito and an operational presence throughout the country. It also provides 75% of the blood components required for transfusion therapies nationwide.

Through the IFRC–DG ECHO Programmatic Partnership (PPP), and with support from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and the National Societies of Spain, Italy, and Germany, the ERC has strengthened its preparedness capacities. These efforts include the pre-positioning of essential inputs in Imbabura, Tungurahua, Pichincha, and Azuay; the training of personnel; the improvement of equipment availability; and the development of standardised response protocols. These capacities were tested during the National Exercise of Response Teams (ENER) held in February 2025, which convened more than 300 participants and provided an opportunity to validate operational protocols and coordination mechanisms. Building on these efforts, the ERC has also strengthened its ability to implement WASH interventions in emergency contexts.

## Institutional Response to the Emergency

Throughout the operation, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) ensured continuous coordination with its provincial and cantonal branches, as well as with national and local authorities, in fulfilment of its auxiliary role to the public authorities. The National Society actively participated in all coordination platforms and technical working groups established for the response.

In coordination with the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), the ERC conducted Initial Needs Assessments (EVIN) covering 38,292 people and 10,107 families. Based on these findings, and through the Emergency Appeal, as of 25 January 2026 the ERC has reached 187,386 people with humanitarian assistance in the affected provinces.

The response included the distribution of 2,859 hygiene kits (kitchen, household cleaning, community cleaning, vector control and tool kits) and 23,037 relief items (blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, water filters and jerrycans), as well as multipurpose cash assistance for 580 families. In addition, 213 people received support to restore their livelihoods. In the area of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), the ERC delivered 6.3 million litres of safe water and 25,019 litres of chlorine across the affected provinces.

In the area of health, the ERC conducted 853 medical consultations and reached 15,961 people through health promotion, hygiene and healthy living activities. It also provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 2,548 people through individual and group sessions with community members, including responders from other institutions and key public and private sector actors, as well as through interventions in shelters and neighbourhoods.

To sustain these efforts, the ERC carried out more than 5,000 operational deployments and mobilised 564 vehicles, including ambulances and boats, to deliver life-saving assistance and essential services to affected communities. In parallel, continuous primary prevention and mental health promotion activities were implemented for humanitarian personnel, including debriefing, defusing, psychological deactivation and emotional release sessions. More than 300 staff members across the provinces covered by the Appeal participated in these actions, which were further strengthened through training processes to enhance MHPSS response capacities in emergency contexts.

Achieving these results was made possible through the generous contributions of Movement partners and donors, which significantly strengthened the operational capacity of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC). The German Red Cross

donated the M15 unit; the Canadian Red Cross deployed a WASH technical specialist; the Spanish Red Cross provided a water specialist; and the Honduran Red Cross deployed a WASH Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and a water technician. In addition, the IFRC–DG ECHO Programmatic Partnership (PPP) enabled the immediate response through the distribution of pre-positioned kits and humanitarian assistance.

Financial contributions to the operation were provided by the American Red Cross, the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) Response Pillar, the Electrolux Food Foundation, the European Commission – Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO), the German Red Cross, the Japanese Red Cross Society, the Red Cross of Monaco, the Swedish Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross through support from the Government of the Netherlands, as well as individual online donations.

Further support was provided by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), Coca-Cola and the German Embassy, which contributed funding for WASH activities and complementary food and water kits for distribution, reinforcing the overall reach and impact of the operation.

## Needs analysis

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) actively participates in initial emergency assessments, in fulfilment of its humanitarian auxiliary role, its coordination role with national and local authorities, and its strong community presence across the country. Information collected through field assessments and the application of the Initial Needs Assessment (EVIN) tool is processed by the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR) and used as a basis for humanitarian response planning.

The information presented below is based on the most recent official reports from the SNGR, particularly SitRep No. 146 of 2025 and SitRep No. 08 as of 23 January 2026, which consolidate data collected since 1 January 2025. The analysis incorporates information related to the impacts of the earthquake, environmental contamination in the province of Esmeraldas, and the evolution of the rainy season.

It should be noted that needs continue to evolve as the situation changes and response actions progress. To review the evolution of these needs, reference can be made to the latest [Operational Update](#) of this Emergency Appeal.

Pillar	Identified needs
<p><b>Housing and Shelter</b></p>	<p>During the first half of 2025, intense rainfall caused significant damage to housing across several provinces in the country. The destruction, partial damage or uninhabitability of homes forced many families to resort to improvised solutions or overcrowded conditions, increasing their exposure to climatic, health, protection and public health risks.</p> <p>These impacts resulted in a substantial gap in access to safe shelter solutions. For example, in Manabí, 31,715 homes were affected and 177 destroyed, impacting 100,082 people, while in Guayas, 15,882 homes were affected and 27 destroyed, affecting 59,541 people. Across several rural, urban and peri-urban areas, families continue to live in damaged structures or in locations exposed to recurrent flooding, maintaining high levels of vulnerability.</p> <p>In response, the national temporary shelter system was activated as a key measure to protect affected populations. According to SitRep No. 79 – Rainfall (1 January to 30 March 2025), during the initial phase of the emergency, 31 temporary shelters were established, while 22 were closed after fulfilling their purpose.</p>

Pillar	Identified needs
	<p>Subsequent reports from the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR) indicate that, as of 27 March 2025, 33 shelters were active simultaneously, while 18 had already been closed. During this phase, facilities such as coliseums and community centres were enabled in provinces including El Oro and Manabí. By mid-April, the system reached its peak, with 44 active shelters and 36 closed cumulatively. At this stage, the province of Guayas, particularly the canton of Milagro, strengthened its response through the establishment of shelters in educational facilities, which hosted more than 100 people within a few days.</p> <p>From 12 May 2025 onwards, the operation entered a phase of gradual decline, with 28 shelters remaining active and 58 closed, including the closure of large shelters in the province of El Oro. According to SitRep No. 146 – Rainfall (1 January to 31 December 2025), a total of 96 temporary shelters were activated throughout the year, hosting 4,170 people corresponding to 1,310 families, and were progressively closed as families returned or were relocated.</p> <p>By 31 December 2025, the temporary shelter infrastructure activated during the emergency had been fully closed. However, following the closure of these facilities, many vulnerable families who have not been able to restore their homes continue to face critical shelter needs. The continued reliance on temporary or inadequate solutions increases protection risks, health concerns and housing insecurity.</p> <p>In this context, transitional shelter solutions are required to ensure minimum standards of habitability, safety, privacy and access to basic services, incorporating an age, gender and diversity approach, in order to support a dignified and sustainable recovery for affected families.</p>
<p><b>Livelihoods</b></p>	<p>Productive losses significantly reduced households’ capacity to generate income and meet their basic needs. During the first half of 2025, intense rainfall caused severe impacts on the livelihoods of affected communities. At national level, a total of 26,934.44 hectares of crops were lost and 123,450 animals died, severely affecting productive capacity across several provinces. These losses disrupted local economies in areas highly dependent on agriculture and livestock, and compromised the food security of many families reliant on subsistence production and small-scale economic activities.</p> <p>In this context, and as the emergency phase has concluded, the response is now focused on the recovery of affected livelihoods, with interventions aimed at restoring productive capacity and strengthening community resilience to future shocks.</p> <p>Impacts varied across provinces, reflecting differentiated effects on local production systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>El Oro:</b> A total of 694.08 hectares of crops were lost and 29,598 animals died, leaving many families without their primary sources of income.</li> <li>• <b>Zamora Chinchipe:</b> Recorded the most severe impact in the livestock sector, with 45,827 animals dead and 53,897 affected, highlighting the need for interventions focused on animal health and livelihoods recovery.</li> <li>• <b>Manabí:</b> Experienced significant impacts in both agriculture and livestock, with 4,014.8 hectares of crops lost and 8,031 animals dead, underscoring the need for measures to support productive recovery and protect household income.</li> </ul>

Pillar	Identified needs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Los Ríos:</b> Productive capacity remains compromised, with 2,495.7 hectares of crops lost and 9,591 animals affected, limiting the economic recovery of many rural households.</li> <li>• <b>Santa Elena:</b> A total of 196.35 hectares of crops were lost, directly affecting the economic resilience of small-scale producers.</li> </ul>
Health	<p>Health needs have intensified due to the direct impact on health and educational infrastructure. At national level, 130 health facilities have been affected, limiting primary care and epidemiological surveillance capacity in the most impacted areas. The situation is particularly critical in education, with 207 educational units affected and 934 reporting functional damage, compromising the safety and continuity of schooling for thousands of students. In provinces such as Guayas and Manabí, the high recurrence of flooding (1,516 events nationwide) underscores the need to strengthen community-based prevention of vector- and water-borne diseases in areas where health systems have been weakened.</p> <p>• <b>Epidemiological needs</b></p> <p>In the context of flooding, strengthening epidemiological surveillance and the response capacity of health services remains a priority. In 2025, 132,516 pneumonia cases were reported up to Epidemiological Week (EW) 50 (7–13 December), with the highest burden in Pichincha and Guayas, alongside 37,652 confirmed dengue cases up to EW 52 (21–27 December). This highlights the need for active case finding and timely reporting of respiratory and febrile illnesses, reinforced community-based surveillance, and ensuring continuity of care (triage, infection prevention and control, availability of supplies, and referral systems) to prevent complications and avoid overburdening health services.</p> <p>Given the context in affected provinces, particularly in coastal areas, there is also a continued need for psychosocial and psychological support due to high levels of insecurity, which exacerbate emotional and behavioural responses. The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) continues to provide these services in areas with limited presence of other actors addressing mental health and psychosocial well-being.</p> <p>• <b>Health promotion needs</b></p> <p>Recurrent flooding has deepened existing health gaps, demonstrating that clinical care and access to supplies are insufficient without addressing behavioural and knowledge barriers. In contexts of persistent vulnerability, service disruption and environmental degradation have exceeded household coping capacities, creating a critical need to strengthen early detection of water- and vector-borne diseases. Limited community surveillance mechanisms and insufficient self-care tools place families at constant risk, making the adoption of safe hygiene and sanitation practices at household level essential.</p> <p>In areas with stronger community capacities, the challenge shifts towards sustaining resilience and managing fatigue from recurrent emergencies. Strengthening local leadership is key to transitioning from reliance on external assistance to more autonomous community-based surveillance and shared responsibility, ensuring that preventive practices remain embedded beyond the emergency phase.</p>

Pillar	Identified needs
	<p>• <b>Mental health and psychosocial support needs</b></p> <p>At the onset of the operation, psychosocial support focused on crisis containment for affected populations and first responders, addressing emotional disruption caused by the emergency. As the response evolved, needs shifted towards restoring routines, stabilising emotional well-being and coping with distress, particularly in shelters during the first three months.</p> <p>Between May and July, in provinces such as Esmeraldas, Manabí and Guayas, where emergencies persisted, interventions were reinforced with group activities focused on post-traumatic growth and community resilience. High levels of insecurity and violence, combined with limited access to public mental health services, further increased reliance on psychosocial support provided by ERC provincial branches.</p> <p>Among ERC personnel, emotional needs related to workload and direct exposure to the emergency were identified early on. Staff care measures have therefore been prioritised and sustained throughout the operation, complemented by team-strengthening and integration activities, as these needs persist.</p>
WASH	<p>In the context of rainfall and flooding emergencies, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) remains a critical humanitarian priority, given the direct relationship between access to safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene conditions, and disease prevention, particularly in situations of flooding, environmental contamination and disruption of basic services. These risks are exacerbated when WASH services are severely compromised by cross-contamination, the collapse of water treatment systems and failures in waste management. Limited community awareness and hygiene practices further increase the risk of water-borne diseases and other public health impacts.</p> <p>Between January and December 2025, Ecuador faced a prolonged rainy season and recurrent hydrometeorological events, resulting in 4,443 adverse events affecting 241,737 people, of whom 74,128 were displaced, across 24 provinces. Reported damage to housing, road infrastructure and basic services, including water supply and sanitation systems, generated immediate humanitarian needs across multiple areas. This situation continued into early 2026, with at least 262 rainfall-related adverse events recorded between 1 January and 2 February across 21 provinces, primarily landslides (44.27%) and floods (28.24%), affecting coastal, highland and Amazon regions and highlighting the sustained risk and continued disruption to WASH services.</p> <p>The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), played a key role in the response through joint assessments, identifying eight provinces (Esmeraldas, Guayas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo, Los Ríos, El Oro and Loja) with urgent needs related to hygiene and cleaning kits, access to safe water, WASH awareness activities and the rehabilitation of affected water treatment systems. This enabled timely prioritisation of humanitarian interventions.</p> <p>This resulted in the provision of millions of litres of safe water through treatment plants, the restoration of community water systems, the deployment of specialised personnel, the distribution of hygiene and cleaning items and the implementation of needs assessments in affected communities. In line with its auxiliary role to public authorities, the ERC also</p>

Pillar	Identified needs
	<p>provided technical and operational support in response to requests from local authorities during unforeseen events, such as the disruption of drinking water supply in Pichincha (Quito) and Tungurahua (Patate), contributing to the continuity of essential services in emergency contexts.</p> <p>Given the recurring nature of hydrometeorological hazards and the fragility of basic services in affected areas, critical WASH needs persist. Gaps remain in access to safe water, particularly in communities with damaged or intermittent treatment systems. Continued needs for hygiene and cleaning kits among displaced populations are also evident, alongside sustained requirements for WASH promotion to prevent water-borne diseases. In addition, there is a need to maintain and, where required, scale up emergency WASH services, while strengthening anticipatory actions, pre-positioning of supplies, and community and institutional preparedness. This will help reduce public health risks and ensure a timely response to ongoing rainfall and forecasted adverse events.</p>
<p><b>Restoring Family Links (RFL)</b></p>	<p>At the onset of the operation, there was a high risk of family separation due to significant levels of forced displacement, with 7,029 people displaced and 31,421 families affected. The occurrence of sudden and fatal events, such as landslides and mudflows, which resulted in 55 fatalities, further increased psychosocial vulnerability and the likelihood of family dispersion. Although the 96 temporary shelters that were activated have since been closed, the transition of these families to alternative housing solutions required close follow-up to prevent loss of contact.</p> <p>In this context, it was essential to strengthen protection and psychosocial support actions, particularly for children and adolescents who experienced the loss of housing (1,023 homes destroyed) or the death of family members, ensuring that Restoring Family Links mechanisms remain active and accessible in the most affected areas, including Manabí, Guayas and El Oro.</p>

## Operational Risk Assessment

Ecuador is currently facing a complex context marked by increasing violence, insecurity and the recurrence of disaster risk-related events, which has intensified the demand for humanitarian assistance in vulnerable communities. This environment underscores the need to strengthen comprehensive security measures to ensure the safety of volunteers and humanitarian personnel, as a critical condition for the continuity, effectiveness and sustainability of Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) operations, particularly in emergency contexts.

In recent years, the country has experienced an unprecedented security crisis, reflected in a sustained increase in intentional homicides linked to the activities of organised criminal groups engaged in illicit activities such as drug trafficking, smuggling, kidnapping, extortion and robbery. According to official data from the Ministry of the Interior, as of 31 December 2025, the national homicide rate reached 54.40 per 100,000 inhabitants, with the highest levels recorded in Los Ríos (141.99), El Oro (110.69), Guayas (93.49), Manabí (79.79), Orellana (69.72), Esmeraldas (65.72), Santa Elena (58.59), Sucumbíos (54.77), Cañar (42.18) and Santo Domingo (31.64).

This context is further compounded by social unrest linked to national economic measures, including the removal of the diesel subsidy under Executive Decree No. 126, which increased fuel prices and triggered widespread demonstrations led by indigenous movements and peasant organisations. On 18 September 2025, the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE) and allied groups launched an indefinite national strike, resulting in road blockades across more than 12 provinces, disruptions to essential services, incidents of violence, and constraints on humanitarian access.

In this evolving context, several risks affecting humanitarian operations have been identified, including direct threats against humanitarian personnel, access restrictions due to road blockades and territorial control, retention of institutional vehicles, exposure to armed violence and explosive devices, and misuse of the Red Cross emblem. These factors may compromise acceptance, perceptions of neutrality, and operational continuity.

In response, staff security remains a central and cross-cutting priority to ensure safe access, operational sustainability and the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. The Ecuadorian Red Cross has adopted a comprehensive security management approach, which includes continuous context analysis, systematic risk monitoring through the National Situation and Monitoring Room, identification of threats and risk levels, definition of alert phases, and the implementation of security measures and contingency plans jointly developed with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

This approach is complemented by strengthened coordination mechanisms, regular dissemination of security guidelines, contingency planning with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, reinforcement of institutional visibility through the proper use of the emblem, and the provision of ongoing psychosocial support to staff and volunteers. In addition, humanitarian diplomacy efforts are maintained to facilitate safe access and reinforce adherence to the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

## **B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY**

### **Update on the strategy**

This update responds to the need to adjust the operational strategy to ensure an orderly and sustainable closure of the Emergency Appeal, through a no-cost extension of six months (April to September 2026). The main objective of this closing phase is to transition from an intensive response phase to a Risk Reduction and Community Strengthening phase, where critical activities such as community assessments, the establishment and training of community committees, the installation of Early Warning Systems (EWS), and the implementation of simulation exercises require an extended timeframe to ensure local ownership and sustainability.

At the programmatic level, the strategy is reinforced through the continuation of operations in key sectors, including Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), and Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), alongside strengthened logistics capacities through the upgrading of strategic warehouses and the management of relief kits.

The continuation of technical personnel is planned until the end of the extended period, to ensure the effective implementation of planned activities, technical and financial monitoring, coordination with community and institutional actors, and the progressive transfer of capacities. This measure is essential to guarantee quality implementation, operational continuity and an appropriate closure of the operation.

The adjustment also includes a budget reallocation that considers the execution of outstanding balances from completed activities, the use of foreign exchange gains, and the incorporation of projected Secretariat costs of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). The final three months of the extended period will be dedicated exclusively to audit, accountability and the consolidation of final reports.

As of the reporting date, the Emergency Appeal has reached 52.72% funding coverage. While this level of funding has not yet enabled the full implementation of all activities originally planned in the Operational Strategy, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) continues to advance the operation and remains committed to delivering humanitarian assistance to affected populations.

#### **Context and intervention update**

The operation is currently focused on the recovery phase, activating strategic interventions that were originally planned but not implemented due to funding constraints. With newly allocated resources, outstanding critical needs linked to the four emergencies addressed during the period are being tackled, namely floods, landslides, environmental contamination and earthquake impacts.

At the same time, Ecuador is entering the rainy season, which extends from October 2025 to May 2026 in the Andean region and from January to April 2026 in the Coastal region. This seasonal pattern increases risks for already affected communities and highlights the need to reinforce preparedness efforts. In this context, evolving climatic conditions and the likelihood of new impacts require scaling up prevention and response actions across the fourteen provinces included in the Operational Strategy. This adjustment will guide the next phase of the operation, aiming to protect high-risk communities and strengthen preparedness for potential emergencies.


The activities outlined in the following sections reflect this forward-looking operational approach, designed to enhance community preparedness, strengthen coordination mechanisms, and support timely and effective response during the upcoming rainy season. Through the reallocation of resources and the expansion of geographical

coverage, the operation aims to ensure continuity of humanitarian assistance throughout 2026 and to strengthen the resilience of the most at-risk populations in the coming months.

The strategy seeks to optimise the use of unspent balances and exchange rate gains through their strategic reallocation to priority interventions that will expand and consolidate achieved results. This includes strengthening livelihoods recovery through cash transfers, improving access to safe water and WASH operational capacity, reinforcing communication and emergency response systems, and developing community and institutional capacities for preparedness, prevention and response, while ensuring operational continuity during the final phase of implementation.

## C. OPERATIONAL REPORT

### STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

	<b>Shelter, Housing and Settlements</b>	Female > 18: 2,259	Female < 18: 1,010
		Male > 18: 2,145	Male < 18: 959
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</i>		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Target</b>
	# of families provided with essential household items	130	500
	# of families provided with temporary emergency shelter solutions <sup>4</sup>	1,921	1,700
	# of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on safe shelter	1,700	1,700
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Humanitarian Assistance Delivery</b> </li> </ul> <p>As of 25 January 2026, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) had assisted 1,921 families, each of whom received at least one shelter-related relief item, including tool kits, blankets, plastic sheets or tarpaulins. These distributions were</p>			

<sup>4</sup> The target for this indicator has been revised following a review of the means of verification to ensure data accuracy and consistency. The indicator reflects unique families, each of whom received at least one shelter-related relief item, including tool kits, blankets, plastic sheets or tarpaulins, and excludes kitchen kits as these are already reported under Indicator 1.

carried out primarily in the provinces of Guayas, Esmeraldas, Manabí and El Oro. All items were sourced from prepositioned stocks and were subsequently replenished with the support of the IFRC Logistics Hub in Panama.

Additional assistance was provided in the province of Napo, where 50 blankets, 32 hygiene kits, 10 raincoats, 20 tool kits and 130 kitchen sets were distributed. These items were made available through the ERC's central prepositioned stocks and the DG ECHO-IFRC Programme Partnership (PPP), while the logistical costs associated with their delivery were covered by the Emergency Appeal.

Items Delivered								
Province	Toolkit		Tarpaulins		Blankets		Kitchen Kits	
	# items	# fam.	# items	# fam.	# items	# fam.	# items	# fam.
El Oro	150	150	450	230	300	159	50	50
Guayas	631	631	1,242	632	1,100	772	-	-
Manabí	300	300	600	300	600	300	80	80
Santa Elena	80	80	-	-	-	-	-	-
Esmeraldas	525	525	664	332	-	-	-	-
Los Ríos	14	14	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>2,956</b>	<b>1,494</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>130</b>

- **Awareness and Training on Safe Shelter Practices**

The 1,700 families receiving tool kits from the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) participated in training sessions on the proper use of the tools, as part of the organization's community engagement and capacity-building process. These activities aimed to strengthen families' ability to repair and maintain their homes safely while promoting safer shelter practices at the community level.

- **Coordination with Other Institutions**

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) maintains close coordination with the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR) and local authorities to ensure that humanitarian deliveries are aligned with national response priorities and effectively reach the most affected communities. This coordination facilitates the identification of priority areas, supports follow-up on distributions and strengthens the complementarity of efforts within the national emergency response system, ensuring that assistance is delivered in a timely and coordinated manner.

- **Challenges**

During the delivery of humanitarian assistance, several challenges emerged related to distribution logistics and access to areas classified as high risk due to insecurity. These difficulties were largely the result of beneficiary communities identified through the EVIN as priority groups because of their high levels of vulnerability. Many of these communities are located in hard-to-reach areas with elevated insecurity indicators, which complicated logistical planning and the implementation of support. This context increased risks for operational personnel and limited effective access to the population most in need. Despite these constraints, the commitment to ensure that assistance reached the most affected households was maintained, requiring continuous adjustments to operational strategies to safeguard personnel and uphold the effectiveness of the intervention.



Operational coordination during the emergency response, Esmeraldas, May 2025. Source: ERC.



## Livelihoods and Basic Needs

Female > 18: 95

Female < 18: 15

Male > 18: 89

Male < 18: 14

### Objective:

*Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods*

### Indicator

**Current**

**Target**

# of families reached with CVA assistance to recover and/or strengthen their livelihoods

213

1,600

### Key indicators:

# of people who received technical assistance/training to recover and/or strengthen their livelihoods

213

1,600

# of communities with livelihoods microprojects implemented

0

4

# of families reached with food kits

0

1,000

## Cash assistance and capacity-building to strengthen livelihoods

Based on field information, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) developed a feasibility study for the implementation of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), defining the most appropriate delivery mechanism, transfer value, security risks and operational considerations. The study was approved by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and established the following requirements for participation:

- The delivery mechanism would be cardless cash withdrawal through Banco Pichincha
- **First transfer:** USD 400
- Development of an individual livelihood improvement plan
- Participation in livelihood improvement training
- **Second transfer:** USD 400
- Participation in financial education training
- Submission of purchase receipts corresponding to the first transfer, issued in the name of the assisted person

### Esmeraldas

In October 2025, the Esmeraldas Provincial Branch conducted a market assessment to identify target areas for livelihoods recovery. Based on information from sectoral coordination platforms and the Provincial EOC, three priority areas affected mainly by flooding and oil spills were selected.

Key activities included:

- **16 to 20 September:** Registration of families in Chinca parish, including the development of individual livelihood improvement plans
- **25 to 26 October:** Delivery of training on good agricultural practices with support from the Provincial Government, and financial education sessions led by ERC volunteers, focused on savings and household budgeting
- Verification of compliance with eligibility criteria, followed by final selection and notification of assisted persons
- **29 to 31 October:** Disbursement of the first transfer through Banco Pichincha
- 1 to 3 November: Post-distribution monitoring to verify appropriate use of funds and progress against livelihood plans
- **6 to 9 November:** Disbursement of the second transfer
- **12 to 13 November:** Second monitoring visit

Both transfers were completed in November 2025, following verification of compliance with all requirements, including participation in training and submission of purchase receipts for inputs, equipment or livestock.

Livelihoods assistance delivered in Esmeraldas			
Community	Community	Community	Community
Bellavista	44	\$800	\$35,200
Cotopaxi	33	\$800	\$26,400
Guayabo	38	\$800	\$30,400
Moras Tuve	3	\$800	\$2,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>118</b>		<b>\$94,400</b>



Cash assistance receipt signature, October 2025, Esmeraldas. Source: ERC.

### **Manabí**

In December 2025, the technical team of the Manabí Provincial Branch identified target communities, ensuring no duplication of assistance. The community of El Guayabo, in Río Chico parish, Portoviejo canton, was selected for the intervention.

The implementation followed a structured sequence combining community engagement, selection, cash delivery and monitoring, as outlined below:

- **5 to 6 January 2026:** Activities were socialised with the community, with support from the community leader, and a database of 224 families was established, including the development of individual livelihood improvement plans
- **7 January 2026:** Household vulnerability and needs assessments were conducted, leading to the final selection of 95 assisted persons. Coordination was established with the Ministry of Agriculture (MAG) to support the intervention
- **8 to 9 January 2026:** Selected participants were convened and informed about the implementation process and assistance delivery, incorporating risk mitigation measures
- **10 January 2026:** The first transfer was distributed to 95 assisted persons. Registration and validation were conducted at community level, while transport to the Provincial Branch was organised. Volunteers were briefed on roles, responsibilities and operational procedures
- **13 to 15 January 2026:** Assisted persons collected the first transfer of USD 400
- **17 January 2026:** The second distribution process was implemented. Prior to participation, assisted persons underwent verification of expenditure through receipts, confirming appropriate use of the first transfer. Two individuals who were initially absent completed the full process on 22 January 2026
- **21 to 24 January 2026:** Assisted persons collected the second transfer of USD 400
- **28 January 2026:** The remaining two assisted persons completed the withdrawal
- **24 January 2026:** Post-distribution monitoring was conducted through field visits, assessing use of funds, satisfaction with the process, perception of security, confidence in the ERC, and progress in economic recovery and livelihoods restoration.

Livelihoods assistance delivered in Manabí			
Community	Households	Value (USD)	Total (USD)
El Guayabo	95	\$800	\$76,000



Second CVA distribution and training session, January 2026, Manabí. Source: ERC.

### Food Kit Distribution

Additionally, as part of the response, and with bilateral support from AECID through the Spanish Red Cross, Arca Continental (Coca-Cola) and the German Embassy in Ecuador, the Ecuadorian Red Cross assisted 1,636 families through the distribution of food kits. A total of 1,342 standardised 15-day kits and 300 three-day kits were delivered. These distributions are not counted under the indicators of this Operational Update, as they were financed through bilateral cooperation funds.



## Multi-purpose Cash

Female > 18:  
658

Female < 18:  
294

Male > 18:  
625

Male < 18:  
279

### Objective:

*Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs*

	Indicator	Current	Target
<b>Key indicators:</b>	# of people reached with multipurpose cash assistance to cover basic needs	1,856	4,800
	# of people trained to effectively manage funds	580	1,500
	# of volunteers and staff trained in CVA	94	94

### Rapid Assessment for Markets (RAM)

In May, the National Technical Team, in coordination with the Provincial Branches of Esmeraldas, El Oro, Manabí and Guayas, carried out the Rapid Assessment for Markets (RAM), which generated key information on market functionality and informed the feasibility analysis for implementing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) as part of the operation.

### Pre-Distribution Processes

Based on the RAM findings, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) initiated pre-distribution activities across five provinces: Esmeraldas, El Oro, Santa Elena, Manabí and Guayas. These activities included household data collection, beneficiary registration and the identification of families eligible for assistance. These processes ensured that the intervention was grounded in verified needs and updated information about affected households.

### Institutional Coordination

Throughout the preparation phase, the CVA technical teams from each Provincial Branch coordinated closely with government institutions and Local Autonomous Governments (GADs) to present the intervention and identify potential participants. Initial household lists were developed using EVIN registration forms collected by the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and Local Autonomous Governments. In areas lacking prior records, the ERC conducted new household assessments to identify eligible families and ensure that support reached those with the highest vulnerability.

### Participant Selection and Validation

To ensure transparency and equity, the ERC jointly validated participant lists with state institutions and community representatives. Selection criteria were defined to prioritise households with the greatest needs while ensuring equitable participation across communities. These criteria were applied using Tool 15: Selection Criteria Evaluation Matrix, which guided decision-making and supported an accountable allocation of cash assistance.

The selection criteria used for prioritisation are detailed below:

<b>Prioritisation criteria</b>	
<b>Essential Criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being within the affected area</li> <li>• Having suffered the impact of the disaster on health, livelihoods, housing, family well-being, or other.</li> </ul>
<b>Vulnerability criteria</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People affected by violence</li> <li>• Women who are heads of household</li> <li>• Family members who are older adults</li> <li>• Family members under five years of age</li> <li>• Family members with disabilities</li> <li>• Family members with chronic or critical illnesses</li> <li>• Households composed of more than three members</li> <li>• Pregnant or breastfeeding women</li> <li>• Families with income below one Unified Basic Salary (SBU)</li> <li>• Individuals living alone</li> <li>• People in situations of human mobility</li> <li>• Families with limited access to basic services such as drinking water, electricity, sewage, waste collection, mobile phone coverage, or internet access</li> </ul>

### **Delivery Mechanism Request**

Once the final databases were completed in accordance with the established selection profiles, the Provincial Branch CVA technical teams submitted the validated and signed lists to request the activation of the delivery mechanism. This step ensured compliance with accountability requirements and enabled the start of the transfer process.

### **Training for Volunteers and Staff on CVA Implementation**

Prior to the distribution phase, volunteers and staff involved in the CVA process received a refresher session to ensure a consistent and safe implementation of the intervention. The training covered key topics related to Cash and Voucher Assistance, including:

- Basic concepts of CVA implementation and configuration
- Task allocation and use of tools throughout the distribution circuit
- Operational safety standards
- Basic concepts on livelihoods, delivered specifically in Manabí

Thus, 94 people have been trained across the five target Provinces, as detailed below:

<b>Province</b>	<b>People trained</b>
Esmeraldas	9
El Oro	25
Manabí	20
Guayas	21
Santa Elena	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>94</b>

## CVA Delivery

As of 25 July, cash assistance had been delivered to 580 participating families. These households had an average size of 3.2 members, resulting in a total of 1,856 people assisted through the CVA intervention. Detailed information on the participating families is presented below.

Province	# of families assisted	Money delivered (USD)
Esmeraldas	180	46,800
El Oro	50	13,000
Santa Elena	50	13,000
Manabí	150	39,000
Guayas	150	39,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>580</b>	<b>150,800</b>

## Financial Management Training for Participants

As part of the CVA distribution process, during the second station dedicated to training, 580 participants from Esmeraldas, El Oro, Santa Elena, Manabí, and Guayas were informed about the selection criteria, project details, delivery mechanism, transfer amount, and frequency of assistance. Participants were also provided with a contact number to request support or submit feedback and complaints regarding the implementation process. Additionally, participants received awareness sessions on the responsible use of cash, encouraging the prioritisation of urgent basic family needs.

## Post-Distribution Monitoring and Capacity-Building on Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

During July and August, the Provincial Branches conducted post-distribution monitoring (PDM) with families assisted through the CVA programme. A random sample was taken with a 5% margin of error and a 95% confidence level, resulting in the participation of 232 families across the five provinces. The monitoring process was primarily carried out by telephone due to security constraints. In areas where phone access was not available, community leaders and technical teams from the Provincial Branches conducted follow-ups in person.

The analysis of the collected data revealed the following findings:

- From the participants' perspective, 99% of respondents rated the organisation of the distribution process as excellent or very good, and 100% felt safe at the distribution sites.
- On average, the distribution process lasted less than 30 minutes, and 97% described the treatment received from humanitarian staff as excellent or very good.
- The cash assistance was primarily used to cover food, health and livelihood-related needs.
- The main sources of income among participating families were agriculture and livestock (day labour), representing 72.41% of respondents. About 13.36% of women stated that they did not have a source of income as they were dedicated to childcare or household activities, while 84% of families reported living on incomes below USD 200 per month.
- 81.9% of participants indicated that the cash received from the ERC was sufficient to cover their most urgent household needs.
- Regarding decision-making within households, 46% of women reported being responsible for managing the cash assistance, suggesting increased participation and empowerment in household financial decisions. Meanwhile, 27% stated that the decision was made jointly within the family, reflecting a balanced approach to financial management.

- Following the receipt of cash assistance, 100% of participants reported an improvement in their economic situation, and 81.9% confirmed that the amount provided was sufficient to meet their immediate needs.
- 99% of participants considered the delivery mechanism safe and accessible. Although 8% expressed concern about potential risks such as theft or extortion, no incidents or negative impacts were reported within households or communities during the monitoring process.
- 99% of respondents perceived that the implementation of the CVA programme was conducted safely, transparently and inclusively. Overall, the ERC achieved an average satisfaction score of 9.85/10 for CVA implementation in the communities reached.


## Challenges

The implementation of the Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) intervention presented several operational challenges that required continuous adaptation to ensure a safe, effective and accountable process.

- **Security risks related to extortion and theft:** In line with the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) CVA protocol and methodology, strict mitigation measures were applied to safeguard the confidentiality of all information related to cash distribution. These measures were essential due to the current security context in Ecuador, but they also resulted in reduced volunteer participation compared to previous interventions. In some Provincial Branches, the distributions were carried out by hired personnel to minimise exposure to risk. During community sensitisation sessions, only the essential details of the intervention were shared, and assistance was framed as general humanitarian support rather than cash assistance. This approach sought to reduce the likelihood of extortion, theft or targeting of families receiving assistance.
- **Diversification of delivery mechanisms:** Ensuring access to financial services remained a significant challenge, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach areas where banking coverage is limited, mobile connectivity is low and cash-out points are scarce. These conditions hinder the use of traditional electronic transfers and can delay or restrict access to assistance. Diversifying delivery mechanisms therefore remains a priority to ensure timely and equitable access. The ERC is assessing alternative channels and potential partnerships with financial service providers such as Western Union, with the objective of increasing operational flexibility and reducing reliance on a single delivery modality.
- **Accuracy and fairness in participant selection:** Ensuring accurate and equitable participant selection required careful coordination. Technical teams from each Provincial Branch worked with government institutions to identify communities that had not yet received assistance. However, the use of government registries, such as the EVIN database, presented limitations due to incomplete or outdated information. To address this, teams conducted additional field validation and worked closely with community leaders to verify household data. These efforts strengthened the transparency of the process and reduced the risk of exclusion or duplication.
- **Perceptions regarding the use of cash assistance:** Persistent misconceptions about cash assistance posed an additional challenge. Concerns about potential misuse or dependency required targeted messaging to clarify the purpose of the assistance and promote its responsible use. The application of selection criteria helped ensure that assistance was directed to families facing the greatest vulnerability. Awareness-raising activities during distribution reinforced responsible financial decision-making. Post-distribution monitoring results confirmed the effectiveness of this approach, showing that around 90% of participating households used the transfers primarily to meet essential needs such as food, health and shelter.



Satisfaction survey on the CVA process (fourth station of the distribution circuit), Esmeraldas, June 2025. Source: ERC.

	<b>Health &amp; care</b> <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	Female > 18: 5,658	Female < 18: 2,530
		Male > 18: 5,371	Male < 18: 2,402
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening</i>		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Target</b>
	#of people reached with MHPSS services	2,549	1,500
	# of volunteers and staff trained in MHPSS	101	70
	# of health consultations given through Ecuadorian Red Cross medical services	853	300
	# of people reached by health promotion/awareness activities	15,961	10,776
	# of families reached with mosquito nets	3,965	3,592
	# of people reached by vector control activities <sup>5</sup>	14,383	2,160

<sup>5</sup> The indicator on vector control activities is now reported under the Health pillar, although it had been initially placed under the WASH pillar. This adjustment was made to ensure methodological and financial consistency, as the activities and their corresponding budget are financed through the Health pillar.

## **Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)**

Since February 2025, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) has delivered Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services to address the emotional impacts of the emergencies during both response and recovery phases. Interventions prioritised individuals and families directly affected, strengthening emotional resilience and supporting coping mechanisms in the context of loss, disrupted livelihoods and uncertainty.

A total of 2,549 people were reached with MHPSS services across nine provinces (El Oro, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, Loja, Santo Domingo, Pichincha, Los Ríos and Santa Elena), including targeted support in temporary shelters where families faced prolonged uncertainty and unstable living conditions.

During the initial phase, MHPSS actions focused on crisis response through the provision of Psychological First Aid (PFA), delivered in both individual and group formats. These interventions supported affected communities as well as 441 frontline responders from institutions including ECU 911, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) and the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), contributing to the management of acute stress and enabling continuity of essential services.

As the operation evolved, interventions shifted towards strengthening community resilience and promoting post-traumatic recovery. Group and individual sessions were adapted to specific population groups, including children, adolescents, adults and older persons, using participatory methodologies to reinforce protective factors and promote mental health awareness.

Targeted interventions were also implemented in educational settings in provinces such as Guayas, Esmeraldas and El Oro, strengthening the capacities of teachers, administrative staff and counselling teams to support the emotional well-being of children and adolescents. In parallel, child-friendly spaces were established to provide safe and structured environments where children and adolescents could express emotions, engage in recreational activities and regain a sense of normality.

To support implementation, community-based MHPSS methodologies were developed and rolled out across Provincial Branches, accompanied by continuous technical follow-up. Psychosocial support kits, including stress management workbooks and educational materials, were distributed and pre-positioned to strengthen response capacity in both current and future emergencies.

People reached with MHPSS activities <sup>6</sup>						
Province	Total	M<18	M>18	F<18	F>18	Persons with disabilities
El Oro	688	104	231	109	244	61
Esmeraldas	248	37	83	39	89	22
Manabí	107	16	36	17	38	10
Guayas	841	127	283	133	298	75
Loja	128	19	43	20	46	11
Los Ríos	166	25	56	26	59	15
Santa Elena	136	20	46	22	48	12
Santo Domingo	235	34	79	37	85	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,549</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>227</b>



Community MHPSS activities, January 2026, Bolívar. Source: ERC.

### HEDA equipment acquisition

To strengthen staff well-being, the operation includes the procurement of three HEDA virtual reality kits, designed to support stress reduction and emotional recovery for humanitarian personnel. These kits will be hosted at National Headquarters and rotated across Provincial Branches based on operational needs.

<sup>6</sup> La distribución se ha estimado a partir de la información demográfica del censo 2021 realizado por el INEC.

Deployment has been delayed due to international procurement and customs clearance processes. Once available, the equipment will be integrated into operations to reinforce staff care and MHPSS support mechanisms.

### MHPSS training for volunteers and staff

A total of 101 ERC personnel have been trained in MHPSS to strengthen operational capacity at community level. Training was delivered progressively across Provincial Branches, including Esmeraldas, Santo Domingo, Manabí, Los Ríos, Loja, Bolívar and Guayas, complemented by virtual sessions coordinated from National Headquarters.

Training focused on key competencies required for emergency response, including Psychological First Aid, community-based psychosocial support, staff care and self-care, and post-emergency intervention methodologies. These included tools such as *“Jenga – Unpacking our emotions”* for post-traumatic growth, *“Our Tree”* for community resilience, and the use of HEDA virtual reality kits for emotional self-care.

In addition, staff were trained in the use of virtual reality equipment to ensure effective deployment once available in the field. The rotation of these kits across Provincial Branches began in January 2026 using equipment acquired during previous operations and will continue with the new kits procured under this update.

Number of ERC volunteers and staff trained in MHPSS					
Provincia	Total	H<18	H>18	M<18	M>18
Esmeraldas	33	0	15	0	18
Manabí	16	0	8	0	8
Loja	16	0	8	0	8
Los Ríos	16	0	3	0	13
Santo Domingo	20	0	10	0	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>57</b>

### Health consultations provided

Since March 2025, at the onset of the emergency, the provinces of El Oro and Guayas experienced the most significant disruptions in health service delivery. Several cantons reported reduced access to Ministry of Public Health (MSP) facilities due to infrastructure impacts, which, although not structurally severe, limited operational capacity. This situation was further compounded by prevailing insecurity, affecting the continuity of service provision.

In response, and in line with the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) National Preparedness and Response Plan, the Emergency Health Protocol was activated, specifically the medical care component. In El Oro province (Piñas canton), flooding caused by river overflow required immediate response, leading to the deployment of the nearest Mobile Health Unit and trained medical and nursing volunteers, upon request and in coordination with MSP through Technical Working Group 2 (Health).

Similarly, in Guayas province (Pedro Carbo canton), medical brigades were deployed to deliver primary health services. Emergency Appeal funds covered the logistical deployment of medical teams, enabling the establishment of temporary consultation points equipped with tents, stretchers, partitions, and diagnostic tools. Medicines were provided with the support of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), while medical supplies were drawn from ERC pre-positioned stocks.

Between July and October 2025, a total of 853 medical consultations were delivered, supporting access to essential health services in affected communities.



Distribution of medicines alongside health consultations, September 2025, Guayas. Source: ERC.

## Health promotion

Health promotion activities reached 15,961 people, delivering a total of 20,087 services through household visits, community fairs, and awareness sessions conducted alongside the distribution of humanitarian assistance.

Key topics included food hygiene, healthy nutrition, prevention of chronic child malnutrition, vector-borne disease prevention, and family and community health. These actions were closely integrated with WASH interventions, including community clean-up campaigns, support to government-led fumigation efforts, and door-to-door outreach in high dengue-incidence areas.

Activities were implemented through participatory and culturally adapted methodologies, enabling active community engagement and strengthening the adoption of preventive practices.

Number of people reached through health promotion activities <sup>7</sup>						
Provinces	Total	M<18	M>18	F<18	F>18	Persons with disabilities
El Oro	2,605	391	877	413	924	182
Esmeraldas	2,982	448	1,004	473	1,057	209
Manabí	2,007	302	675	318	712	141
Guayas	2,126	320	715	337	754	149
Loja	727	109	245	115	258	51

<sup>7</sup> La distribución se ha estimado a partir de la información demográfica del censo 2021 realizado por el INEC.

Los Ríos	1,173	176	395	186	416	82
Santa Elena	474	71	159	75	169	33
Santo Domingo	1,664	250	560	264	590	117
Pichincha	889	134	299	141	315	62
Tungurahua	1,314	198	442	208	466	92
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,961</b>	<b>2,399</b>	<b>5,371</b>	<b>2,530</b>	<b>5,661</b>	<b>1,118</b>



Community health promotion activities, January 2026, El Oro. Source: ERC.

## Vector control

Flooding significantly increased the risk of vector-borne diseases due to the proliferation of mosquito breeding sites. In Ecuador, all four dengue serotypes are currently circulating, contributing to sustained transmission. According to the Ministry of Public Health (MSP), 37,840 confirmed dengue cases were reported in 2025, of which 85.64% were without warning signs, 13.39% with warning signs, and 0.97% severe cases, with the highest incidence in coastal provinces.

Aligned with national vector control strategies and technical guidelines, the ERC contributed to risk reduction through community-based prevention actions. These focused on strengthening knowledge of transmission pathways, early warning signs, and preventive measures, with a strong emphasis on hygiene and environmental sanitation, in coordination with WASH activities.

As part of household-level prevention, 10,377 mosquito nets were distributed to 3,965 families, providing three nets per household as a protective barrier against mosquito bites, particularly during peak exposure hours.

Number of families reached with mosquito nets <sup>8</sup>							
Provinces	Total		M<18	M>18	F<18	F>18	Persons with disabilities
	Fam.	ítem					
El Oro	392	750	188	423	199	445	88
Esmeraldas	313	626	149	337	159	355	70
Guayas	1,998	5,944	962	2242	1014	2266	454
Los Ríos	191	500	96	215	101	227	45
Manabí	533	1,589	265	593	280	625	123
Santa Elena	305	500	146	328	155	346	68
Santo Domingo	233	468	112	251	118	264	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,965</b>	<b>10,377</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>4,389</b>	<b>2,026</b>	<b>4,528</b>	<b>900</b>

Additionally, 14,383 people were reached through vector control activities, including awareness campaigns and community engagement actions aimed at eliminating breeding sites. Complementary support included the distribution of community cleaning kits (one per community) and household-level vector control kits, reinforcing sustainable prevention practices.

In line with MSP regulations, fumigation activities were not conducted directly by the ERC but supported through coordination with the competent authorities, ensuring compliance with national technical standards and avoiding risks related to vector resistance, environmental contamination, and public health.


Number of people reached through vector control activities <sup>9</sup>						
Provinces	Total	M<18	M>18	F<18	F>18	Persons with disabilities
El Oro	320	48	108	51	113	22
Manabí	2,162	325	728	343	766	151
Santa Elena	1,525	229	513	242	541	107
Esmeraldas	1,731	260	583	274	614	121
Los Ríos	1,618	243	544	256	575	113
Guayas	6,627	997	2,230	1,050	2,350	464
Santo Domingo	400	60	135	63	142	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,383</b>	<b>2,162</b>	<b>4,841</b>	<b>2,279</b>	<b>5,101</b>	<b>1,006</b>

<sup>8</sup> Datos estimados a partir de la información demográfica del censo 2021 realizado por el INEC.

<sup>9</sup> Datos estimados a partir de la información demográfica del censo 2021 realizado por el INEC.



Health fair activities, November 2025, Los Ríos. Source: ERC.

	<b>Water, Sanitation and Hygiene</b>	Female > 18: 66,425	Female < 18 27,7042
		Male > 18: 63,059	Male < 18: 28,198
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions</i>		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Target</b>
	# of volunteers and staff trained in WASH	112	50
	# of families reached with hygiene supplies	34	6,400
	# of families reached with cleaning supplies	536	6,400
	# of families reached with chlorine	23,950	17,000
	# of families reached with jerrycans	4,003	27,500
	Average number of litres of safe water distributed per person per day	51,35	51,35
	# of people provided with an improved drinking water source (constructed or rehabilitated)	-	8,000

# of people reached by the Ecuadorian Red Cross WASH promotion/awareness activities	42,290 <sup>10</sup>	20,000
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- Delivery of basic hygiene items that contribute to the promotion of health and prevention of diseases**

To improve access to safe drinking water and reduce the risk of water-borne diseases, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) distributed jerrycans, hygiene kits, cleaning kits and sodium hypochlorite to households in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, Santa Elena, El Oro, Los Ríos, Santo Domingo and Loja. These items were prioritised for households affected by disruptions in water supply systems and for communities with limited capacity to access or safely store water.

In total, 8,440 WASH items were distributed, including jerrycans, hygiene kits and cleaning kits, alongside 25,019 litres of sodium hypochlorite. Each assisted household received at least one of these items, contributing to improved access to safe water and adequate hygiene conditions at the household level.

The provision of sodium hypochlorite enabled the daily disinfection of approximately 80 to 120 litres of water per household, covering basic consumption and food preparation needs. When used correctly and consistently, chlorine-based water treatment can reduce the incidence of acute diarrhoeal diseases by 30 to 50 per cent, particularly in emergency settings with high exposure to contaminated water sources.

During the reporting period, the distribution of 1% sodium hypochlorite was prioritised for vulnerable households in anticipation of the new rainy season, which intensifies from November onwards. This measure contributed to reinforcing safe hygiene practices and sustaining access to safe water during a period of increased risk.

To ensure the quality and effectiveness of the intervention, preventive and corrective maintenance of sodium hypochlorite production equipment was carried out in the provinces covered by the Appeal. This helped maintain appropriate concentration levels and ensured the reliability of the disinfectant supply.

These distributions were complemented by WASH awareness activities focused on promoting proper hygiene practices, including handwashing, safe water consumption and household-level sanitation. This integrated approach strengthened preventive behaviours at both household and community levels, contributing to reduced exposure to water-borne and sanitation-related health risks.

The assistance provided is disaggregated as follows:

Number of families reached with WASH items								
Provinces	Water filters		Jerrycans		Chlorine		Cleaning kits	
	Families	Items	Families	Items	Families	Litres	Families	Items
<b>El Oro</b>	34	34	277	500	996	996	79	79
<b>Esmeraldas</b>	0	0	1,671	3,410	4,583	4,583	0	0
<b>Manabí</b>	0	0	530	1,060	6,428	6,868	207	207
<b>Guayas</b>	0	0	1,323	2,500	6,105	6,477	250	250
<b>Loja</b>	0	0	0	0	339	339	0	0
<b>Los Ríos</b>	0	0	52	100	1,454	1,815	0	0
<b>Santa Elena</b>	0	0	100	100	1,771	1,667	0	0

<sup>10</sup> This figure has been reduced following the removal of duplicate records.

<b>Santo Domingo</b>	0	0	0	0	1,533	1,533	0	0
<b>Tungurahua</b>	0	0	0	0	741	741	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>4,003</b>	<b>7,870</b>	<b>23,950</b>	<b>25,019</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>536</b>



Sodium hypochlorite distribution to communities, January 2026, Santa Elena. Source: ERC.

- **Safe water production and distribution**

Throughout the implementation of the Appeal, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) WASH team responded promptly to multiple water shortage events across the country. These interventions involved the mobilisation of specialised personnel, water treatment equipment and purification systems to ensure access to safe water in areas affected by floods, environmental contamination and disruptions to water supply systems.

The first large-scale intervention was carried out in El Oro Province, where severe flooding affected community water systems. In response, 265,000 litres of safe water were distributed to 5,500 families across the communities of Torapal, San Roque, 25 de Diciembre, Capiro, Conchicola, Moromomo, San José, 12 de Octubre, Tahuin, Florida, San Francisco and Portete, ensuring immediate access to safe water during the most critical phase of the emergency.

In Esmeraldas Province, an oil spill contaminated key water sources, requiring the deployment of emergency water treatment solutions. Initial Kit 5 treatment units were installed at CELEC facilities, followed by the deployment of the M15 water treatment unit at the Tachina campus of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCESE). Operating with three active treatment lines and a daily capacity exceeding 75,000 litres, the system has produced and distributed more than 4 million litres of safe water to date.

A third major intervention was implemented in southern Quito following a disruption to the water supply system. In coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), the Municipality of Quito, the Metropolitan Public Water and Sanitation Company (EPMAPS), and the Provincial Branches of Pichincha and Esmeraldas, three mobile water treatment plants were deployed, each with a production capacity of 3 to 5 m<sup>3</sup> per hour, alongside ten flexible bladder tanks ranging from 5 to 15 m<sup>3</sup>. Through these systems, more than 962,000 litres of treated water were distributed, ensuring a minimum daily supply of 190,000 litres through temporary storage

solutions. Priority areas such as Nueva Aurora and Jazmines de Guamaní were selected based on population density, vulnerability and health risks. The intervention also included community awareness activities reaching 1,081 people, as well as targeted support for 282 individuals requiring priority care.

In Patate Canton, heavy rainfall in August 2025 damaged the local drinking water system. To ensure continued access, the ERC installed a portable LMS World Water Treatment Plant with a capacity of up to 20,000 litres per day, supporting 650 families. The intervention produced 225,000 litres of safe water, alongside the distribution of 1% sodium hypochlorite, implementation of WASH promotion activities and training of local personnel to support operational continuity.

Finally, in Esmeraldas Province, an incident disabled the transformer supplying the San Mateo Water Treatment Plant, which serves the cantons of Esmeraldas, Atacames and Río Verde. To ensure continuity of supply, the M15 water treatment unit was deployed, producing and distributing 865,000 litres of safe water until the system was fully restored.

Province	Safe Water	
	# of litres	# of families
El Oro	265,000	5,500
Esmeraldas (first moment)	4,018,550	30,990
Pichincha	962,700	16,045
Tungurahua	225,000	650
Esmeraldas (second moment)	865,000	4,384
<b>Total<sup>11</sup></b>	<b>6,336,250</b>	<b>57,569</b>



Safe water distribution to communities, July 2024, Pichincha. Source: ERC.

- **Access to improved water sources**

Under the Emergency Appeal, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) completed the strengthening and upgrading of community water systems in La Unión and Tabiázo parishes, Esmeraldas Province. These interventions focused on

<sup>11</sup> Reported figures have been adjusted following a verification process of distribution records and community-level documentation.

infrastructure, electrical systems, pumping, treatment and storage improvements, aiming to ensure safe, continuous and quality water supply for communities facing recurrent service disruptions and heightened vulnerability during emergencies.

Prior to the intervention, both systems presented technical and operational limitations affecting water continuity, quantity and quality.

In Tabiázo, the system relied on a deep well (approximately 130 feet) equipped with a 5 HP submersible pump supplying four storage tanks with a combined capacity of around 80 m<sup>3</sup>. However, the system operated with deteriorated pumping conditions, low water production (approximately 5 gallons per minute), manual chlorination without automation, frequent failures due to voltage fluctuations and lack of preventive maintenance. These constraints limited effective coverage for approximately 1,000 households. Through the Appeal, the system was upgraded by repowering the deep well pump, replacing the electrical system, carrying out structural repairs, expanding storage capacity, installing a shock chlorination system and conducting comprehensive maintenance of the treatment plant.

In La Unión, the water treatment plant supplied approximately 300 households through physical filtration (sand, gravel and activated carbon) and chlorination, supported by two storage tanks of 100 m<sup>3</sup> and 40 m<sup>3</sup>. However, the infrastructure showed deterioration in tanks and filters, lacked structural protection, had limitations in the chlorination system and insufficient flow monitoring. These constraints became critical when the system was required to support neighbouring communities or supply water through tankers during emergencies. The intervention included full rehabilitation of the treatment plant, including waterproofing and protection of tanks and filters, installation of roofing structures, improvements to the chlorination system, installation of flow meters and maintenance of electrical and pumping systems.

These interventions improved water quality and strengthened the operational capacity of the systems, increasing their resilience to meet both current needs and emergency demands. Overall, the upgraded systems directly benefit more than 1,000 households. At the time of reporting, system testing and formal handover processes to the communities are ongoing.

In parallel, additional improvements were implemented through the bilateral project “Support to populations affected by floods and oil spill in Esmeraldas Province, Ecuador”, funded by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) through the Spanish Red Cross and completed in October 2025. These included:

- **Montalvo Parish (Río Verde municipality):** full rehabilitation of the water treatment system, including infrastructure and mechanical components. This system provided critical support during a recent water supply disruption affecting Esmeraldas, Río Verde and Atacames following damage to the San Mateo treatment plant transformer.
- **Bellavista community (Esmeraldas municipality):** rehabilitation of a community water system serving more than 60 households, including improvements in distribution, disinfection, filtration, storage and water intake systems. The intervention was implemented in coordination with the community, the National WASH Response Centre and the ERC Provincial Branch in Esmeraldas.

Some procurement processes remain delayed due to import-related constraints and limited supplier availability. Pending items include onion tanks for the conversion of an M15 treatment plant into three Kit5 units (supported by the Swedish Red Cross), PP filters and membrane filters required as spare parts for PW5660 water purification units, as well as water quality testing supplies necessary for field deployments. Delivery is expected by the end of March.

The acquisition of these items remains a priority, as it will enable strategic prepositioning, ensuring operational continuity and strengthening the response capacity of the WASH component for future emergencies.



Rehabilitation of community water systems, January 2026, Tabiazo, Esmeraldas. Source: ERC.

- **WASH promotion and awareness activities**

As part of WASH interventions, the distribution of relief items was systematically complemented by community engagement and awareness activities to ensure their appropriate and safe use. In line with the “do no harm” principle, these actions aimed to strengthen community capacities to adopt safe water management and hygiene practices in daily life.

Through this integrated approach, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) reached 42,290 people with WASH promotion and awareness activities. Sessions focused on the correct use of 1% sodium hypochlorite, handwashing at critical times, safe water consumption and storage, solid waste management, and the elimination of vector breeding sites.

These activities were implemented alongside the distribution of safe water and hygiene items, reinforcing preventive practices at both household and community levels. This approach contributed to reducing exposure to water-borne and vector-borne diseases, while strengthening the capacity of families to protect their health in contexts affected by flooding and environmental contamination.

Furthermore, WASH awareness activities promoted informed community participation and supported the sustained adoption of healthy practices, enhancing the overall effectiveness of the response and contributing to increased community resilience to current and future hazards.



Household WASH awareness visits, January 2026, El Oro. Source: ERC.

- **WASH capacity strengthening**

Capacity strengthening activities enhanced the technical and operational competencies of Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) personnel in key areas of emergency WASH response. Training processes covered core topics including hygiene promotion, safe water provision, water quality monitoring, urban WASH, vector control, waste management and deployment mechanisms. Thus, 112 ERC staff and volunteers were trained through a combination of theoretical sessions, practical exercises and on-the-job learning during emergency deployments.



Water source assessment exercise (Zonal Workshop 4), January 2026, Santo Domingo. Source: ERC.

Key capacity strengthening actions included:

- **Basic laboratory and hygiene promotion training:** More than 30 volunteers were trained in water quality testing procedures, basic laboratory protocols and community hygiene promotion, strengthening local capacity for monitoring and community engagement.
- **National Water Treatment Plant Deployment Course (9–13 July 2025, Esmeraldas):** A total of 25 participants from 17 provinces were trained through a comprehensive programme combining WASH fundamentals, Sphere standards, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and technical modules on water quality testing, installation and operation of treatment plants, and community engagement using the PHAST methodology.
- **Operational deployment-based training:** Emergency responses to water shortages in Quito and Patate provided hands-on learning opportunities, strengthening field capacities of more than 30 personnel without prior WASH experience.
- **Provincial branch training processes:** Provincial branches continued internal training and knowledge replication processes, ensuring sustained technical capacity and readiness for future deployments.
- **Establishment of zonal WASH teams (December 2025 – January 2026):** A total of 65 ERC personnel were trained to standardise operational capacities at national level and consolidate zonal response teams. Training included the role of WASH focal points, water sampling and basic analysis, household hygiene promotion visits, sanitation practices and the development of operational deployment plans.



## Community Engagement and Accountability

### Objective:

*Communities in high-risk zones receive relevant, timely information*

	Indicator	Current	Target
<b>Key indicators:</b>	# of community consultation meetings	-	42
	# of satisfaction surveys completed	3,595	1
	% of surveyed people reporting that they receive useful and actionable information through different trusted channels	94.5%	50%
	% of affected people surveyed report that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner	94.5%	85%
	# of staff, volunteers, and leadership trained on CEA	98	60
	# of people reached with messages about the auxiliary role of the ERC and the humanitarian assistance it delivers	79,478	8,000

- **Community outreach**

The initial contact with the communities assisted through this operation followed the guidelines established by the Ecuadorian Red Cross. This approach incorporated lessons learned from previous interactions undertaken by the Provincial Branches with local leaders and community actors to identify priority needs, potential risks and specific contextual dynamics. Based on this analysis, entry strategies were defined according to the characteristics of each community to facilitate active collaboration and enable staff to conduct activities safely.

During the introductory process, the institution's auxiliary role, its Fundamental Principles and the objectives of the intervention were clearly presented. This contributed to promoting transparency, respect and community participation from the outset. These actions aimed to strengthen trust between the National Society and the communities, ensuring that its presence was understood, accepted and valued throughout the implementation of the operation.

- **Macro survey**

In July 2025, a macro perception survey was conducted in communities across the eight provinces targeted by the operation. This extensive survey was designed to establish both a baseline and an endline within a reduced sample, enabling the monitoring of changes associated with the intervention over time. The results currently available

correspond to this initial (baseline) measurement, which assesses how the population viewed the humanitarian assistance received.

The survey reached 850 people, with a predominant participation of adults aged 40–59 years (30.6%) and young people aged 18–39 years (44.3%). Women represented the majority of respondents (71.7%). The results provide a comprehensive overview of how the population understood, experienced and evaluated the intervention.

Key perception findings include:

- **85.6% of surveyed people** reported that the items received were fully adequate, indicating that the assistance effectively responded to their needs in both quantity and quality, and reflecting appropriate targeting and planning of distributions.
- **98% of surveyed people** stated that they received clear information on the use of the items, demonstrating effective communication during the intervention and supporting the correct use of the assistance provided.
- **89.3% of surveyed people** expressed satisfaction with the activities implemented in their communities, highlighting the perceived relevance and usefulness of the intervention, as well as its positive contribution to community well-being and trust in the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC).
- **98% of surveyed people** reported feeling safe during the intervention and perceived the staff as respectful and supportive, reflecting adherence to humanitarian principles, particularly dignity, respect and the creation of safe environments.

Despite these positive results, the survey identified constraints that limited safe access to delivery points. The main issues were long distances, limited transportation options, deteriorated roads and existing health conditions that made it difficult for some people to reach distribution sites. Awareness of feedback channels also remained low, with only 42.9% of respondents indicating that they knew them. Nonetheless, 98% confirmed that their needs were consulted before the distributions and that their opinions were considered, underscoring the need to continue strengthening communication and accountability mechanisms.



CEA survey data collection, January 2026, Manabí. Source: ERC.

- **Feedback Surveys**

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) continued to strengthen Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) across its humanitarian interventions through the implementation of structured feedback and communication mechanisms.

As of January 2026, a total of 3,595 satisfaction surveys had been conducted across multiple activities, including the distribution of toolkits, kitchen kits and chlorine, as well as safe water awareness sessions, health promotion activities and psychosocial support interventions. The surveys reached 1,301 men, 2,200 women and 94 people who preferred not to respond.

Results indicate a high level of community satisfaction and trust in the response:

- 94.5% of surveyed people expressed overall satisfaction with the assistance received
- 94.5% reported receiving useful information through trusted channels
- 94% reported respectful and courteous treatment from ERC staff

Feedback mechanisms included suggestion boxes installed in each Provincial Branch and the use of QR codes adapted to local contexts, ensuring accessible and context-appropriate channels. These mechanisms were implemented in communities such as Montalvo, Bellavista, Tabiazo, El Retiro, La Unión and Santa Rosa.

Community meetings were conducted across all sectors of intervention, ensuring that community perspectives were integrated throughout the response cycle. These spaces facilitated the dissemination of planned activities, the collection of feedback and the promotion of shared responsibility, contributing to increased transparency, trust and collaboration between technical teams and communities.



CEA survey data collection, January 2026, Guayas. Source: ERC.

In addition, 98 people were trained virtually on CEA approaches across six provinces, strengthening local capacities to implement community engagement processes. To further enhance access to information and feedback collection, eight information stands were distributed to Provincial Branches.

Communication efforts on the auxiliary role and Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross remained active, reaching 23,672,769 views and generating 79,478 interactions across social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook<sup>12</sup>.



- **Tailoring the strategy as needed**

In Balzar, Guayas Province, community monitoring identified a shift in priority needs following severe flooding that resulted in crop losses. The community expressed that food assistance was more urgent than tool kits. Thanks to an established relationship of trust, this need was effectively communicated, enabling the Guayas Provincial Branch to coordinate an alliance with the private retail chain *Tiendas Tía* to deliver 22 food kits. This action demonstrates the institution's capacity to adapt to changing contexts and highlights the critical role of community feedback in adjusting humanitarian responses in a timely manner.

In the community of El Frutillo, Rocafuerte (Manabí Province), some community members reported feeling excluded after observing assistance provided in neighbouring areas. In response, the Manabí Provincial Branch activated an internal alert and organised a community meeting to clarify selection criteria and manage expectations. As part of the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach, two-way communication was further strengthened through the institutional WhatsApp channel, which is accessible across age groups and used to share interactive materials on preventive health and other relevant topics.

In addition, in Loja Province, the need to establish a permanent feedback mechanism was identified by the community of Lauro Guerrero. In response, a regular feedback channel will be implemented, to be activated at least once per week in line with agreements established jointly with the community. This initiative aims to strengthen continuous

<sup>12</sup>[https://cruzrojaecuadoriana.sharepoint.com/:b/s/GESTINDEPROYECTOS/EdI0b35k0SxDr33BLVA\\_8rsBSzh\\_Ha2Dbl-FJLkhkH2mMw?e=Ep6iZw](https://cruzrojaecuadoriana.sharepoint.com/:b/s/GESTINDEPROYECTOS/EdI0b35k0SxDr33BLVA_8rsBSzh_Ha2Dbl-FJLkhkH2mMw?e=Ep6iZw)

dialogue, ensure accessibility of feedback mechanisms and enhance community participation throughout the response.



Application of the CEA approach in the field, Manabí Province, September 2025. Source: ERC.

	<p><b>Protection, gender and inclusion</b></p>	<p>Female: 300</p>	<p>Male: 300</p>
<p><b>Objective:</b></p>	<p><i>Communities identify the needs of the most at risk and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, due to inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs</i></p>		
<p><b>Key indicators:</b></p>	<p><b>Indicator</b></p> <p># of staff and volunteers trained on implementing PGI Minimum Standards</p>	<p><b>Current</b></p> <p>139</p>	<p><b>Target</b></p> <p>30</p>

# of people reached by protection, gender, and inclusion services <sup>13</sup>	-	TBC
# of referral pathways established or updated for the response	3	3
# of people reached with RFL services	600 <sup>14</sup>	600

- **Protection, Gender and Inclusion**

The three Provincial Branches participating in this process (El Oro, Guayas and Manabí) have carried out the following actions:

- Identification and approaches with entities to establish safe referral routes.
- Development of 3 provincial Guidelines for Safe Referral<sup>15</sup>.
- Internal socialization workshops of the Guidelines have been conducted with paid staff and volunteers to ensure the tool is appropriately used across governance and operational levels. Although these workshops were initially planned to be delivered virtually, a joint decision established that face-to-face sessions would ensure better comprehension. This approach also permitted reaching a greater number of people:
  - People reached in Guayas: 94
  - People reached in Manabí: 15
  - People reached in El Oro: 30

<sup>13</sup> This indicator will be reported at the end of the operation. As a cross-cutting approach, all assisted people are considered reached under this indicator; therefore, it will not be reported separately during implementation.

<sup>14</sup> The reported reach of this indicator has been reduced to reflect only activities implemented with Appeal funding to date, excluding complementary actions.

<sup>15</sup> Available at: <https://cruzrojaecuatorialiana.sharepoint.com/:f/s/GESTINDEPROYECTOS/EuCj4o4gIhIPuRR-pQXUfzEBNGESXBR7h6abErBg171f5g?e=WW8Dpa>



Community meetings to identify mapping of local institutions safe referral, Guayas, June 2025. Source: ERC.

- D. In addition to the actions planned under this pillar, the Provincial Branches participating in the Appeal have begun systematically integrating the Minimum Protection Standards of the Sphere Handbook into their emergency response activities. This includes the application of the DAPS standards (Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety), which are reflected in the monthly reports submitted by each Branch. This approach promotes the cross-cutting integration of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) across all sectors, while also enabling the monitoring of minimum protection standards throughout the operation.
- E. In line with the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) Protection, Gender and Inclusion Policy, particularly its chapter on child protection, compliance continues to be actively monitored. At the onset of the operation, a Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment was conducted using the IFRC tool and is periodically reviewed to identify any changes in risk levels. To date, the initial assessment remains valid, with the overall risk level assessed as low, as the response is not specifically targeted at children but rather at broader community and household groups.
- F. To further strengthen the protection approach, with particular emphasis on the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), a dedicated campaign is currently under development. This includes two audiovisual products, one targeting communities and another designed for staff and volunteers, as well as the production of pocket-sized credential cards on PSEA for volunteers. To date, the internal video has been produced and disseminated, and “Zero Tolerance to SEA” cards have been printed and distributed.



- **Restoring Family Links (RFL)**

In response to disruptions in family contact caused by electricity and telecommunications outages, as well as displacement and evacuations during the early phase of the operation, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) activated Restoring Family Links (RFL) services. These included connectivity support (phone calls, internet access and mobile charging), referrals to local actors, community awareness activities and dissemination of the national RFL hotline.

These services were implemented using pre-positioned resources at Provincial Branch level, with support from partners such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Connectivity services were provided in El Oro, Santo Domingo and Chimborazo, while awareness activities were conducted in Chimborazo, El Oro, Guayas, Manabí, Santa Elena and Santo Domingo through educational sessions and the distribution of information materials. The ERC also notified these actions to the Global Restoring Family Links Network to facilitate coordination on tracing requests and specific cases.

Since the start of the operation, these actions have achieved 100% of the planned target, reaching a total of 600 people, distributed as follows:

<b>Number of persons reached through RFL services</b>	
<b>Provinces</b>	<b>Persons</b>
Manabí	150
Guayas	150
Santa Elena	25
Esmeraldas	150
Los Ríos	25
Loja	25
El Oro	75
<b>Total</b>	<b>600</b>

- **Restoring Family Links – Additional services**

In addition to the activities implemented under the Appeal, the ERC continued providing RFL services through complementary funding, primarily under the cooperation agreement with the ICRC, ensuring continuity and expansion of services across different operational contexts.

Between September and October, a nationwide awareness campaign was implemented in coordination with a national mobile network operator. This initiative, jointly led by ERC Communication Management and the RFL technical team, enabled the large-scale dissemination of key messages on maintaining family contact.

The ERC also maintains pre-positioned RFL kits for children and adolescents at national level, financed through external projects. These tools support awareness-raising activities and facilitate the delivery of preventive and educational messages tailored to specific population groups.


At the technical level, the National Society continues to provide the full range of RFL services across different contexts, ensuring sustained assistance beyond the scope of the Appeal.

RFL services financed by partners to complement the operation are broken down as follows:

Period	Total	Physical delivery		Connectivity		Social Media Outreach		RFL Referred Cases	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
April	5,242	1,256	1,324	16	24	1,276	1,345	1	0
May – September	9,945	409	430	0	0	4,671	4,435	0	0
October - December	16,400	0	0	0	0	7,986	8,414	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,587</b>	<b>1,665</b>	<b>1,754</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>13,933</b>	<b>14,193</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>



Sensitization for children and adolescents about self-care measures to avoid the breakdown of family ties, El Oro, September 2025. Source: ERC.

	<b>Risk reduction, climate adaptation, and recovery</b>	Female > 18: 164	Female < 18: 73
		Male > 18: 156	Male < 18: 70
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Strengthen community preparedness and capacities to respond more effectively to future disasters, while simultaneously reinforcing the National Society's capacity throughout the operation to ensure an effective response and the continuity of interventions beyond the immediate emergency phase</i>		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Target</b>
	# of communities with EVCA developed in collaboration with the National Society	1	14
	# of communities with EVCA with disaster support teams established	-	14
	# of communities that received response gear and equipment	-	14
	# of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on DRR	463	2,200

# of CEWS established	n/a	14
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- **Risk and Disaster Reduction**

During the initial phase of the operation, DRR actions were limited to coordination and preparatory activities due to resource constraints. In this context, the procurement process for the community exchange platform has been initiated, considering the lead time required for its development.

- **EVCA implemented**

As part of the DRR component, including Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (EVCA) and Early Warning Systems (EWS) analysis, development of community action plans, community awareness activities, establishment and training of community committees, procurement and installation of EWS, as well as simulations and drills, these activities are currently under implementation. By January 2026, only the Aguadita Community in Santa Elena Province has completed its EVCA - Community action plan.

- **DRR training and awareness sessions**

As part of community-level prevention and preparedness actions, the Provincial Branches of Esmeraldas, Santa Elena and Guayas conducted initial coordination meetings with community representatives, initiating participatory processes at local level.

These processes include community assessments to identify vulnerabilities and capacities, followed by the development of community action plans, training activities, equipment provision, establishment of community committees and the implementation of Early Warning Systems. In parallel, community awareness activities and simulation exercises are being conducted to strengthen preparedness and validate local capacities for early response in emergency situations.

As of the reporting period, a total of 463 people have been reached through awareness activities, including 91 in Esmeraldas and 372 in Manabí.



Community awareness session, January 2026, Loja. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross.

- **National Workshop on Livelihoods with an Entrepreneurial Focus**

In December 2025, a national livelihoods workshop focused on entrepreneurship and digital marketing was conducted, with the participation of 20 people.

The workshop covered ideation, business model development, innovation, digital marketing, photography and artificial intelligence. Participants worked in groups to develop and present business proposals, supported by structured tools and collective feedback.

As a result, participants developed concrete livelihood proposals and action plans, strengthening their technical and entrepreneurial capacities. The process was participatory and practical, enabling the direct application of tools and methodologies.



*Working session during the workshop, December 2025, Quito. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross.*

- **National Workshop on Fundamental Principles, Auxiliary Role and Key Messages for Effective Humanitarian Diplomacy**

In response to the complex and multi-crisis context in Ecuador, marked by increasing humanitarian needs and operational constraints, a national workshop on Fundamental Principles, auxiliary role and key messages for effective humanitarian diplomacy will be conducted from 6 to 8 February 2026 in Quito.

The workshop aims to strengthen the capacities of volunteers in institutional representation, strategic communication, humanitarian advocacy and the application of the Fundamental Principles, reinforcing the auxiliary role of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) to public authorities. This will contribute to more coordinated, principled and protection-focused responses, as well as improved access and engagement with key stakeholders.

- **Training of Trainers in First Aid**

As part of the operation, a Training of Trainers (ToT) in Basic First Aid is planned from 4 to 8 March 2026. This initiative aims to expand the pool of trainers and update both technical and methodological capacities.

The training will strengthen facilitation skills and ensure alignment with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the American Heart Association (AHA) and the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) guidelines.

Upon completion, the National Society will have:

- Trained facilitators capable of applying active learning methodologies
- Updated technical knowledge in First Aid
- Strengthened institutional training capacity at territorial level
- Improved quality and consistency of training processes
- Enhanced capacity to replicate training across Provincial Branches

The methodology is based on the learning sequence: Learn – Practise – Apply.

- **Replication of First Aid training**

Replication sessions will be conducted at Provincial Branch level to transfer knowledge and strengthen facilitation and technical capacities. These sessions will have a duration of 16 hours and will focus on key technical and methodological components.

- **Humanitarian innovation workshop**

From 11 to 14 December 2025, a national workshop on innovation in emergencies was conducted with the participation of 42 volunteers and staff from Provincial Branches.

The workshop was structured around three key components:

- **Institutional tools for emergency contexts:** Participants were introduced to existing tools and approaches available within the National Society that can be applied in emergency settings, strengthening their understanding of innovation in practice.
- **Design Thinking methodology:** A people-centred approach was applied to strengthen capacities in problem identification, solution design and decision-making under pressure. Through the stages of empathy, definition, ideation, prototyping and testing, participants developed a deeper understanding of community needs and how to translate them into effective responses.
- **Development of proposals:** Working in groups and based on simulated emergency scenarios, participants applied the tools and methodologies learned to design innovative, context-adapted solutions focused on community needs.

The process combined practical tools, collaborative work and scenario-based exercises, resulting in the development of actionable proposals and strengthened capacities in critical thinking, teamwork and user-centred humanitarian response.



*Group photo, December 2025, Quito. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross.*

- **Training of Trainers in EVCA**

From 14 to 18 January 2026, a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (EVCA) was conducted in Quito, with 26 participants from Provincial Branches and National Headquarters.

<b>Branches</b>	<b>Participantes (Volunteers and Staff)</b>
Esmeraldas	2
Santo Domingo de Los Tsáchilas	3
Manabí	2
Santa Elena	2
Guayas	2
El Oro	2
Loja	2
Bolívar	2
Imbabura	2
Cotopaxi	1
Chimborazo	1
Azuay	1
Carchi	1
Pichincha	1
Pastaza	1
Sede Nacional	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>26</b>

The training strengthened technical, methodological and facilitation capacities for risk analysis and community engagement processes. Participants are expected to act as focal points to:

- Lead training and participation processes
- Apply tools for risk analysis and action planning
- Support community-level participatory processes
- Facilitate the implementation of EVCA at local level

This contributes to strengthening institutional capacity and promoting community resilience.




Group photo, January 2026, Quito. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross.

- **National workshop on nutrition, community-based surveillance and MHPSS**


A national workshop will be conducted on 6-8 February 2026 to strengthen capacities in integrated health response, including nutrition, community-based surveillance and mental health and psychosocial support.

A total of 26 participants from Manabi, Bolivar, Chimborazo, Santo Domingo de los Tsachilas y Santa Elena Provincial Branches are expected to attend, contributing to strengthening the territorial response capacity of the National Society.

	<b>Environmental sustainability</b>	Female > 18: 0	Female < 18: 0
		Male > 18: 0	Male < 18: 0
<b>Objective:</b> <i>Communities in high-risk areas are prepared and able to respond to disasters.</i>			
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Target</b>
	# of green activities developed to promote environmental sustainability	n/a	14

Due to current funding constraints, the actions initially planned under this pillar will not be carried out.

## Enabling approaches

	<h3>Strengthening National Societies</h3>		
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Ensure that the National Society is capable of delivering an effective response, based on a clear mandate, community and authority acceptance, an adequate operational structure, financial resources, and robust systems for the safe and efficient management of volunteers and staff</i>		
<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Target</b>
	# of volunteers involved in the response operation who have been trained in security	782	400
	# of volunteers and staff who received MHPSS	346	200
	# of insured volunteers	782	600
	Lessons Learned Workshop conducted	0	1
	# of volunteers provided with equipment for protection, safety, and support appropriate to the emergency	0	200
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Integrity assessment</b> <p>As additional support to the Provincial Branch of Esmeraldas following the earthquake, the Appeal enabled the implementation of the official integrity assessment process to ensure the operational safety of personnel and volunteers. These actions were supported through enabling measures that were not only critical for the current emergency response but also strengthened institutional and operational foundations for future emergencies.</p> </li> <li> <b>Human Resources</b> <p>The Appeal is supporting the recruitment and deployment of key personnel of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) to respond to this national emergency, aligned with priority needs identified in the field.</p> <p>To date, 13 specialised professionals have been recruited, including a Project Coordinator, PMER officer, field technician, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) specialist, Health technician, administrative/logistics technician and two local technical staff for the Appeal based in Esmeraldas. Additionally, the project covers the salaries of two technicians from the National WASH Centre, as well as a procurement assistant, a driver and a finance technician. A Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) technician has also been incorporated from October 2025 to March 2026.</p> <p>The technical team structure has been optimised through two key adjustments: strengthening the WASH component with a specialised technician and transitioning the CVA technician into field functions. These changes ensure a more robust and needs-based technical deployment.</p> </li> </ul>			

Furthermore, an Applicant Tracking System (ATS) has been introduced to improve recruitment processes, reducing timelines and increasing access to qualified candidates. The system is currently operational, with ongoing coordination to integrate it into the institutional website and social media platforms.

- **Mobility and vehicles**

The ERC National Headquarters has covered all internal deployment costs for international personnel, national staff and volunteers across all provinces of intervention.

In Esmeraldas and El Oro, private vehicles were rented to support field mobility. The service ended in July in Esmeraldas and will resume in El Oro in January to support DRR activities.

To address water shortages in Esmeraldas, a specialised contracting process was conducted for water tanker services, with technical support from the IFRC Regional Office in Panama.

Preventive maintenance was carried out for institutional vehicles across the eight participating Provincial Branches. Transport of supplies, equipment and materials was ensured through private freight services and the institutional truck. Preventive maintenance will continue during the remaining months of the operation.

Additionally, operations have expanded to Bolívar Province for DRR activities, requiring the mobilisation of Early Warning System (EWS) equipment and continued vehicle maintenance to support field operations.

- **Care and self-care (CAI)**

Care and self-care activities have been implemented continuously since February 2025 across all provinces of intervention. These actions have proven essential in supporting staff wellbeing, facilitating emotional release and strengthening team cohesion through shared spaces.

Activities are implemented periodically to ensure broad participation, particularly among personnel actively engaged in operations.

To complement group support, individualised interventions have been strengthened through the acquisition of virtual reality kits under the HEDA programme. These tools have shown significant impact, reducing stress levels in approximately 70% of cases and improving overall wellbeing. They are currently in use in Guayas, Manabí, Bolívar and Santo Domingo.

Additionally, emotional management materials have been distributed for individual use and prepositioned for future emergencies. These include structured guides for emotional regulation and self-assessment during crisis situations.

A total of 346 personnel have been reached through these interventions.

<b>People assisted with MPHS</b>					
<b>Provinces</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>H&lt;18</b>	<b>H&gt;18</b>	<b>M&lt;18</b>	<b>M&gt;18</b>
El Oro	12	0	2	0	10
Esmeraldas	79	0	37	0	42
Manabí	91	1	44	0	47
Guayas	7	0	2	0	5
Loja	6	0	3	0	3
Santo Domingo	61	0	27	0	34
Los Ríos	69	0	50	0	19
Santa Elena	21	0	10	0	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>171</b>



Care and self-care activities for staff and volunteers, Manabí Provincial Branch, January 2026. Source: ERC.

- **Communication**

A comprehensive communication strategy was implemented to strengthen the visibility of the main emergencies addressed under the Appeal, including floods, earthquakes and environmental pollution.

The strategy ensured strong institutional presence at national and territorial levels and enhanced coordination with communication focal points, media and digital platforms.

Actions included dissemination through local radio, traditional media, social networks and mass messaging. A total of 16,231 SMS messages on Restoring Family Links (RFL) and 28,000 WhatsApp messages were distributed, improving outreach and community engagement.

Radio broadcasts reached an estimated 10,726,419 people, considering audience duplication. In addition, communication kits (camera, video equipment and studio kits) were procured for several provinces to strengthen real-time coverage and content production capacity.

- **Strengthening of the National WASH Centre**

Activities are underway to strengthen the National WASH Training Centre, focusing on improving operational, technical and logistical capacities.

This includes process optimisation, infrastructure improvements and procurement of equipment such as bladders and jerrycans to enhance the operation of Kit 5 treatment plants.

At the time of reporting, procurement and contracting processes are ongoing, with delivery and installation planned for early March 2026.

- **Logistics and Supply Chain**

The Ecuadorian Red Cross applies standardised procurement processes to ensure efficient use of resources, compliance with timelines and quality standards.

During the reporting period, the Appeal supported procurement of office supplies, household items (including kitchen kits and blankets), and IFRC-supported procurement and shipment of tool kits, tarpaulins, mosquito nets and jerrycans from Panama.

Transport, storage, accommodation and communication material production services were also contracted. Additional procurement processes are ongoing, including imported supplies supported by IFRC.

Future actions include warehouse equipment acquisition and installation of safety systems in Quito, Ambato and Ibarra to improve operational efficiency.

- **Telecommunications**

Actions have been prioritised to strengthen the National Telecommunications Network, ensuring operational continuity and improving system resilience.

Key measures include the rental of strategic repeater sites (Cóndor Cocha and Reventador) for April 2025–March 2026, ensuring uninterrupted communication coverage.

Additionally, 16 portable radios have been distributed across eight priority Provincial Branches, enhancing field deployment capacity.

Further investments include the acquisition of HF radios and a Cadex C7400 battery analyser to improve long-range communication and extend battery lifespan, reducing operational costs.

- **Training equipment (manikins)**

Nine first aid training manikins have been procured to strengthen simulation-based learning and improve practical skills development. Five units have been delivered, with the remaining four pending completion of the import process.

- **EVIN kits**

Four EVIN kits are planned for procurement to strengthen field data collection processes. These will enhance real-time data capture, reduce errors associated with paper-based systems and improve data quality, supporting evidence-based decision-making.

- **Blood centre**

Mobile infrastructure kits for voluntary blood donation have been procured to enable safe and standardised temporary collection points in remote or emergency-affected areas, ensuring access to blood donation services.

- **Security**

The operational context remains highly complex, marked by insecurity, social unrest and restricted humanitarian access.

Despite this, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) has maintained access through adherence to the Fundamental Principles, particularly neutrality and impartiality, and strong community acceptance.

A national security circular (OF-CNS-074-2025) was issued to standardise procedures in contexts of social unrest. Provincial Branches also implement safer access checklists and conduct security briefings prior to deployment, ensuring risk awareness, personnel registration and defined safety measures.

All actions are aligned with the ERC Security Policy, reinforcing a preventive approach based on self-care and safer access.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation**

A comprehensive monitoring and evaluation plan has been developed to track financial execution, operational progress and higher-level outcomes.

Reporting templates have been established, and Provincial Branches receive continuous virtual and in-person support to strengthen reporting capacity.

- **Volunteering**

The Appeal covers accident and life insurance for 8,000 volunteers. To date, 782 volunteers have participated in 2,301 activities under the Appeal.

Volunteer capacities continue to be strengthened through training processes, identification (ID cards) and the provision of uniforms, ensuring preparedness and adherence to institutional standards.

In addition, prior to each operational activity, volunteers receive a structured security briefing, where key risks, safety measures and operational protocols are communicated. This contributes to safer deployment conditions and reinforces a culture of prevention, self-care and safer access in the field.

- **National Society capacity strengthening**

Capacity strengthening efforts include workshops on livelihoods, humanitarian innovation and zonal WASH training. Upcoming trainings include ToT on Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA), Community Resilience Roadmap, First Aid ToT, Fundamental Principles and humanitarian diplomacy, and food security and nutrition in emergencies.


- **Lessons learned workshop**

A lessons learned workshop was conducted on 28 October 2025 in Tonsupa, with participation from Provincial Branches and Movement partners.

Key findings include:

- **Operational impact:** Successful reach in remote communities and dignified household-level water distribution.
- **Technical effectiveness:** ERU plant successfully produced 80,000 litres per day, integrating WASH and nutrition components.
- **Operational bottlenecks:** Delays due to internal logistics and procurement processes.
- **External challenges:** Data collection constraints (EVIN), role clarity issues and risks of politicisation of aid.

These findings are informing the operational strategy during the no-cost extension until September 2026.

	<h2>Coordination</h2>		
<b>Objective:</b>	<i>Strengthen coordination among International Federation members and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), promoting technical and operational complementarity within the Movement, while enabling a collaborative and efficient approach with all relevant humanitarian actors</i>		
	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Target</b>

<b>Key indicators:</b>	Membership coordination meetings organised and updates are provided to Membership partners (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes
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Regular coordination meetings are held with all partners involved in the response. Communication flows are channelled through the Americas Regional Office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Panama, the Secretariat in Geneva and the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Lima. The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) provides continuous updates on its humanitarian response and maintains active engagement with donors through formal coordination mechanisms.

The ERC works closely with the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), the national authority responsible for leading the humanitarian response. Coordination is also maintained with Provincial and Cantonal Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs) through their risk management units to ensure alignment at territorial level.

The ERC participates in the coordination spaces convened by the Emergency Operations Committee (COE), contributing to the Humanitarian Assistance, Health, Water and Livelihoods working groups. In the Livelihoods component, it collaborates with the Working Group on Cash Programmes (GTPTM) and the Working Group on Refugees and Migrants (GTRM). The ERC also engages in the technical group on Cash Transfer Programmes (CVA), ensuring coherence with national and inter-agency efforts.



## Secretarial Services

**Objective:** *Strengthen the operations management capacities of the IFRC to provide support to the National Society for the implementation of the actions programmed as part of the Emergency Appeal.*

<b>Key indicators:</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Target</b>
	Joint coordination tools and mechanisms are in use within the Membership's response (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes
	# of surge missions or deployments carried out	8	8
	# of people deployed as part of the WASH ERU/WASH Hub	5	6

### Personnel deployed to Ecuador

Profile	Duty Station
Operations Manager	Quito
Emergency Public Health Coordinator	Quito – Santo Domingo
Support to the Public Health Coordinator	
ERU M15 Team Leader	Esmeraldas

Chemistry Technician ERU M15	Esmeraldas
WASH Coordinator	Esmeraldas
Team Leader ERU M15	Esmeraldas
Laboratory Chemistry Technician	Esmeraldas
WASH officers – Wash Hub x 2	Esmeraldas
Security Coordinator	Esmeraldas
Senior Communications Officer	Esmeraldas

**Operational Coordination:**

During the first three months of the operation, coordination with technical and administrative units of the IFRC was strengthened through the deployment of an Operations Manager in Quito. This presence improved communication with the Regional Office in Panama, the Secretariat in Geneva and the CCD in Lima. It also facilitated the anticipation of operational constraints and supported the timely implementation of key activities.

Since August 2025, the presence of the Senior Officer Disaster Management in Quito has ensured continuous engagement with the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) on operational, administrative and technical matters, further strengthening intersectoral coordination across Health, WASH, Security and Communications.

Throughout the reporting period, IFRC and the Andean Country Cluster continued providing technical, operational and coordination support without requiring additional in-country deployments, focusing on follow-up to implementation, consolidation of transferred capacities and support to operational decision-making under the leadership of the National Society.

**Technical Collaboration and Remote Support:**

Throughout the operation, the Secretariat provided continuous technical support in planning, operations, monitoring and reporting through the Andean Cluster. At the same time, the Regional Office of the IFRC facilitated engagement with potential donors by activating its strategic partnerships and resource mobilization channels.

In addition, technical accompaniment missions were conducted to support the implementation of Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) activities in Manabí (Portoviejo), including direct engagement with communities and coordination with the Provincial Branch, benefiting 95 families and strengthening accountability, community engagement and activity monitoring mechanisms.

The Secretariat also provided ongoing support to financial implementation, including monitoring the use of transferred funds, facilitating additional fund transfers and supporting administrative, technical and procurement processes to ensure timely and efficient implementation.

**Health:**

The Secretariat contributed to strengthening Health capacities through two main actions. A new data collection tool was developed to complement the EVIN for health assessments, and a pilot test was carried out in Santo Domingo with community and institutional participation. In addition, technical and strategic guidance was provided for the preparation of a DREF request in anticipation of the risk of yellow fever outbreaks.

### **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):**

Support was provided for the deployment of an M15 water treatment plant in Esmeraldas, coordinated through the WASH Hub in Central America. This action included operational support from the Honduran Red Cross and technical guidance from the German Red Cross. Following a dedicated phase of training and documentation, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) assumed full operation of the plant.

Continuous technical support was maintained to ensure the quality and sustainability of the M15 operation, as well as to support the planning and implementation of complementary WASH interventions.

Proposals were also developed for the rehabilitation of community water systems in three rural communities. In parallel, the Secretariat supported the design of a national strategy to decentralize WASH capacities, strengthening the ability of Provincial Branches to respond rapidly to local emergencies.

### **Safety:**

Institutional security management capacities were reinforced through the updating of the Minimum Security Requirements and the development of multi hazard contingency plans adapted to national conditions. Further support enabled Provincial Branches to replicate contingency planning methodologies and apply country focused risk assessment tools to improve decision making. Secretariat missions also contributed to strengthening route, accommodation and activity assessments, especially following the April earthquake.

### **Communications:**

A communication mission was carried out in Quito and Esmeraldas to gather audiovisual material, testimonies and key messages highlighting the humanitarian response of the ERC. Part of this content has been disseminated through IFRC digital platforms and traditional media. The mission also documented key actions such as the operation of the M15 water plant, contributing to institutional visibility and strengthening the positioning of the response.

## Contact Information

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

### At the Ecuador National Society:

- Secretary General: Juan Carlos Vizcarra; email: [jvizcarra@cuzroja.org.ec](mailto:jvizcarra@cuzroja.org.ec)
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### At the IFRC:

- Head of Country Cluster Delegation – Andean Countries: Melker Mabeck; email: [melker.mabeck@ifrc.org](mailto:melker.mabeck@ifrc.org)
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### At IFRC Geneva Headquarters:

- Senior Officer, Operations Coordinator: Antoine Belair; email: [antoine.belair@ifrc.org](mailto:antoine.belair@ifrc.org)

### For IFRC Resource Mobilisation and Pledges support:

- Head of Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation: Monica Portilla; email: [monica.portilla@ifrc.org](mailto:monica.portilla@ifrc.org)
- Strategic Partnerships and Resource Mobilisation in Emergencies Manager: Mei Lin Leon; email: [meilin.leon@ifrc.org](mailto:meilin.leon@ifrc.org)

### For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- Regional Head, Global Supply Chain: Jose Fernando Giraldo; email: [fernando.giraldo@ifrc.org](mailto:fernando.giraldo@ifrc.org)
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### Reference documents



Click here to:

- [Past Resources and Updates](#)
- [Operational Strategy](#)

## How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities by National Societies, with a view to preventing and alleviating human suffering, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

# FINANCIAL REPORT

**Technical note:** Due to recent changes in the internal platforms of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the target amount displayed for this operation may present discrepancies. Please note that this Emergency Appeal aims to raise CHF 4 million. All other financial figures presented in the attached financial report are correct and reflect the financial status of the operation as of 26 January 2026. Based on the reported income, the operation is currently funded at 52.72%.

bo.ifrc.org > Public Folders > Finance > Donor Reports > Appeals and Projects > Operational Strategy - Standard Report

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## Operational Strategy

### INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2025/3-2026/1	Operation Budget	MDREC027 APPROVED
Budget Timeframe	2025/3-2026/3		

Prepared on 30 Mar 2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDREC027 - Ecuador - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 10 mar 2025 to 31 mar 2026; appeal launch date: 22 mar 2025

#### I. Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

Total Funding Requirements	8.000.000
Donor Response* as per 30 mar 2026	2.108.965
Appeal Coverage	26,36%

#### II. IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

Planned Operations / Enabling Approaches	Op Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	140.798	130.853	9.945
PO02 - Livelihoods	83.785	89.231	-5.446
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	101.094	149.351	-48.256
PO04 - Health	118.667	114.118	4.549
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	443.529	221.031	222.498
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	6.692	5.259	1.433
PO07 - Education	0	0	0
PO08 - Migration	0	0	0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	824.843	130.813	694.030
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	6.356	4.696	1.660
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>1.725.764</b>	<b>845.351</b>	<b>880.412</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	0	3.406	-3.406
EA02 - Secretariat Services	77.501	134.750	-57.249
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	339.453	395.653	-56.200
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>416.954</b>	<b>533.808</b>	<b>-116.854</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2.142.718</b>	<b>1.379.159</b>	<b>763.558</b>

#### III. Operating Movement & Closing Balance per 2026/01

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	2.108.965
Expenditure	-1.379.159
Closing Balance	729.806
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	729.806

#### IV. DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan :	1.000.000	Reimbursed :	0	Outstanding :	1.000.000
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# Operational Strategy

## INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2025/3-2026/1	Operation	MDREC027
Budget Timeframe	2025/3-2026/3	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 30 Mar 2026

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDREC027 - Ecuador - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 10 mar 2025 to 31 mar 2026; appeal launch date: 22 mar 2025

#### V. Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance						
						0
Income Type	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
American Red Cross	202.368				202.368	
DREF Response Pillar				1.000.000	1.000.000	
Electrolux Food Foundation	90				90	
European Commission - DG ECHO	375.429				375.429	
German Red Cross	18.728				18.728	
Japanese Red Cross Society	27.001				27.001	
On Line donations	247				247	
Red Cross of Monaco	9.344				9.344	
Swedish Red Cross	116.830				116.830	
The Canadian Red Cross Society	58.634				58.634	
The Netherlands Red Cross (from Netherlands Govern	300.295				300.295	
<b>Total Contributions and Other Income</b>	<b>1.108.965</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.000.000</b>	<b>2.108.965</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Income and Deferred Income</b>					<b>2.108.965</b>	<b>0</b>