



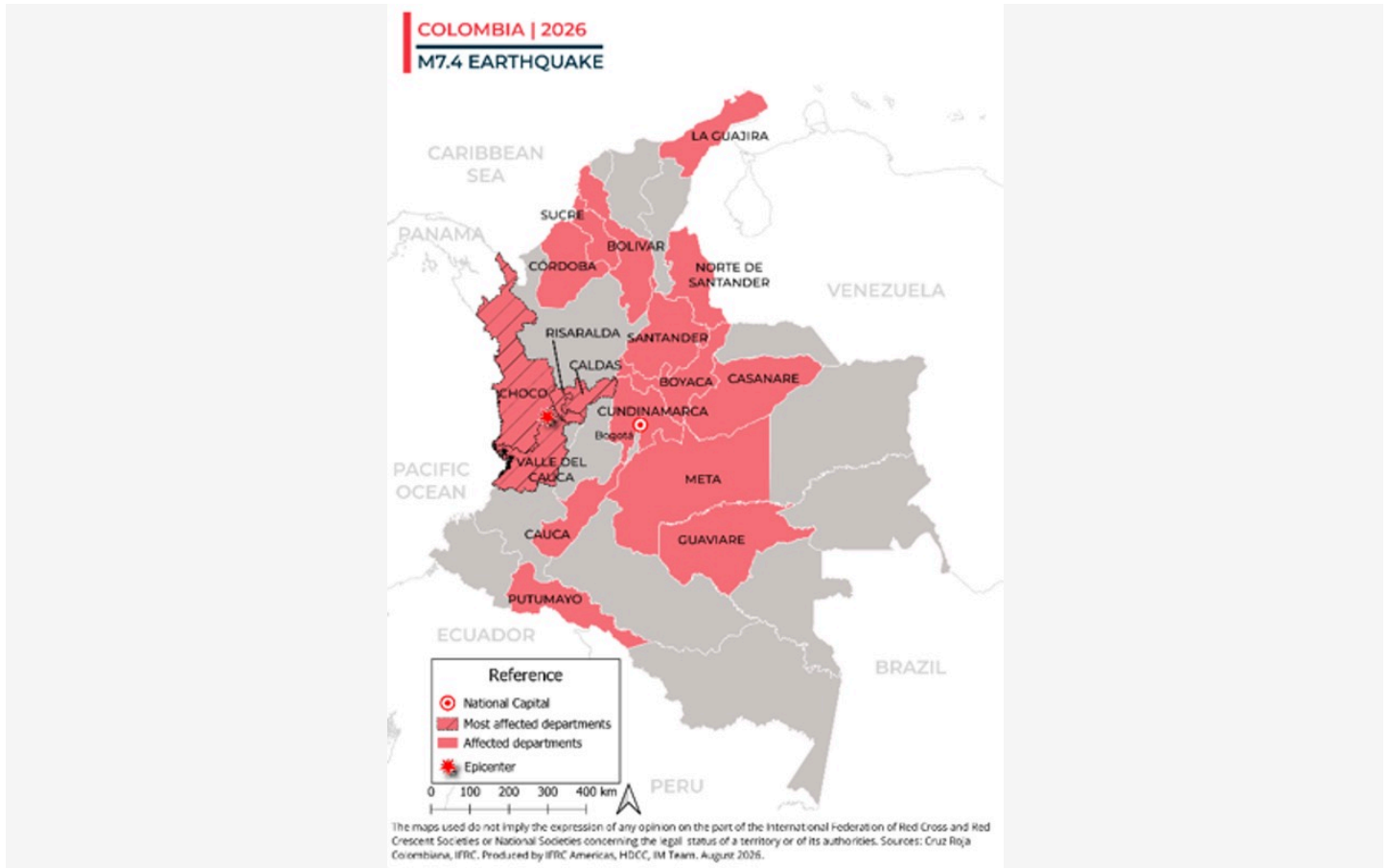
CRC volunteers during Search and Rescue operations in Cali. Source: CRC.

Appeal: MDRCO036	Hazard: Earthquake	Country: Colombia	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Orange	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 1,000,000	
Glide Number: EQ-2026-000146-COL	People Affected: 49,214 people	People Targeted: 12,900 people	
Operation Start Date: 13-08-2026	Operation Timeframe: 9 months	Operation End Date: 31-05-2027	DREF Published: 14-08-2026
Targeted Regions: Caldas, Choco, Risaralda, Valle del Cauca			

Description of the Event

Date of event

10-08-2026



Source: IFRC

What happened, where and when?

On 10 August 2026, at 07:34 a.m. local time, a magnitude 7.4 (Mw) earthquake struck western Colombia. According to the Colombian Geological Service (SGC), the epicentre was located in the municipality of San José del Palmar, department of Chocó, at a depth of 103 km. The SGC identified it as the highest-magnitude earthquake recorded in Colombia during the twenty-first century. The main event was followed by at least 103 aftershocks, including a magnitude 4.8 event recorded near San José del Palmar 44 minutes later. Further aftershocks may continue to occur.

The earthquake was felt across much of Colombia and was also reported in parts of Panama and Venezuela. Initial reports indicated possible impacts in as many as 16 departments. As information was subsequently verified and consolidated, the latest available humanitarian update, issued on 12 August 2026, reported impacts across 14 departments and 395 municipalities. The most severe impacts are concentrated in Chocó and Valle del Cauca, in western Colombia, and in Risaralda, Caldas and Quindío, which comprise the Coffee Region (Eje Cafetero). Major affected urban areas include the departmental capitals of Quibdó, Cali, Pereira, Manizales and Armenia.

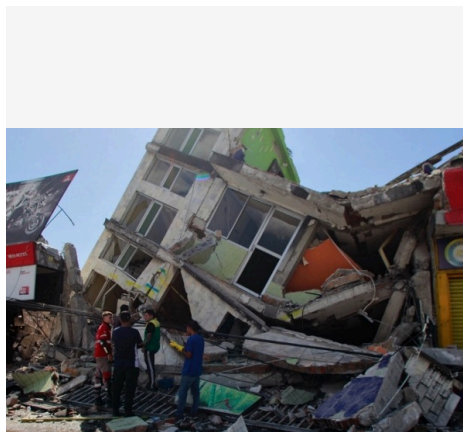
Preliminary information indicates significant loss of life and injuries, as well as damage to housing, public buildings and essential infrastructure. Access and communications constraints, particularly in remote and rural areas of Chocó, continue to complicate the consolidation of information and the identification of affected communities and priority humanitarian needs.

Following the earthquake, the coordination mechanisms of the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD) were activated at national and territorial levels. The National Government convened the National Committee for Disaster Management and established a

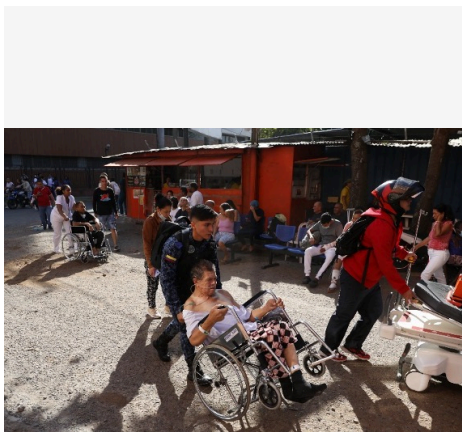
Unified Command Post at the headquarters of the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) to coordinate search and rescue operations, emergency assistance, initial damage and needs assessments, and the deployment of response capacities.

Given the magnitude of the earthquake, its geographical reach and the severity of the reported impacts, the National Government declared a national disaster situation on the same day. This declaration enables the administrative, budgetary and coordination mechanisms required to mobilise resources, support affected territorial authorities and facilitate the immediate response and subsequent recovery.

The situation remains fluid. Assessments by the Colombian Red Cross Society and the competent government authorities are ongoing, including in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Consequently, the situation overview, geographical scope, identified needs and reported figures are expected to evolve as further information is verified and consolidated.



Residents search through the rubble after the earthquake. Source: AP News.



Patients are evacuated from a hospital after the earthquake. Source: AP News.



First response of Red Cross volunteers in Valle del Cauca Branch. Source: CRC.

Scope and Scale

As at 07:30 local time on 12 August 2026, National Disaster Risk Management Unit (UNGRD) Situation Report No. 015, based on official national reporting, recorded impacts across 14 departments and 395 municipalities. At that cut-off, 241 people had been reported dead, 3,771 injured and 287 missing. Damage assessments identified 45,350 houses damaged and 9,555 destroyed. Reported impacts on public and community infrastructure included 186 health facilities, 1,662 educational institutions, 527 community centres, 125 roads, 45 aqueducts and 2 airports.

Risaralda, Valle del Cauca, Chocó and Caldas were among the most severely affected departments. Quindío also reported significant impacts on housing, public infrastructure and transport connectivity.

The available breakdown for five of the most severely affected departments is presented below. As it does not cover all 14 affected departments, these departmental figures should not be interpreted as a complete national breakdown.

Valle del Cauca – 40 municipalities affected

Valle del Cauca accounted for 66% of all reported injuries and 83% of missing persons nationally. Its 125 reported deaths represented 52% of the national total. It also recorded the largest number of collapsed buildings among the five departments profiled.

- * 125 people dead, 2,502 injured and 238 missing.
- * 23,568 houses damaged and 5,869 destroyed.
- * 54 buildings collapsed.
- * 335 educational institutions, 131 community centers and 96 health facilities affected.
- * 50 roads and 6 aqueducts affected.

Risaralda – 14 municipalities affected

Risaralda recorded the second highest departmental death toll, with 95 deaths, representing 39% of the national total.

- * 95 people dead, 578 injured and 45 missing.
- * 5,390 houses damaged and 1,517 destroyed.
- * 12 health facilities, 31 community centres and 7 aqueducts affected.

Chocó – 28 municipalities affected

Chocó reported significant impacts on housing and infrastructure.

- * 14 people dead, 155 injured and 4 missing.
- * 3,769 houses damaged and 459 destroyed.
- * 5 community centres affected.
- * 38 educational institutions and seven health facilities affected.
- * 5 roads and 6 aqueducts affected.

Caldas – 27 municipalities affected

Among the five departments profiled, Caldas recorded the second largest number of affected educational institutions and the second-highest number of damaged houses.

- * Six people dead and 184 injured.
- * 4,997 houses damaged and 1,510 destroyed.
- * 356 educational institutions affected.
- * 130 community centres and 19 health facilities affected.
- * 9 roads and 10 aqueducts were affected.

Quindío

Quindío recorded significant impacts on educational and transport infrastructure.

- * 336 people injured; no deaths or missing persons were reported.
- * 3,454 houses damaged and 13 destroyed.
- * 88 educational institutions, eight health facilities and 13 community centres affected.
- * 15 roads, four aqueducts and El Edén International Airport affected.

These figures remain preliminary. Assessments by the Colombian Red Cross Society and the competent government authorities are continuing, including in remote and hard-to-reach areas. Consequently, the reported figures, geographical coverage and understanding of the humanitarian impacts and priority needs are expected to evolve as additional information is verified and consolidated.

Source Name	Source Link
1. National Government declares a national disaster situation following earthquake that leaves more than 70 fatalities and severe impacts in several regions. Colombian Association of Capital Cities.	https://www.asocapitales.co/actualidad/noticias/ciudades-seguras/gobierno-nacional-declara-situacion-de-desastre-nacional-tras?utm_source=chatgpt.com
2. Deadly 7.4 magnitude earthquake hits Colombia, leaving widespread destruction, in photos. AP News	https://apnews.com/photo-gallery/deadly-7-4-magnitude-earthquake-hits-colombia-leaving-widespread-destruction-photos-60906d99c8554120adc6c56842da97ae
3. OCHA Flash Update No. 003	https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/colombia-flash-update-003-actualizacion-afectaciones-por-terremoto-en-13-departamentos-de-colombia-11-agosto-de-2026



Previous Operations

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

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

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Lessons learned:

Though the Colombian Red Cross has not implemented DREF Operations for Earthquakes in the last several years, it has implemented multiple DREF operations in response to emergencies caused by floods, population movement, and volcanic eruptions. These include MDRCO035, MDRCO034, MDRCO033, MDRCO032, MDRCO030, MDRCO029, which have generated valuable lessons learned at the administrative and operational levels:

It has been evidenced that prior work with communities and the strengthening of territorial capacities favor the acceptance of interventions, promote community participation and strengthen accountability processes. The active incorporation of communities in the different phases of the response makes it possible to adapt actions to the real needs of the affected population and improve the relevance of the assistance. Previous experiences have also demonstrated the importance of implementing comprehensive responses that combine different assistance modalities according to the identified needs. The complementarity between humanitarian assistance actions, access to safe water, livelihoods support, cash transfers and community strengthening contributes to generating greater impacts in the recovery of the affected people.

Likewise, the need has been identified to continue strengthening the capacities of staff and volunteers through ongoing processes of training, preparedness and technical updating, in order to guarantee a safe, efficient response in line with humanitarian standards. In operational terms, previous interventions have highlighted the importance of incorporating access analyses, risk scenarios and contingency plans from the initial planning stages. This makes it possible to anticipate potential logistical difficulties and adapt implementation strategies in a timely manner in response to changes in context conditions. Another relevant aspect has been the strengthening of information management, monitoring and follow-up systems. The use of standardized tools for data collection and analysis facilitates evidence-based decision-making, improves targeting processes and contributes to the transparency and traceability of the assistance.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?	Yes
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Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

10-08-2026



Health	On 11 August, two members of the health team and 1 psychologist of the National Directorate and 1 general doctor, 2 nursing assistants, 2 prehospital care technicians, and 1 psychologist are providing support to the healthcare staff in the Emergency Department at San Francisco de Asís Hospital in Quibdó. In addition, 8 volunteers and 2 drivers from the Magdalena Branch are expected to arrive on 12 August to provide support to the health care team.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	The Branches of Chocó, Risaralda, Valle del Cauca and Caldas keep drinking water treatment plants on standby for their mobilization and operation, if required.
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	The national Restoring Family Links (RFL) line was activated to provide guidance, receive tracing requests for persons reported missing, set up connectivity points, carry out active searches, follow up on cases and deploy trained volunteers to the affected areas with lower capacity.
Coordination	The Colombian Red Cross Society participated in the extraordinary session of the National Committee for Disaster Management, convened by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and chaired by the President of the Republic. It also participated in the Crisis Room of the National Disaster Risk Management System. At the territorial level, the Branches of the Colombian Red Cross Society participate in the Unified Command Posts of Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Caldas, Risaralda and Quindío.
National Society Readiness	The Colombian Red Cross Society, under the leadership of the National Presidency and the National Executive Directorate, coordinates the response to the emergency with the Branches. As part of these actions, it activated the National Information and Telecommunications Center (CITEL) to monitor the situation and receive reports from the Branches, and established communication with the Branches of Chocó, Risaralda, Caldas, Valle del Cauca, Cauca and Boyacá.
Assessment	The Branches are re-assessing the effects of the earthquake in the affected localities.
Resource Mobilization	The #TodosPorColombia campaign was launched to mobilize financial resources in support of the communities affected by the earthquake.
Activation Of Contingency Plans	The National Society activated the National Response Plan for Events of Natural Origin.
National Society EOC	The Colombian Red Cross has kept the National Crisis Room active since 10 August 2026.
Other	Search and Rescue On 10 August, eight volunteers from the USAR COL 32 team of the Antioquia Branch were mobilized by air to the department of Chocó, while another 21 volunteers from the same team arrived on 11 August to support the search and rescue activities in Quibdó. Likewise, 40 people from the Cundinamarca Branch and 30 from the Boyacá Branch were mobilized to the department of Risaralda, including search and rescue teams and health personnel. For their part, the USAR COL 17 team of the Quindío Branch and the search and rescue personnel of the Caldas Branch carried out damage assessments and supported the care of the affected people.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC has a Country Office in Colombia, through which it provides technical and operational support to the Colombian Red Cross in emergency preparedness and response. Following the earthquake, the Country Office activated its Readiness Plan for large-scale emergencies and continues to monitor the situation and coordinate with the National Society to assess the humanitarian impact and identify assistance needs. As part of this support, the IFRC and the Colombian Red Cross are jointly preparing this DREF operation. Likewise, the IFRC arranged an operational advance of CHF 100,000 for the execution of response actions. Additionally, the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) Officer of the Country Office was deployed to the department of Chocó to support the National Society in data collection and the assessment of damage and needs.
Participating National Societies	Since the beginning of the emergency, the Colombian Red Cross Society has maintained permanent coordination with the Norwegian, Spanish, German, Italian, Canadian and American Red Cross Societies, as well as with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the IFRC. In this framework, a meeting was held on 10 August to share information on the situation, review the identified needs and coordinate the support of Movement partners, in alignment with the priorities established by the National Society. Regarding the contributions and interests expressed by the relevant PNSs in Colombia, German Red Cross has offered 100,000 EUR with ECHO funds; Spanish Red Cross started a national fundraising campaign for the emergency in Spain; American Red Cross started a private fundraising campaign in the US and has expressed their interest in supporting the IFRC Emergency Appeal; Norwegian Red Cross is in conversations with the Norwegian government regarding the activation of the 'Flexible Funds'; Canadian Red Cross has shown interest in getting involved with the IFRC Emergency Appeal and contributing with the donation of hygiene kits.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) works together with the Colombian Red Cross Society to provide assistance to people affected by armed conflicts, other situations of violence and emergencies, complementing the capacities of the National Society through technical, financial and logistical support. In response to the earthquake, the ICRC initially donated six Rapid Intervention Packages (PRI) to support health actions: four for wound care, one for emergency care and one for infusions and injections. Considering the ICRC has a strong presence in some of the affected departments, initial assessment of needs and damages of the ICRC offices were conducted. Additionally, conversations were held with armed groups present in some of the affected areas to ensure safe access for volunteers and personnel of the Colombian Red Cross deployed to the affected areas.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
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National authorities	On 10 August 2026, the National Government declared a National Disaster situation. The National Unit for Disaster Risk Management coordinates the response actions of the different entities, highlighting the following actions: • Aerospace Force: Support in the transfer of personnel and cargo. • National Police: Deployment of support units to Quibdó, Armenia, Manizales. • National Army: 90 USAR team units to support Quibdó, 32 USAR team units to support Cali. • Civil Defense: Support in Search and Rescue actions
UN or other actors	Following the Government of Colombia's request for international assistance on 11 August, the UN system mobilised support, with OCHA coordinating with national authorities and the UN Country Team. WHO/PAHO deployed field teams to Cali and Chocó to support health-sector assessments and coordination. WFP is mobilising food and cash-based assistance, with approximately 4,500 metric tonnes of food pre-positioned in the country, and has appealed for USD 23 million to support 100,000 people for three months. The European Union, through DG ECHO, has also mobilised humanitarian assistance. An initial EUR 100,000 was activated through a crisis modifier/reallocation under an existing EU-funded German Red Cross project to address the immediate needs of 2,500 affected families in Chocó and Valle del Cauca. This has subsequently been complemented by EUR 2 million in additional EU humanitarian funding, bringing total announced EU humanitarian assistance to EUR 2.1 million. EU support will cover health, WASH, shelter, food, protection and cash assistance. The Colombian Red Cross Society will continue coordinating through established national, territorial and Movement coordination mechanisms. The DREF operation has been designed to complement the ECHO-funded crisis-modifier intervention and other ongoing response actions. Activities and targeting will be coordinated and cross-checked to avoid duplication or double financing of assistance already covered through the ECHO-supported intervention.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Colombian Red Cross Society, as a member of the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD), participates in the coordination mechanisms for emergency response and preparedness. At the national level, it is part of the National Committee for Disaster Management and of the Crisis Room coordinated by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD). Through its Branches, it also participates in the Unified Command Posts (PMU) and other territorial coordination spaces established in Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Caldas, Risaralda and Quindío. These mechanisms make it possible to exchange information on the evolution of the emergency, coordinate assessments and deployments, and complement the assistance provided by SNGRD entities and other actors present in the territories.

In a complementary manner, since the beginning of the emergency, the Colombian Red Cross has maintained permanent coordination with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Participating National Societies present in the country. This coordination makes it possible to align the capacities and contributions of the partners with the operational priorities defined by the National Society, identify support gaps and avoid duplications within the Movement response.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

According to the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD), the earthquake left 45,350 houses damaged and 9,555 destroyed nationwide. The greatest impacts are registered in Valle del Cauca, with 23,568 houses damaged and 5,869 destroyed; Risaralda, with 5,390 damaged and 1,517 destroyed; Caldas, with 4,064 damaged and 1,442 destroyed; and Chocó, with 3,769 damaged and 459 destroyed.

The destruction of houses, structural damage and preventive evacuations have left numerous families without a safe place to stay. Those who lost their homes require accommodation for a longer period, while families with damaged houses need to remain outside them until it is determined whether they can return safely or whether repairs are required.

Local authorities have set up collective shelters in cities such as Manizales and Pereira. In these spaces, families need adequate conditions to sleep, protect themselves from weather conditions, safeguard their belongings and maintain their privacy and security. Many people evacuated without being able to recover essential items, so they lack sleeping mats, blankets, bedding and other basic items for their stay outside the home. In line with this situation, Flash Update No. 001 from OCHA identifies the provision of shelter kits for the affected families in Caldas and Risaralda as a priority.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The evacuation of houses has left numerous families without access to their food reserves and without adequate spaces to cook or store food. Those who remain in temporary shelters or still cannot return to their homes depend on food that can be consumed without preparation, so daily access to safe and sufficient food constitutes one of the most immediate needs.

Added to this difficulty is the interruption of labor and commercial activities. Damage to buildings, mobility restrictions, interruptions to basic services and access difficulties have prevented many people from resuming their work. This especially affects families that depend on daily income, informal trade, transport or the provision of services, whose capacity to buy food and cover other essential expenses has been reduced.

For families who remain outside their homes, the reduction or interruption of income coincides with additional accommodation expenses. Some must cover the payment of temporary rent, while others have been taken in by relatives or members of their communities. In the latter case, host households also face higher expenses for food, utilities, hygiene items and other daily needs.

Added to this pressure on the family economy are the damage to roads and the disruptions to local commercial activity, which have limited the regular supply of basic products in some areas. These restrictions make it even more difficult to access food and cover essential expenses, both for displaced families and for those providing them with temporary accommodation.



Health

The earthquake has generated significant health needs due to the high number of people affected and the simultaneous reduction in the operational capacity of services. According to the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD), 241 people are registered as dead, 3,771 injured and 287 missing. The volume of injured people has increased the demand for emergency and trauma care, specialized hospitalization, health personnel, medicines and critical medical supplies, in addition to the need to refer and transfer patients.

These needs coincide with significant impacts on health infrastructure. According to the UNGRD, 84 health facilities present damage, mainly in Valle del Cauca and Caldas. Evacuations and the temporary closure of some care centers have reduced the availability of services and hindered the continuity of care, especially for hospitalized people or those requiring specialized care.

The situation is particularly critical in Valle del Cauca, where the high demand for care and the damage to referral facilities led the authorities to declare a hospital red alert. The evacuation of high-capacity hospitals and clinics, together with the closure of Health Service Provider Institutions (IPS), has increased the pressure on the facilities that remain operational and the need to relocate patients.

Among the affected facilities is the Hospital Universitario del Valle, the department's main high-complexity center, with damage to the pediatrics, internal medicine and neonatology services. The available hospital capacity is insufficient to respond to the current demand, particularly in specialized services. Additional beds, health personnel, logistical resources and capacity to refer and transfer patients to other facilities are needed.

The number of injured people has also increased the need for blood and blood components for emergency care, surgical interventions and other hospital care. The available reserves must respond to this demand while the care of affected people continues.

In addition to physical care needs, the human losses, the uncertainty about missing persons, the damage to houses and the disruption of daily life have affected the emotional wellbeing of the population. Reactions such as fear, confusion, sadness, anguish, sleep disturbances, difficulty concentrating and a persistent perception of movement after the earthquake are reported.

Although tele-orientation services have been made available, their reach is limited in areas with connectivity difficulties and among people who remain in temporary shelters. As a result, gaps persist in access to primary health care, mental health services and psychosocial support, while needs and coping strategies vary according to the cultural, territorial and family conditions of the affected population.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

According to the preliminary reports of the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD), the earthquake caused damage to around 16 aqueducts and interruptions to the water service in several of the affected areas. These impacts have reduced the availability of safe water for drinking, preparing food and carrying out daily hygiene activities. The Ministry of Housing, City and Territory continues to analyze the damage to drinking water and sewage networks.

In addition to service interruptions, there is the concentration of evacuated population in temporary shelters and other collective spaces. The increase in demand has limited the amount of water available per person and has increased the use of toilets, handwashing points and other sanitary facilities, many of which are not designed to serve a high number of people.

Preliminary assessments identify limitations in covering basic personal and family hygiene needs, including handwashing, personal grooming, menstrual hygiene and the cleaning of utensils and clothing. Likewise, the availability and conditions of sanitary facilities are insufficient to guarantee their safe, hygienic use with due privacy. These gaps are more marked in the communities with greater impact and interrupted services, as well as in temporary shelters.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Restoring Family Links:

The interruption of the electricity supply and the collapse of the cellular telephone networks in Quindío, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca have considerably limited the communication possibilities of the affected population. Added to this situation are the connectivity difficulties registered in Chocó and the access restrictions to some areas, which prevent many people from reporting on their situation, contacting their relatives or receiving news about their whereabouts.

The loss of contact is especially relevant given the number of missing persons, the evacuations, the transfers to health facilities and temporary shelters, and the dispersion of families during the emergency. The greatest needs for restoring family contact are initially concentrated in Chocó, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca, where the magnitude of the impacts and the communication interruptions make it difficult to locate people and exchange information between family members.

In this context, affected people need safe and accessible means to communicate with their relatives, charge their devices and access information about missing persons. They also require mechanisms to register tracing requests, transmit family messages and receive confirmed information on the location and situation of their loved ones.

Protection of Children and Adolescents:

Displacement, family separation, the loss of houses and livelihoods, the interruption of services and the stay in temporary shelters have increased protection risks for children and adolescents. The loss or weakening of care networks may increase their exposure to situations of violence, abuse, exploitation, sexual violence, child labor and recruitment or use by armed groups, especially when they are unaccompanied or have difficulties accessing institutional protection mechanisms.

In temporary shelters, overcrowding, loss of privacy and the disruption of routines can deepen these risks. Children and adolescents need safe environments, contact with their relatives and access to protection services and psychosocial support appropriate to their age, gender and particular situation. Likewise, the damage to educational facilities and the loss of household income may prolong school interruption and increase the risk of dropout and child labor.

Safeguarding

The conditions generated by the emergency, including displacement, overcrowding, loss of privacy and temporary dependence on humanitarian assistance, may increase the exposure of affected people to risks of exploitation, abuse, sexual harassment, mistreatment and discrimination. In this context, the population needs to access assistance in safe and dignified conditions, know their rights and have accessible, confidential and safe channels to communicate concerns or report possible incidents, with special attention to children and



adolescents and other groups in situations of vulnerability.

In turn, the expansion of operations increases the interaction of Colombian Red Cross staff and volunteers with the affected communities. Therefore, the teams participating in the response require clear guidance on expected conduct, the identification of possible safeguarding risks and the safe and timely handling of situations that may arise in temporary shelters, community spaces and other service points.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Damage, impact and needs assessments continue in the affected areas. For this reason, planning is based on preliminary information that is constantly updated through coordination with the authorities, the organizations present in the country and the branches of the Colombian Red Cross Society. The geographic extent of the disaster, access difficulties and the evolution of the situation still limit the consolidation of a complete and disaggregated analysis of needs.

The interruption of the electricity supply and the collapse of the cellular telephone networks in Quindío, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca have also made it difficult to collect, transmit and verify information from the affected areas in a timely manner. Although the VHF radio communication systems initially made it possible to maintain the link between the Branches and the National Headquarters, subsequent failures in the repeater and main node located on Cerro Campanario interrupted communication between Chocó, Risaralda and Quindío and Bogotá.

Added to these limitations is the insufficient availability of mobile and portable radios to simultaneously cover the different response scenarios, as well as the lack of internet systems that can be installed in places where conventional services remain interrupted. These gaps reduce the capacity to receive reports from the field, cross-check information and keep the needs assessment updated, especially in the areas with greater access and connectivity restrictions.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF operation, the Colombian Red Cross seeks to provide complementary, timely humanitarian assistance, coordinated with the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD), to 4,300 families (approximately 12,900 people) affected by the earthquake in the departments of Chocó, Risaralda, Caldas and Valle del Cauca, through the provision of humanitarian goods and services that contribute to meeting their urgent basic needs. This will be done through the provision of assistance in the areas of Health; Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Multipurpose Cash transfer programs (CVA) and Shelter, incorporating the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches in a cross-cutting manner during the 9 months of the operation.

Operation strategy rationale

The IFRC-DREF operation will support the implementation of the Colombian Red Cross Society Action Plan in Chocó, Risaralda, Valle del Cauca and Caldas, with the aim of addressing the most urgent humanitarian needs arising from the earthquake and contributing to the protection of the lives, health and well-being of the affected people.

The strategy will link the immediate response with early recovery. During the initial phase, essential goods and services will be provided to address urgent basic needs. As the operation progresses and conditions in the affected areas evolve, interventions will contribute to the gradual restoration of minimum conditions for a safe and dignified life. Considering that assessments are still ongoing and that access and connectivity limitations affect the completeness of available information, the targeting and planned assistance will be adjusted based on the results of ongoing assessments.

Over the nine-month implementation period, the operation is expected to reach approximately 12,900 people through the following areas of intervention:

Livelihoods and Basic Needs: It is projected to support 3,500 families with the delivery of food kits in Chocó (700), Risaralda (1,050), Valle del Cauca (1,050) and Caldas (700).



Shelter: It is planned to support 3,000 people with the delivery of personal overnight kits in Chocó (600), Risaralda (900), Valle del Cauca (900) and Caldas (600), and of 100 hammocks in the shelters set up by local governments.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene: 3,500 family hygiene kits will be delivered to the same families that will benefit from the food kit and personal overnight kits in Chocó (700), Risaralda (1,050), Valle del Cauca (1,050) and Caldas (700).

Disaster Risk reduction: As projected, to achieve the target, technical visits will be carried out with the NIT (National Intervention Team) Telematics volunteer in order to bring back into operation the switched-off repeaters on Cerro Campanario and Planadas, by replacing the batteries and installing the solar system to provide autonomy to the system. From the national headquarters, the high-speed satellite internet antennas will be sent to the Chocó and Risaralda branches, configured and with active service. Likewise, for the portable radio equipment, it is planned to receive it at the national headquarters for configuration and subsequent shipment to the Valle del Cauca, Quindío and Risaralda branches, with a total of 10 radios per branch, as well as the backup repeater for the Valle del Cauca Branch.

Health: Through the operation, it is planned to carry out health needs assessments in the affected territories, through the identification and analysis of the main impacts, care gaps, priority needs and available capacities. In a complementary manner, coordination and articulation will be strengthened with health sector institutions, territorial authorities, humanitarian organizations and other actors present in the territory, in order to guide the prioritization of interventions, optimize resources and strengthen a comprehensive, coordinated and timely response. Likewise, the expenses related to the deployment of 4 Search and Rescue teams, composed of around 100 volunteers, will be recovered. Complementary health activities, such as primary healthcare and MHPSS will be carried out through the broader operation contemplated in the Emergency Appeal.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion: it is planned to reach 2,000 people through the activation of RFL services in the prioritized branches. At the same time, a Child-Friendly Space will be activated for the children and adolescents affected by the emergency, and the pedagogical strategy for the protection of children's and adolescents' environments will be implemented, through the "Bag of Ideas" strategy.

CEA: The CEA approach will be implemented in a cross-cutting manner during the 9 months of the operation to guarantee that the assistance is dignified, safe and based on the real needs of the population. This line seeks to establish permanent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that allow the response to be adjusted according to the evolution of the context and the perceptions of the communities, through direct interviews with 80 people who benefit from the intervention, guaranteeing transparency in the operation and in the delivery of aid.

Cash Transfers: As part of the humanitarian response, it is proposed to implement Multipurpose Cash programs as a flexible, timely assistance modality centered on the needs of the affected households. This humanitarian assistance modality allows affected households to decide on the use of resources according to their particular circumstances, strengthening their autonomy, dignity and capacity to prioritize their needs. The implementation of Multipurpose Cash will be subject to the completion of a viability study and feasibility analysis of cash transfers, including the verification of the existence and functioning of local markets, accessibility, security conditions, availability of financial services and payment mechanisms, connectivity, institutional and operational capacity, as well as the existence of adequate mechanisms for the identification, delivery, follow-up and monitoring of the assistance.

According to the needs identified in the territory, two assistance modalities are initially considered:

1. CASH restricted for accommodation/rent: aimed at households that, as a consequence of the earthquake, present damage to their homes and need a temporary accommodation solution, contributing to covering the costs associated with the temporary rental of a safe and adequate space.
2. CASH multipurpose: aimed at households with multiple basic needs arising from the emergency, allowing them to use the assistance according to their priorities and specific gaps, such as food, clothing, essential household items, transport, among others.

For the identification and characterization of potentially beneficiary households, the initial use of the AccesRC tool is considered, subject to connectivity conditions and the availability of technological means in the intervention areas. In those territories where mobile connectivity conditions are limited or non-existent, the use of alternative connectivity solutions will be evaluated, including devices available in the territory or satellite connection mechanisms, when available and operationally viable. As an alternative and contingency mechanism, the use of KoboCollect is considered, making it possible to carry out characterization and information collection processes offline and to subsequently synchronize the data once connectivity is available. The selection of the tool will be determined by the operational conditions of the territory, seeking to guarantee the continuity of the identification process, information quality, data protection and traceability of the households served.

Preliminarily, it is proposed to focus the implementation of this line of intervention on two Branches of the Colombian Red Cross: Valle del Cauca and Chocó, considering that, according to the approach and the sector to be covered, they are the ones with the greatest reported impacts. This prioritization may be subject to adjustment depending on the needs assessment, the identification of the affected population, access and security conditions, the availability and functioning of markets, the operational feasibility of the transfer mechanisms and the complementarity with the response of other humanitarian actors.



The operation will maintain permanent monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that allow the response to be adjusted according to the evolution of the context, emerging needs, available institutional capacities, and international assistance, ensuring a flexible, efficient and results-oriented intervention that contributes to the progressive recovery of the communities affected by the earthquake.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The IFRC-DREF operation will provide assistance to the families affected by the earthquake in the departments of Chocó, Caldas, Risaralda and Valle del Cauca. It is estimated to reach approximately 4,300 families, equivalent to 12,900 people, according to the level of impact, unmet needs and the vulnerability conditions defined in the selection criteria.

The identification of families will be carried out in coordination with the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD), based on:

- Official censuses of the affected population
- Temporary shelter records
- Damage and needs assessments carried out by the Branches of the Colombian Red Cross
- Direct identification in the affected communities
- Coordination with local authorities, community leaders and SNGRD entities.

The information consolidated in the Unified Command Posts (PMU) and the coordination with Movement partners and other organizations present in the response will make it possible to complement the identification, reduce duplications and direct the assistance towards uncovered gaps. The selection will also consider access to the territories and the security conditions for implementation.

The process will incorporate Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) criteria to recognize the differentiated conditions of vulnerability and the barriers to accessing assistance. Likewise, through the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach, communities will receive clear information on the criteria and the selection process and will have mechanisms to ask questions, provide feedback and submit complaints.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Priority will be given to families affected by the earthquake in Chocó, Valle del Cauca, Risaralda and Caldas that present unmet needs or require assistance complementary to that provided by the authorities or other actors. The selection will consider the following levels of impact:

- Houses destroyed, with damage that prevents their safe occupation or subject to evacuation
- Stay in temporary shelters or lack of an adequate accommodation alternative
- People injured or with health needs related to the emergency
- Loss of income sources or difficulties accessing food and other essential goods
- People missing or separated from their relatives
- Interruption of essential services, including sanitation, electricity and communications.

Among the families that meet these criteria, priority will be given to those presenting one or more of the following vulnerability conditions:

- Children under 5 years of age
- Pregnant or breastfeeding women or adolescents
- People with physical, mental, intellectual or sensory disabilities
- People with chronic or degenerative diseases requiring continuous care or attention
- Two or more dependents per adult of working age and capacity. Dependents are considered to be people under 18 years of age, those over 60 years of age and people with disabilities who require support
- Households headed by a single adult with children or other dependents in their care
- People over 60 years of age, especially those living alone or requiring assistance
- People exposed to protection risks related to the armed conflict, displacement or other pre-existing conditions. The identification of protection risks will be carried out in a safe and confidential manner, without exposing the affected people or creating additional barriers to accessing assistance



Total Targeted Population

Women	6,579	Rural	20%
Girls (under 18)	-	Urban	80%
Men	6,321	People with disabilities (estimated)	10%
Boys (under 18)	-		
Total targeted population	12,900		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

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

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Security risks due to the presence of armed actors in the area.	• Activation of volunteer insurance before deployment to the field. • Prior induction and training in Operational Security, delivery of the Series 1000 Manual to the offices and operational staff involved. • Security analysis and monitoring with the support of the ICRC, at the local and national levels, backed by national field intervention teams. • Institutional visibility and identification through the provision of Red Cross flags as indicative and protective flags for all vehicles used in the operation, as well as "No Weapons" stickers for institutional vehicles. 'Continuous reporting and monitoring during the development of humanitarian intervention activities.

Administrative and supply chain risks	• Establishment of compliance measures with suppliers in relation to the logistics processes linked to the contract.
Occupational, environmental and psychosocial risks. Contact with vectors, exposure to particulate matter, falls on unstable terrain, exposure to sudden weather changes, contact with chemical hazards, long working hours without rest, poor posture, compassion fatigue, stress, burnout syndrome, among others.	• Strict use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staff supporting the operation. • Dissemination of established protocols for health teams. • Psychosocial support for response teams: emotional debriefing, follow-up, end-of-day reporting. • Adequate management of biohazardous waste. • Prior assessment of the terrain/area before entering. • Active breaks and staff stand-down.
Administrative and supply-chain risks	Damage to roads, restrictions affecting regional airports, disruption along key logistics corridors and the geographical and security constraints affecting access to Chocó may delay procurement, transport and distribution. Increased demand for relief items, transport and warehousing may also affect availability, prices and delivery times. The National Society will mitigate these risks through early supplier and market verification, phased procurement, identification of alternative transport routes and local suppliers, coordination with the SNGRD and territorial authorities, and regular review of delivery schedules and contingency stocks. Transport, temporary storage and distribution requirements will be confirmed before procurement commitments are finalised.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The operation takes place in urban and rural areas of the affected departments, some of which present security conditions related to the armed conflict and organized crime. In several municipalities there is a presence of, and territorial dispute between, organized armed groups linked to the non-international armed conflict. Likewise, in urban sectors of Cali and Buenaventura, in Valle del Cauca, and of Quibdó, in Chocó, organized crime structures operate and there are territorial control dynamics, including invisible borders. These conditions may affect humanitarian access, movements and the safety of staff, volunteers and communities.

Added to these risks are the damage caused by the earthquake and the continuation of aftershocks. In the areas where search and rescue activities are carried out, the risk of structure collapse or landslides persists, while the damage to roads may modify access conditions and the safety of land movements.

In this context, the Colombian Red Cross Society applies its National Security Policy, the National Comprehensive Security System, the security strategy with its Safer Access component and the operational security rules and procedures established for field activities in the Series 1,000. The teams continuously assess the conditions of structures, movement routes and changes in the security environment. Likewise, the National Society, in coordination with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), monitors the conditions of Acceptance, Access and Operational Security that may affect the development of the operation.

In application of these measures, the response is carried out through Branch teams in the capital cities and through the Support Groups and Municipal Units in the other affected municipalities. Operational support has also been mobilized from Bogotá to Chocó and Risaralda, subject to prior verification of road conditions and the availability of air transport. So far, the search and rescue teams have accessed the intervention areas without major difficulties.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	Yes
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Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 158,729

Targeted Persons: 3,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people receiving sleep kits	3,000
Number of people receiving hammocks	100

Priority Actions

- Purchase and delivery of sleep kits.
- Purchase and delivery of hammocks.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 132,760

Targeted Persons: 10,500

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families receiving food kits	3,500

Priority Actions

- Prioritization of families.
- Procurement of food kits and distribution of food kits, including community guidance and raising awareness about food safety.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 172,970

Targeted Persons: 2,400

Indicators

Title	Target
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Feasibility study	1
Number of households receiving restricted cash transfers for temporary accommodation (rent payment)	200
Number of households receiving multipurpose cash to cover their priority needs	600
Number of post-distribution cash surveys carried out	240

Priority Actions

- Preparation of a viability and feasibility study on the use of cash transfers, including rapid needs and market analysis, led by a National Intervention Team - NIT CASH member.
- Organization of the program and self-registration survey using the AccessRC and/or KoboCollect platforms.
- Identification and characterization of families prioritized for cash for temporary accommodation.
- Identification and characterization of families prioritized for multipurpose cash.
- Delivery of cash transfers.
- Follow-up and application of the post-distribution survey.



Budget: CHF 97,656

Targeted Persons: 100

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of health needs assessment teams carried out	1
Number of volunteers deployed for search and rescue (SAR) activities	100

Priority Actions

- Carry out health needs assessments and strengthen coordination with authorities, health institutions and humanitarian actors in the territory, in order to prioritize interventions and guarantee a coordinated and timely response.

Search and Rescue

- Care, rescue and/or safe recovery of people in emergency situations, through the timely activation of response teams.



Budget: CHF 153,185

Targeted Persons: 10,500

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families receiving a hygiene kit	3,500



Priority Actions

- Prioritization of families and procurement of family hygiene kits.
- Distribution of hygiene kits to support health practices at the family level and orientation in the correct use of the kits.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 90,432

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people receiving restoring family links services	2,000
Number of child-friendly spaces implemented	1
Number of activities implemented through the "Bag of Ideas" pedagogical strategy	4

Priority Actions

Restoring Family Links (RFL):

- Purchase of 5 emergency RFL kits for deployment in affected areas.
- RFL Case Management with the support of volunteers.
- Transport for the deployment of volunteers and the coordination team to the field.
- Transport of teams for active tracing in the field.
- Purchase of two computers with licenses and antivirus and two cell phones for case follow-up and support.
- Purchase of a satellite phone.
- Five support activities for deployed volunteers.
- Five satellite internet services procured.
- Cell phone recharges for RFL Case Management.

Protection of Children and Adolescents:

- Implementation of the Pedagogical Strategy for the protection of children's and adolescents' environments through the "Bag of Ideas"
- Pre-positioning of one child-friendly space for children and adolescents.
- Transport to mobilize the child-friendly spaces.
- Snacks for the implementation of child-friendly spaces.
- Volunteer support for the implementation of pedagogical strategies with children and adolescents.
- Transport for the deployment of volunteers.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 24,968

Targeted Persons: -

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of communication systems or nodes repaired or put into operation	1

Number of national links established in the VHF network	2
Number of branches connected with high-speed satellite data with an autonomous power system	3

Priority Actions

- Restore critical radio communication links in Quindío.
- Deployment of an NIT (National Intervention Team - ENI) telematics volunteer to support the installation of emergency radio stations
- Procurement of backup VHF repeaters
- Procurement of high-speed internet antennas for the Pereira, Armenia and Cali offices.
- Procurement of portable VHF radio equipment for the Valle del Cauca, Quindío and Risaralda Branches
- Procurement of backup power systems for computer equipment, lighting and cell phone charging
- Procurement of accessories for portable radio equipment and repeaters (batteries, cables, antennas, solar cells)



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 350

Targeted Persons: 80

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people participating in interviews on the assistance provided	80
Number of information-as-aid messages generated and disseminated	20

Priority Actions

- Sampling of people participating in the humanitarian assistance
- Providing information as aid



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 39,774

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of SURGE personnel deployed	3
Number of monitoring visits developed	4
Number of Field Coordinator deployed	1

Priority Actions

- Deployment of field coordinator
- Deployment of Rapid Response Personnel (SURGE) to support the implementation of the operation: Operations Manager, Communications and Information Management (IM)
- Monitoring visits by the IFRC team to the intervention areas



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 129,176

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people indirectly reached through visibility campaigns	2,000,000
Number of communications missions in the field	5
Number of Lessons Learned Workshop	1
Number of NIT (National Intervention Team - ENI) personnel deployments	3

Priority Actions

Communications:

- Communications missions to the intervention areas to document the humanitarian response.
- Media accompaniment in the field: Mass visibility of the impact of the humanitarian assistance.
- Digital advertising: Visibility on social media of field activities. Call for donations through digital pieces.

Institutional Safeguarding:

- Print four Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) banners featuring the Colombian Red Cross Society's "Cruz Roja Te Escucha (Red Cross Listens to You)" reporting mechanism.
- Printing of four PSEA boxes - "Red Cross Listens to You".
- Deploy National Intervention Team (NIT) personnel specialized in Restoring Family Links (RFL), Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), and telecommunications.

About Support Services

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

Approximately 150 volunteers from the prioritized branches will participate in the implementation of this IFRC-DREF Operation, supporting activities in the field with full availability for the activities for which they are called upon and scheduled. In addition, the following staff members receive direct support from IFRC-DREF funding:

- 1x National Coordinator: working full-time on the project, responsible for managing the administrative, technical, and operational implementation of the project; ensuring the implementation of the response cycle and the execution of the technical and financial objectives of this DREF operation.
- 1x National Administrative Staff: working full-time on the project, responsible for supporting the legalization and financial monitoring



process and managing procurement.

- 1x Local Administrative Assistant: Technical staff hired for the project on a percentage basis and in proportion to the training contracted for two months. They will support activities in the branches, working full-time on the project. They will be responsible for facilitating the technical and administrative development of activities in their branches, providing more constant support to volunteers.

- 3x NIT (National Intervention Team) delegates, each specializing in CASH, RFL and Telecommunications, working full-time on the operation.

Operational support staff financed with own resources:

- 1x National WASH Program Officer: Officer responsible for supporting the WASH component in the technical, professional, and operational aspects required according to the needs of the operation, with 30% dedication to the project.

- 1x Professional Accountant: Professional responsible for ensuring the orderly reporting of the project's financial and accounting status, including the balance of income, expenses, and legalization of the operation's resources, with 15% dedication to the project.

- 1x Project Portfolio Officer: Member of the project team responsible for ensuring the correct formulation of the IFRC-DREF, the relationship with the partner, and verification that it is managed in compliance with the administrative, technical, and financial rules of the Colombian Red Cross Society, with 15% of their time dedicated to the project.

- 1x PMER Officer: Member of the Colombian Red Cross Society team responsible for developing the project monitoring plan, supporting the management of the information and technical committees, assisting in the preparation of reports and validation of means of verification, and supporting the systematization of the information obtained, with 15% of their time dedicated to the project.

Will surge personnel be deployed? If yes, please provide the role profile needed.

Yes

For this operation, 3 SURGE profiles are requested.

1x Ops Manager

1x Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer

1x Communications Officer

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

The Colombian Red Cross Society will make all purchases locally, following the procedures and protocols established in the contracting process and the National Society's quality management manual, and adhering to the amounts and items detailed to ensure the eligibility of the resource. Suppliers will submit their quotes in accordance with the selection criteria used by the Institution, which will be supported by a procurement plan that seeks to access the purchase of humanitarian assistance items from the outset of the intervention, in accordance with their technical characteristics as established by the National Disaster Risk Management System's Humanitarian Aid Standardization Manual, focused on quality and quantity according to the identified needs of the community.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Colombian Red Cross Society has a Project Portfolio Officer and an PMER Officer to monitor the financial and technical implementation of the IFRC-DREF Operation, through coordination with the implementing teams, monthly monitoring committees, data reporting, and validation of verification methods, in order to categorize the progress of activities and generate internal alerts if deviations in implementation are identified that represent a compliance or reputational risk to the operation and require the adoption of measures and actions to remedy the delay in activities. Finally, follow-up visits will be made to the prioritized branches, with the aim of analyzing progress in the implementation of activities and the achievement of the expected project results, as well as identifying challenges, lessons learned, and unintended results obtained during implementation. These visits will be led by the implementation team, in coordination with the branch teams and accompanied by members of the IFRC Country Delegation for Colombia, in order to analyze progress in the implementation of activities and the achievement of the expected project results.



Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Institutional actions will be made visible through distinctive elements bearing the Colombian Red Cross Society emblem, which will facilitate the identification of points available for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. These actions will be complemented by the collection of graphic material that will serve as input for the development of communication pieces to be published on the institution's social networks and coordination spaces where the processes developed at the humanitarian level are reviewed and validated. For this last aspect, support will be provided by the Communications and Image Office of the Colombian Red Cross Society. Finally, awareness-raising activities will be carried out with the prioritized communities, informing them about the implementation of the IFRC-DREF, as well as the actions and benefits of the assistance.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRCO036 - Colombian Red Cross Society
Colombia: Earthquake

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	831,050
Shelter and Basic Household Items	158,729
Livelihoods	132,760
Multi-purpose Cash	172,970
Health	97,656
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	153,185
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	90,432
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	24,968
Community Engagement and Accountability	350
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	168,950
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	39,774
National Society Strengthening	129,176
TOTAL BUDGET	1,000,000

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

