



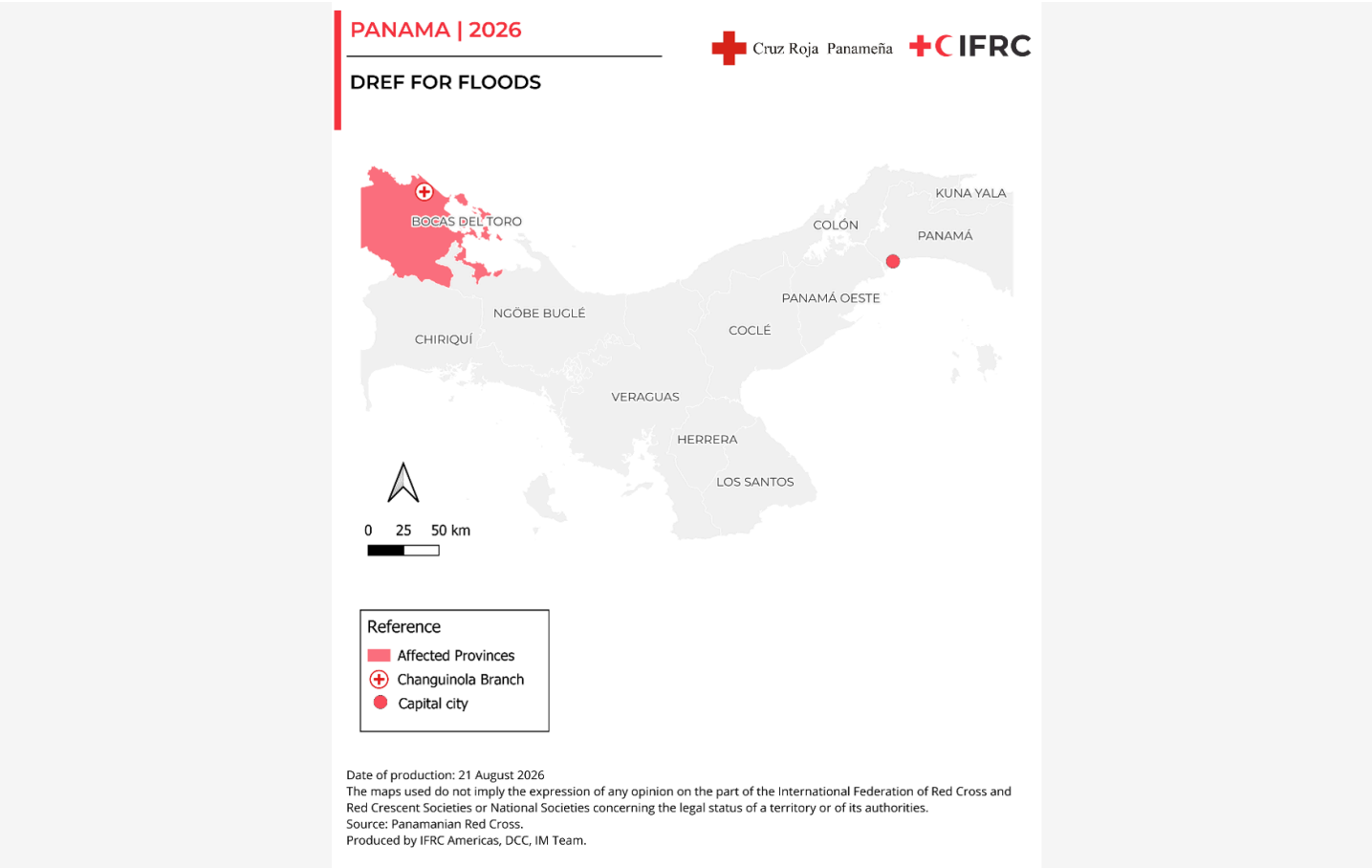
Changuinola Committee CRP conducts damage assessments. August 2026. CRP.

Appeal: MDRPA022	Hazard: Flood	Country: Panama	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 328,289	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 14,265 people	People Targeted: 3,665 people	
Operation Start Date: 29-08-2026	Operation Timeframe: 3 months	Operation End Date: 30-11-2026	DREF Published: 31-08-2026
Targeted Regions: Bocas Del Toro			

Description of the Event

Date of event

16-08-2026



Bocas del Toro affected by flooding. August 2026.

What happened, where and when?

Since the beginning of August 2026, Central America has experienced a sequence of tropical waves that have generated prolonged conditions of atmospheric instability, characterized by intense rains, thunderstorms, and gusty winds.

In Panama, Tropical Wave No. 32, which entered the national territory on August 12, caused damage mainly in Bocas del Toro, the Ngäbe-Buglé region and Guna Yala, including falling trees, road interruptions and difficulties in accessing communities and sectors of Changuinola. (1)

On August 16, 2026, the Panamanian Red Cross began operational activation and coordination of its response in Bocas del Toro. At 6:00 p.m., SINAPROC issued a green alert for Bocas del Toro, the Ngäbe-Buglé Region, and the Naso Tjër Di region due to the forecast of heavy rains, thunderstorms, strong winds, possible rapid flooding of rivers and streams, flooding, and landslides. In response, the National Society activated monitoring and coordination with its committees in Bocas del Toro, Chiriquí, and Veraguas; prepared to mobilize assessment teams; and maintained an operational presence at the Bocas del Toro Provincial Emergency Operations Center. The Changuinola Committee also supported preventive evacuation efforts in Puente Blanco. These actions marked the operational start of the National Society's response.

On August 17, the Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology of Panama (IMHPA) issued a watch warning for rains and storms, warning of accumulated precipitation and soil saturation levels above 65%, with the possibility of river overflows and landslides, mainly in Bocas del Toro, the Ngäbe-Buglé region, mountainous areas of Chiriquí, north and south of Veraguas, south of Los Santos, east of Panama, Guna



Yala, Emberá Wounaan, Darién and North and Central Panama. (5)

The intense rains caused flooding with significant impacts particularly in Changuinola, Almirante and Chiriquí Grande. Given the persistence of meteorological and hydrological conditions, a risk scenario associated with new intense rains, sudden flooding of rivers and streams, floods, landslides and damage to communication routes is maintained. (1) (2) (3)

According to the latest report from the Bocas del Toro Provincial Emergency Operations Center, approximately 2,853 families are reported affected, equivalent to about 14,265 people, distributed in more than 20 communities. Assessments are still ongoing to determine more precisely the magnitude of the damage and the needs of the population. (6)

The floods have caused damage to homes, water, sanitation and hygiene, health, livelihoods and essential household goods. Post-event conditions also increase the risks associated with vector-borne diseases, diarrhoeal diseases and other conditions linked to exposure to contaminated water and soil. (1) (6)

Although some families have progressively begun to return from shelters to their communities and homes, humanitarian needs and limitations persist in recovering minimum conditions of habitability, sanitation and security. (1) (6)



Damage assessment in community 17 de Abril, Finca 51. August 2026. CRP.



Changuinola CRP Volunteers carry out evaluations. August 2026. CRP.



Alert map for rains and floods in Panama. August 2026. SINAPROC.

Scope and Scale

The effects are mainly concentrated in communities in the district of Changuinola and other sectors of the province of Bocas del Toro. Among the communities initially identified are Las Brisas, Las Delicias, La Mesa, Barranco Adentro, Barranco Afuera, Barranco Medio, 4 de Abril, La Bomba, Bambú, Finca 4, California, Puente Medio, Puente Blanco, 17 de Octubre, Nueva Generación, 23 de Agosto, Guabito Cabecera, Finca 51, Puente Negro and El Silencio. (1) (6)

According to the latest report from the Bocas del Toro Provincial Emergency Operations Center, approximately 2,853 families are estimated to have been affected, equivalent to about 14,265 people. Evaluations are still ongoing, so the magnitude and distribution of the effects continue to be updated as territorial coverage expands. (6)

The floods have affected homes and essential household goods, as well as wells, latrines, water sources, livelihoods and productive activities. In some communities, landslides, overflows, obstructions and damage to access roads have also been recorded, which temporarily limits mobility and hinders access to services and assistance mechanisms. (1) (6)

Post-flood conditions also increase health risks associated with exposure to potentially contaminated water, stagnant water, deterioration of sanitation conditions, and proliferation of vectors. The loss or impairment of homes, property, and livelihoods also generates needs related to emotional well-being and the ability of families to meet their basic needs. (1) (6)

In terms of livelihoods, assessments have identified impacts on crops and productive activities, including loss or damage to banana crops and livestock in some communities, reducing the resilience of affected households. (6)

Source Name	Source Link
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1. Panamanian Red Cross. Situation Report – Floods in Bocas del Toro, August 2026.	https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/IFRCSharing/IQBeW1vpdFZNQo7s5yo9KaWJAUIRmB_s8rDnqY-9Xlrg3lA?e=4hCDah
2. National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC). SINAPROC maintains monitoring and coordination in the event of rainfall in Bocas del Toro. August 16, 2026.	https://www.sinaproc.gob.pa/sinaproc-declara-alerta-verde-por-lluvias-en-bocas-del-toro-comarca-ngabe-bugle-y-region-naso-tjer-di/
3. National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC). Inter-institutional actions continue to address the effects in Bocas del Toro. August 18, 2026.	https://www.sinaproc.gob.pa/continuan-las-acciones-interinstitucionales-para-atender-afectaciones-en-bocas-del-toro/
4. TVN News. Rains leave 702 homes affected and 98 people sheltered in Bocas del Toro. August 17, 2026.	https://www.tvn-2.com/nacionales/lluvias-dejan-702-viviendas-afectadas-bocas-del-toro-sinaproc_1_2256217.html
5. Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology of Panama (IMHPA). Rain and storm watch warning. August 2026.	https://www.imhpa.gob.pa/es/aviso-vigilancia/29319
6. Bocas del Toro Provincial Emergency Operations Center (COEP). Situation Report – Flooding in Bocas del Toro. Cut-off as of August 21, 2026.	https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/IFRCSharing/IQAIda5NcUImRYSVZkBA1ur2AVBhi6Z72McrIOeuXu0EtiU?e=85B1Hb

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	Yes
Did it affect the same population group?	No
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-
If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent: -	



Lessons learned:

The previous experiences of the Panamanian Red Cross have made it possible to identify lessons that will be incorporated into this operation:

- Strengthen comprehensive evaluations from the beginning, using multisectoral tools that allow for the collection of standardized information on impacts, needs, vulnerabilities, and capacities.
- Define and socialize multisectoral operational planning in a timely manner, establishing activities, responsibilities, schedules and coordination mechanisms with local teams.
- Incorporate IFRC technical assistance from the early stages of cash interventions, particularly for market assessment, modality definition, transfer mechanism, and post-monitoring
- Maintain mechanisms and arrangements in place for cash transfers, including due diligence processes and payment mechanisms, to reduce delays during implementation.
- Prioritize monetary assistance when markets are operational, previously confirming its feasibility through a market assessment.
- Integrate community participation and accountability to communities (CEA) from the outset, especially during the selection of families, clearly communicating prioritization criteria, modalities of assistance, and feedback and complaint mechanisms.
- Consider access difficulties and distances from the planning point of view, verifying routes and modalities of mobilization with local authorities and structures.
- Integrate protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) transversally from the evaluations, paying special attention to people with disabilities, pregnant women, older adults and other groups with greater barriers to access.
- Strengthen volunteer readiness, safety, and well-being, including institutional identification, personal protective equipment, operational safety, and emotional well-being support.
- Document and use the lessons learned during implementation, through periodic follow-up spaces, monitoring visits and a final exercise of lessons learned.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?

Yes

What was the risk level for Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis?:

The operation has carried out a specific analysis of child protection risks, considering that several of the planned activities will involve direct work and contact with children and adolescents, particularly during community activities, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) actions, safe spaces and activities in shelters and communities. As a result, the overall level of child protection risk has been classified as HIGH.

The Panamanian Red Cross has existing protection measures, including the adoption of the IFRC's Child Protection Policy, reporting mechanisms, referral procedures to competent institutions, and staff and volunteers with prior knowledge in Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PEAS), Child Protection and PGI. The analysis also identifies the need to continue strengthening the selection and verification processes of personnel and volunteers who will have contact with children and adolescents.

Depending on the level of risk identified, the operation will implement a specific child protection action plan, aimed at addressing the identified vulnerabilities, strengthening the consistent application of child protection measures and establishing follow-up and monitoring mechanisms during implementation. The head of PGI of the Panamanian Red Cross, in her capacity as technical point of contact, will be in charge of PGI supervision during the operation, especially the supervision of child protection from the beginning of the implementation.



Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

16-08-2026

Shelter, Housing And Settlements	The Panamanian Red Cross has supported the evacuation of people to the shelters set up in Puente Blanco and California, as well as actions to accompany the sheltered families.
Health	The Panamanian Red Cross has provided basic care to the affected population in coordination with the health authorities, including initial assessment, control of vital signs, basic healing, and identification and referral of cases requiring attention in health services. Likewise, health promotion actions and guidance are being developed for families on preventive measures against the main risks associated with floods, in complementarity with the actions of the Ministry of Health (MINSa), particularly against vector-borne diseases, gastrointestinal diseases, respiratory infections and conditions related to exposure to contaminated water and overcrowded conditions in shelters. In Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), activities have been developed to energize and safe spaces with children and adolescents in the shelters of Puente Blanco and California. Active listening, emotional containment and Psychological First Aid (PAP) actions have also been provided to affected people. When needs that require specialized attention are identified, cases are directed or referred to the corresponding services.
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	Evaluations carried out by the Panamanian Red Cross have identified effects on water sources, including wells, as well as latrines, excreta disposal systems and solid waste management, generating risks for access to safe water and adequate sanitation and hygiene conditions. WASH assessment continues in prioritized communities to determine the number of wells and sanitation systems affected and households with limited or no access to safe water. Immediately, the National Society is providing guidance on safe water consumption and storage, personal and family hygiene, cleaning and disinfection of homes, and prevention of diseases associated with contaminated water and improper waste management. The assessments incorporate consultations with families from the CEA and PGI approaches to identify needs, concerns, practices related to water, sanitation and hygiene and potential barriers to safe access for children, women, older people, people with disabilities and other groups with specific needs.
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	The Panamanian Red Cross has incorporated PGI's approach during the evaluations carried out in the shelters enabled, observing conditions of privacy, security, accessibility and dignity of the people housed. The evaluations particularly consider the conditions of accommodation spaces and health facilities, as well as possible barriers to access and differentiated risks for children and adolescents, women, the elderly, people with disabilities and other groups with specific needs. The teams provide guidance to the people housed, communicate the identified needs to the entities responsible for managing the shelters and maintain coordination with the competent institutions for the attention and referral of situations that require a specialized response in terms of protection.

Community Engagement And Accountability	The Panamanian Red Cross maintains direct communication with affected people during community assessments and actions developed in the shelters in Puente Blanco and California. Through direct consultations with families, teams gather information on priority needs, concerns, and conditions of access to assistance, while providing guidance on available services and response actions. Communication is mainly carried out in person, through direct contact between volunteers, people housed and community referents. The information and feedback received complements the needs assessments and guides the prioritization of health, WASH, MHPSS and protection actions. Likewise, possible barriers and communication preferences are being identified, particularly among older adults, people with disabilities and indigenous or hard-to-reach communities, including linguistic and cultural considerations.
Environment Sustainability	The Panamanian Red Cross has identified, through assessments of homes, wells and latrines, environmental and health risks associated with flooding, including contamination of water sources, accumulation of waste and stagnant water. In the affected communities, cleaning, disinfection, proper waste management and environmental risk reduction measures are promoted.
Coordination	The Panamanian Red Cross maintains a permanent presence at the Provincial Emergency Operations Center (COEP) in Bocas del Toro, in coordination with SINAPROC, the Government of Bocas del Toro and other institutions participating in the response. The Changuinola Local Committee also maintains constant communication with the National COE of the National Society. Communication is also maintained with community leaders, the Network of Risk Managers and other local actors to follow up on affected communities, share information and reduce possible duplication in the response.
National Society Readiness	The Panamanian Red Cross, through the Local Committee of Changuinola, maintains its response mechanisms activated and has mobilized volunteers to support the actions of evaluation, assistance and accompaniment to the affected population. The Local Committee maintains operational capacity in the field and permanent coordination with the Central Headquarters. The National Society also produced a field report on the emergency, published on the GO platform.
Assessment	The Panamanian Red Cross has deployed teams to conduct rapid needs assessments in affected communities and shelters, including sectors of the Changuinola district such as Puente Blanco, Barranco Adentro, Finca 51 and California, through direct observation, community consultations and information gathering. The assessments include impacts on housing and livelihoods, basic needs, water and sanitation conditions, health and protection risks, as well as the identification of people and households in a condition of greater vulnerability. From the CEA approach, the population's priority information needs are also being identified, including information on available assistance, selection criteria, access mechanisms, and communication and feedback channels. The consultations, concerns and perceptions collected are being used to guide the priorities of intervention and this DREF application.
Activation Of Contingency Plans	The Panamanian Red Cross has mobilized personnel from the Headquarters and volunteers from the Local Committees of Changuinola, David, Barú, Santiago and Isla Colón, with capacities in Needs Assessment, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Restoring Family Links (RCF), Community Participation and Accountability (CEA) and Operational Communication. The teams are carrying out evaluations in communities and shelters to identify priority needs, care gaps, housing impacts and conditions of vulnerability. Since August 17, additional teams have been mobilized, adding to the actions initiated by the Local

	Committee of Changuinola on August 16. In total, more than 40 volunteers have been deployed on the ground.
National Society EOC	The Emergency Operations Center of the Panamanian Red Cross remains activated and in communication with the Local Committee of Changuinola and with the COEP of Bocas del Toro, monitoring the evolution of the emergency and coordinating the mobilization of resources and capacities according to the needs identified.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), through the Delegation of the Cluster of countries for Central America, is kept informed about the evolution of the emergency and the actions developed by the Panamanian Red Cross. Coordination and monitoring of the situation is maintained, and the National Society has informed the IFRC about the needs identified on the ground. Currently, the Panamanian Red Cross is coordinating with the IFRC the preparation and submission of this IFRC-DREF application to strengthen the response to the affected populations.
Participating National Societies	To date, no support from Participating National Societies (PNS) is expected for this operation.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is providing technical advice to the Panamanian Red Cross on Safer Access and Restoring Family Links (RCF), as part of the regular accompaniment to the National Society. No specific support is planned for this operation.
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Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	National Civil Protection System (SINAPROC): • Maintains the Bocas del Toro Provincial Emergency Operations Center (COEP) active, coordinating the inter-institutional response. • Permanently monitors weather conditions and the levels of rivers and streams, particularly in areas at risk of flooding. • Coordinates damage and needs assessments in affected communities. • Coordinated preventive evacuation actions and transfer of families to temporary shelters. • Maintains tours and monitoring in communities of Changuinola, Almirante and

	Chiriquí Grande. • Coordinates with the institutions present in the COEP the attention to needs and the monitoring of incidents. National Aeronaval Service (SENAN): • Supported search, rescue and evacuation operations in affected sectors. • Participates in monitoring and response actions in areas with access difficulties. • Maintains coordination with SINAPROC and the other institutions that make up the COEP. Ministry of Education (MEDUCA): • Provided educational centers for use as temporary shelters, including Puente Blanco and California. • Made adjustments to school activities in schools affected by the floods or used as shelters. • Maintains coordination to guarantee the educational continuity of affected students. Government of Bocas del Toro and local authorities: • They participate in inter-institutional coordination from the COEP. • They support the monitoring of affected communities and the identification of needs. • Maintain communication with community leaders and structures to facilitate the flow of information and coordination of the response. • They support the articulation between the institutions present in the territory and the affected communities.
UN or other actors	To date, no formal activation of the United Nations System or the UNETE team specifically for the response to the August 2026 floods in Bocas del Toro has been identified.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

At the provincial and local levels, the response is coordinated through the Bocas del Toro Provincial Emergency Operations Center (COEP), under the leadership of SINAPROC, with the participation of government institutions, local authorities, and response agencies. The Panamanian Red Cross, through the Local Committee of Changuinola, actively participates in these spaces, sharing information on the evaluations carried out, needs identified and response actions.

At the national level, the Panamanian Red Cross maintains coordination with SINAPROC and other competent institutions, as well as communication with the IFRC on the evolution of the emergency and this IFRC-DREF application.

The Panamanian Red Cross maintains its auxiliary role of the public authorities in the humanitarian field, without currently exercising leadership or co-leadership functions of these mechanisms. Information sharing and assessments make it possible to identify gaps in care, avoid duplication, and prioritize communities and families with greater needs.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

According to the evaluations carried out by the Panamanian Red Cross and the information consolidated by the authorities participating in the Provincial Emergency Operations Center (COEP), the floods have affected homes in different communities of Bocas del Toro. Assessments continue to be carried out to determine the level of impact and the specific needs of households.

The floods and the entry of water, mud and waste into homes have caused damage and losses of essential household goods, including beds and mattresses, clothing and footwear, food, kitchen utensils and utensils, cleaning supplies and other basic household goods. These losses limit the ability of families to recover adequate living conditions and resume their daily activities.

Although some families temporarily remained in the shelters set up, a gradual return to their communities and homes has been



observed. As of August 21, the COEP reported an active shelter at the California School, with 19 families and 84 people, evidencing the process of return of part of the affected population.

Families who return to affected homes have differentiated needs to recover basic living conditions, particularly cleaning and disinfection of spaces, adequate disposal of accumulated mud and waste and replacement of lost or damaged essential goods. The magnitude and type of these needs vary according to the level of affectation of each home and will be deepened through the home evaluations of the Panamanian Red Cross.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The floods have affected the ability of some families to meet their basic needs, both through the loss of food and household goods and through impacts on their usual sources of income and livelihoods.

The household evaluations will make it possible to deepen the identification of households that have been affected by agricultural activities, small businesses or other sources of income, incorporating the loss or affectation of livelihoods as one of the vulnerability criteria for the selection of families. The COEP report shows effects on crops and productive activities of families in communities such as Tiger Hill, Sinostres and Delicias Arriba, mainly related to banana crops and, in some cases, poultry and pigs.

Likewise, conditions have been identified that may temporarily limit the access of some households to markets and assistance mechanisms, particularly due to mobility difficulties derived from floods, overflows, landslides and damage to access roads. The COEP reports communities with affected or interrupted accesses, including situations that at the time of the report remained unresolved.

Taking into consideration the lessons learned from previous operations, the Panamanian Red Cross evaluations will also delve into the identification of possible barriers related to distance and mobility, connectivity, availability and functioning of markets, access to financial services and documentation, with special attention to households in rural, indigenous or hard-to-reach communities. These elements will be considered in the feasibility analysis and in the definition of the mechanism for the delivery of assistance, ensuring that the selected modality does not generate additional barriers for the prioritized households.

The need to provide flexible assistance is identified that allows households to prioritize their immediate expenses related mainly to food and replacement of basic cleaning and kitchen items, while favoring their decision-making and recovery capacity.



Multi purpose cash grants

The floods have generated losses and effects on food, household items and other essential goods for hygiene, food preparation and recovery of basic household conditions. In addition, some families have experienced disruptions to their usual sources of income and livelihoods, temporarily reducing their ability to meet their basic needs. The effects also affect productive activities. The COEP report records losses or damage to banana crops and livestock animals, including poultry and pigs, in communities such as Tiger Hill, Sinostres and Delicias Arriba, affecting approximately 111 families linked to these productive activities.

As a result, affected households may face difficulties in covering immediate expenses related mainly to food, cleaning supplies, basic kitchen utensils and other essential household needs. These needs and priorities vary according to the level of impact, the losses suffered, the livelihood situation and the conditions of vulnerability of each family. In this context, the need is identified to strengthen the capacity of the most affected and vulnerable families to flexibly cover their priority basic needs during the initial recovery period, preserving their decision-making capacity according to the specific needs of each household.

It will also be necessary to verify the operation and accessibility of local markets, the availability and prices of food and essential goods, the supply capacity of businesses and possible access barriers related to mobility, distance, connectivity, documentation or access to financial services. This analysis will make it possible to determine the relevance and viability of a modality of monetary assistance in the prioritized communities.



Health

The floods have generated health needs associated with the exposure of the population to potentially contaminated water, the presence of stagnant water, deterioration of sanitation conditions, and mobility and access difficulties in some communities. According to the



report of the Provincial Emergency Operations Center (COEP) of Bocas del Toro, as of August 21, 2026, approximately 2,853 homes are reported affected, of which 810 had been evaluated at the time of the report. Considering for estimation purposes one home per family and an average of five people per family, the universe of affected homes could represent approximately 2,853 families (approximately 14,265 people).

The evaluations carried out so far also make it possible to identify groups that may present greater conditions of vulnerability to the impacts of the emergency. In the 810 homes evaluated, the COEP registers 1,975 adults, 2,465 minors and 31 people with disabilities, for a total of 4,664 people in the disaggregated communities. These data show a high proportion of children and adolescents within the evaluated population and reinforce the need to pay special attention to people with disabilities and other groups that, due to their particular conditions, may face greater risks, including older adults, pregnant women and people with chronic diseases or who require continuity of treatment.

Although the COEP does not register direct effects on health infrastructures at the time of the report, it does document access difficulties in different communities as a result of landslides, overflowing streams, obstructions, and road collapses. These conditions may constitute temporary barriers to the population's timely access to essential services, including health services, especially for people with reduced mobility, chronic diseases, or continuous care needs.

In addition, the conditions generated by the floods increase the epidemiological risks associated with contact with potentially contaminated water, accumulation of stagnant water, proliferation of vectors, and inadequate sanitation conditions. Among the main health risks identified and to be monitored during the response are dengue, leishmaniasis, acute diarrheal diseases (ADD) and acute respiratory infections (ARI), considering the conditions observed during the emergency and the epidemiological risks identified by the health authorities in the province.

In view of these needs, the Panamanian Red Cross plans to strengthen, in a complementary manner to the services of the Ministry of Health, primary health care actions in the prioritized communities, including basic assessment and triage, control of vital signs, primary health care and cures, identification of people who require continuity of treatment and timely referral of cases to the corresponding services. Likewise, health promotion and community prevention actions will be strengthened, including prevention of vector-borne diseases, elimination of breeding sites, hygiene practices, management and consumption of safe water, prevention of diarrheal and respiratory diseases and early recognition of warning signs.

In terms of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), the impact on housing, property and livelihoods, the uncertainty generated by the emergency, temporary displacement and staying in shelters generate needs related to stress and emotional well-being. These needs can have a differentiated impact on children and adolescents, older adults, people with disabilities and families who have experienced greater loss or displacement. In this sense, the need to continue and strengthen Psychological First Aid (PAP), active listening, identification and referral of people who require specialized care, as well as dynamization activities and safe spaces for children and adolescents is identified.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

According to the evaluations carried out by the National Society, significant effects have been identified on the water, sanitation and hygiene conditions of the affected communities.

Among the main needs are the contamination or affectation of wells and other water sources, the overflow of latrines and excreta disposal systems, as well as the accumulation of mud, solid waste and other materials dragged and deposited by the river after floods. Likewise, the permanence of stagnant waters generates favorable conditions for the proliferation of vectors and other health risks.

As a result of these effects, the need to guarantee access to safe water for consumption and domestic use and to recover the sanitary conditions of the water sources of the affected homes is identified. In those homes where the evaluations identify wells contaminated or affected by flooding, it will be necessary to carry out actions to drain, clean and disinfect the wells to help restore safe conditions for their use.

Similarly, the affected homes and communities need to recover adequate health conditions due to the presence of mud, waste and materials left by the overflow of the river. Therefore, the need to develop cleaning and disinfection days in the prioritized areas is identified, including the removal and proper management of waste generated or dragged by the floods, contributing to reduce health risks and facilitate the return and recovery of families.

The needs of water, sanitation and hygiene may have differentiated characteristics depending on the conditions of the people affected. In this regard, special attention should be paid to the menstrual hygiene needs of women and adolescents, including access to supplies, sufficient water, privacy and adequate disposal of materials, as well as possible barriers to access to water sources and sanitary facilities

for the elderly, people with disabilities or reduced mobility.

Likewise, the need to strengthen hygiene and sanitation practices at the family and community level is identified, particularly in relation to the safe handling and storage of water, cleaning and disinfection of homes, adequate waste disposal, personal hygiene and prevention of water-related diseases and the proliferation of vectors. These needs will guide house-to-house promotion actions and community vector prevention and control activities.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

According to the evaluations carried out by the Panamanian Red Cross, needs related to privacy, security, accessibility, and differentiated care have been identified, particularly in temporary shelters and during access to assistance. Among the conditions observed are insufficient sanitary services, lack of privacy and open spaces shared between families. These conditions can affect children and adolescents, women, pregnant women, the elderly, people with disabilities and other households that face greater barriers to access, particularly in aspects related to privacy, hygiene, safety, rest, breastfeeding and attention to personal needs.

Likewise, the need to consider possible physical, mobility, communication or access barriers that may limit the participation or receipt of assistance by people with disabilities, older adults, pregnant women and other groups with specific needs is identified. Assessments have so far not documented sufficient information to affirm the existence of specific risks related to social violence, gender-based violence or insecurity in communities. However, these aspects should continue to be observed during the evaluations and monitoring of the response, with special attention to situations that may increase risks of protection or exclusion.

In addition, the specific analysis of child protection determined a general level of risk HIGH, because some of the operation's activities involve direct work and contact with children and adolescents. This requires specific child protection measures and monitoring during implementation.



Education

According to the information available, some educational centers have been temporarily used as shelters for affected families, which may generate temporary interruptions or adjustments in educational activities. However, the Panamanian Red Cross has not so far identified a specific gap that requires a sectoral intervention in education within this DREF operation. The needs of children and adolescents will be addressed transversally through protection actions, MHPSS, health promotion, WASH and CEA. Therefore, it is not proposed to activate Education as a specific sector of intervention in this operation.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Bocas del Toro has a permanent exposure to hydrometeorological events due to its location on the Caribbean slope, where, unlike other regions of the country, rainfall is maintained practically all year round. The IMHPA points out that in the Atlantic region there is no clearly defined dry season and abundant rains are recorded between December and February, while during the rest of the year the rainfall associated with tropical systems in the Caribbean continues. In the district of Bocas del Toro, annual rainfall of close to 4,346 mm is recorded, which shows the high exposure of the territory.

The risk of flooding is also associated with important hydrographic basins in the province. The National Strategic Plan for Integrated Disaster Risk Management 2022–2030 classifies the Changuinola River basin and its tributaries as having a "very high" level of flood risk, while the Sixaola River basin presents a "high" risk. During July 2026, high levels were also recorded in the Oeste, Valle Risco and San San rivers, causing flooding in nearby communities.

The exposure is complemented by risks of landslides and loss of connectivity. During the current event, the COEP has documented landslides, flooding of streams, obstructions and collapse of roads in different communities, including sectors that remained with access difficulties at the time of the report.

In this scenario, it is necessary to strengthen community capacities for risk reduction and a safer recovery. The Panamanian Red Cross will incorporate preventive information on floods, floods and landslides, along with community days to remove mud, waste and materials dragged by the river; cleaning, dewatering and disinfection of wells in homes that require it; elimination of stagnant water; and promotion of sanitation and hygiene practices that contribute to reducing vulnerability to new events.



Community Engagement And Accountability

According to the evaluations and actions carried out by the Panamanian Red Cross, the need to ensure that affected people have clear, timely and understandable information about the operation is identified, including the scope of assistance, the criteria for selecting and prioritizing households and the conditions for accessing assistance. This need is especially relevant considering that the assistance will reach a limited number of families with respect to the total affected population. In this context, it is essential that communities understand in a transparent manner how the prioritization criteria are defined, in order to reduce possible perceptions of exclusion, doubts or tensions between households and communities.

It also identifies the need for affected people to be able to make consultations, express concerns and provide feedback on the response, as well as participate in the monitoring of assistance and communicate access difficulties or unmet needs. Evaluations should also consider possible barriers and communication preferences, particularly in indigenous, rural or hard-to-reach communities, where there may be limitations related to connectivity, distance, language, literacy or access to media. These elements should be deepened during the evaluation process to ensure that the information from the operation is accessible and appropriate to the context of the communities.



Environment Sustainability

According to the assessments of the Panamanian Red Cross, floods have generated environmental risks associated mainly with the accumulation of solid waste, the presence of stagnant water, potential contamination of water sources and the impact on excreta disposal systems. Community recovery requires promoting practices that prevent post-flood cleanup from creating additional environmental and health risks.

The need to promote adequate waste disposal, safe cleaning of homes and community spaces, protection of water sources and elimination of vector breeding sites is identified, incorporating sustainable sanitation practices into community activities. The use of cash transfers for the purchase of cleaning and kitchen items will also reduce the mass mobilization, packaging, and distribution of non-food items, although waste disposal practices generated during recovery should be monitored.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Initial evaluations have made it possible to identify the main effects; however, information gaps persist due to limited access to some communities, road conditions, and the geographic dispersion of the affected population, so the figures and needs continue to be verified and updated.

Partially covered needs are identified in water, sanitation and hygiene, health, housing recovery, food, replacement of basic goods and recovery of livelihoods. While SINAPROC and the institutions that make up the COEP have provided immediate humanitarian assistance to the affected families, the needs continue to exceed the available response capacity. In addition, the evaluation process remains ongoing and a significant number of families have not yet been able to be evaluated due to the limitations of resources and operational capacity to cover all the affected communities. In this context, gaps in assistance and needs that have not yet been fully identified persist. The Panamanian Red Cross's capacity to scale up the response through its own emergency funds is limited, so it is necessary to mobilize additional resources to complement the authorities' response and expand coverage to the most affected and vulnerable families.

Likewise, it is necessary to deepen the evaluation at the household level to identify more accurately the conditions of vulnerability and prevent groups with greater barriers to access from being excluded, including pregnant women, the elderly, people with disabilities, households with affected livelihoods and other people in vulnerable situations.

To reduce these gaps, the operation contemplates expanding house-to-house evaluations with 20 volunteers for five days, complementing the survey with an initial market evaluation and maintaining the exchange of information with the COE and the authorities to validate needs, coverage and possible duplications.

[Assessment Report](#)



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC-DREF operation aims to provide timely and needs-based humanitarian assistance to 3,665 people (733 families) affected by the floods in the province of Bocas del Toro, prioritizing households with the highest levels of affectation and vulnerability, in order to contribute to the coverage of their immediate basic needs and reduce risks to their health and protection. and support their early recovery.

The response will be implemented through multi-purpose cash assistance to cover priority needs for food and replenishment of essential cleaning and cooking items, complemented by water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH), health, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) actions. Likewise, the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Participation and Accountability (CEA) approaches will be integrated transversally, ensuring that assistance is safe, dignified, inclusive and accessible, and that communities actively participate in the implementation and monitoring of the response.

The operation will also seek to strengthen the recovery capacities of families and reduce post-flood risks, through sanitation actions, promotion of preventive practices and timely access to information, maintaining permanent coordination with the authorities and actors present in the territory.

Operation strategy rationale

The Panamanian Red Cross' response strategy will be aimed at providing a comprehensive and focused response to 3,665 people (733 families) affected by the floods in the province of Bocas del Toro, prioritizing households with the highest levels of affectation and vulnerability. The intervention will combine immediate assistance to cover basic needs with actions aimed at reducing health and protection risks for affected communities.

The strategy is based on the initial evaluations carried out by the National Society, the information provided by the communities and the coordination with the Provincial Emergency Operations Center (COEP) and the competent authorities. Considering that information gaps persist, the survey will be expanded through house-to-house evaluations, mobilizing 10 volunteers for five days, which will allow the validation of needs, identify the households with the greatest conditions of vulnerability and guide the final selection of families to attend.

One of the main needs identified corresponds to the loss or deterioration of food and essential goods of households, as well as the effects on the income and livelihoods of some families. To respond flexibly to these needs, the operation plans to provide 733 families with a multipurpose cash transfer of 250 Swiss francs, aimed at facilitating the coverage of priority needs, particularly food and replacement of essential cleaning and kitchen items. Prior to its implementation, a market and feasibility assessment will be carried out, which will verify the availability of goods, operation of markets, price behavior, accessibility, and relevance of the transfer mechanism. This modality will allow the families themselves to prioritize their expenditures according to their particular needs, provided that the evaluation confirms favorable conditions for the implementation of the monetary assistance.

The assessments have also identified significant needs in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), associated with the contamination or affectation of wells and other water sources, overflow of excreta disposal systems, accumulation of waste and the presence of stagnant water. In response, actions will be carried out to dewater, clean and disinfect wells, community cleaning and sanitation days and house-to-house activities to promote hygiene practices, safe water management and sustainable sanitation.

In health, the strategy will prioritize the reduction of risks derived from floods and the strengthening of primary health care in a complementary manner to the actions of the Ministry of Health. Community actions will be developed to promote and prevent the main epidemiological risks identified, including dengue and other vector-borne diseases, acute diarrheal diseases (ADD), acute respiratory infections (ARI) and leishmaniasis. Likewise, first aid and basic health care will be provided when required, including initial assessment, control of vital signs, cures, identification of needs for continuity of treatment and referral of cases to the corresponding health services.

In Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), Psychological First Aid (PAP), active listening and activities to energize and safe spaces for children and adolescents will be provided, as well as identification and referral of people who require additional attention. Special attention will be paid to the emotional needs derived from the affectation of homes, loss of property and livelihoods, displacement and return process.

The Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Participation and Accountability (CEA) approaches will be transversal to the



entire operation. The prioritization will consider the level of impact and vulnerability factors, paying special attention to households with people with disabilities, pregnant women, the elderly, children and adolescents, households with affected livelihoods and other conditions that may increase barriers to access to assistance. Clear and accessible information on the operation and selection criteria will be guaranteed, as well as spaces for consultations, feedback and complaints, ensuring that communities participate during the different stages of the response.

The strategy also recognizes the particular characteristics of Bocas del Toro, including the geographical dispersion of the communities, the difficulties of access derived from floods, overflows, landslides and road damages, as well as variable connectivity and transportation conditions. These factors will be considered in the planning of house-to-house evaluations, mobilization of volunteers, definition of routes and programming of activities. The presence and territorial knowledge of the Changuinola Local Committee and its volunteers is a key element to facilitate access to communities, strengthen community acceptance and maintain coordination with the COEP, the authorities and local structures.

Finally, the operation will maintain continuous monitoring of needs, the implementation of activities, the progress of indicators and the perception of the communities, allowing adjustments to be made when the evolution of the emergency requires it. In the case of monetary assistance, market conditions will be monitored during its implementation. Permanent coordination with SINAPROC, COEP, local authorities, sectoral institutions and IFRC will complement the actions of other actors, reduce duplication and concentrate DREF resources on the humanitarian gaps identified.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The operation will be aimed at 3,665 people, corresponding to approximately 733 families affected by the floods in the province of Bocas del Toro, prioritizing those households that present higher levels of affectation and vulnerability.

The targeting will be carried out based on on-the-ground needs assessments and house-to-house assessments, considering both the level of damage caused by the floods and the resilience of each household. Special attention will be paid to families with pregnant women, people with disabilities, the elderly, single-parent households, families with affected or loss of their livelihoods and households with greater difficulties in covering their basic needs.

Assistance will be provided under the principles of humanity, impartiality and non-discrimination, so that nationality, migratory status, gender, ethnic origin or other condition will not constitute a barrier to access to assistance. Migrants, refugees or displaced persons who are within the prioritized communities will be considered under the same criteria of affectation and vulnerability.

The selection will be coordinated with the corresponding community structures and authorities to reduce possible duplications; however, the final determination of the families selected to receive assistance will be made by the Panamanian Red Cross based on humanitarian criteria and the information collected during the evaluations.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The criteria will be applied in a combined manner, prioritizing households that have the highest level of affectation and the least capacity for recovery. The following will be mainly considered:

- Level of impact by the emergency: families whose homes, essential goods or living conditions have been affected by the floods.
- Livelihood impact: households that have lost or suffered significant damage to their sources of income, productive activities or livelihoods as a result of the event.
- Unmet basic needs: families with difficulties in accessing food, essential household items, safe water, sanitation or other priority needs.
- Conditions of vulnerability: households with pregnant women, people with disabilities, the elderly, children and adolescents, single-parent households or other conditions that increase their vulnerability to the emergency.
- Limited resilience: families with insufficient financial resources or support networks to cope with flood losses.
- Assistance coverage: priority will be given to households whose needs have not been met or have been partially covered by public institutions or other humanitarian actors, trying to avoid duplication.

For the multipurpose cash transfer, in addition to the above criteria, it will be verified that the household meets the minimum requirements to safely access the transfer mechanism. The final selection of the 733 families will be made after the evaluation, validation and filtering of the information collected.



For the community interventions of WASH, Health, MHPSS, PGI and CEA, participation will not necessarily be limited to the 733 families selected to receive monetary assistance. These actions will be able to reach other people in the prioritized communities according to the identified needs, seeking inclusive coverage and avoiding generating barriers to access among the affected population

Total Targeted Population

Women	1,024	Rural	96%
Girls (under 18)	801	Urban	4%
Men	1,003	People with disabilities (estimated)	3%
Boys (under 18)	837		
Total targeted population	3,665		

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?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Continued rainfall and possible new river floods, floods or landslides can limit access to communities and put staff and volunteers at risk.	• Maintain permanent monitoring of weather alerts and conditions through SINAPROC and official sources. Coordinate routes and access conditions with the COEP and local authorities. • Reschedule or suspend field activities when conditions are unsafe. • Provide personnel and volunteers with adequate protective equipment, including boots, raincoats and other supplies required according to the activity.



	• Provide spaces to support the emotional well-being of volunteers to prevent fatigue and burnout during deployments.
Deterioration, flooding, or blocking of roads and bridges can make it difficult to access affected communities, particularly those located in rural areas or near rivers.	• Identify main and alternative routes in advance. Coordinate travel with local authorities and SINAPROC. • Plan mobilizations considering weather and road conditions. • Prioritize locally available equipment and resources to reduce unnecessary travel.
Exposure to contaminated water, sludge, solid waste, wells or affected latrines can create health risks for communities and response teams.	• Provide appropriate personal protective equipment to volunteers participating in assessments, clean-up and WASH, Health, Livelihoods and other field activities. • Train teams on hygiene, sanitation, safe waste management, and disease prevention. • Coordinate with the health authorities the preventive measures and messages aimed at the communities.
The capacity of local markets may be affected by flooding or by an increase in demand after the cash transfer, leading to shortages or price increases.	• Conduct an initial market assessment before implementing the cash transfer. • Verify availability and prices of food, cleaning supplies, cooking, and other essential goods. • Monitor prices and availability during operation. • Review the relevance of the transfer value before its execution if significant variations are identified.
Selected families may face difficulties accessing cash transfer through JORDEX due to connectivity, documentation, geographic location, or other barriers.	• Verify during the evaluations the possible barriers to access to the transfer mechanism. Previously validate the data required for the 733 families. • Coordinate with JORDEX procedures for the attention and resolution of incidents. • Provide guidance and particular accompaniment to the elderly, people with disabilities and other households that require support.
The loss of connectivity or disruptions to telecommunications can make it difficult to coordinate teams, gather information, and execute or track cash transfers.	• Identify communities with low connectivity in advance. Use information collection mechanisms that allow offline work when necessary. • Maintain alternative means of communication, including radios. Establish reporting points and times between field teams and the COEP.
House-to-house assessments can expose volunteers to access risks, accidents, adverse health conditions or situations of insecurity in affected communities.	• Organize volunteers into teams and avoid individual trips. • Carry out daily safety briefings before departures. • Define routes, schedules, meeting points and reporting mechanisms. Maintain communication with the Local Committee and the COEP during travel. • Provide institutional identification and personal protective equipment. Suspend evaluations when safety or weather conditions do not allow safe movement.



Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The operation will be carried out mainly in communities affected by floods in the province of Bocas del Toro. No conflict conditions are currently identified that would impede the implementation of the response; However, there are operational, health, and protection risks associated with post-flood conditions and access to affected communities.

Among the main risks are the deterioration or flooding of roads, sudden flooding of rivers, landslides, unstable terrain and adverse weather conditions. In addition, house-to-house assessment activities and WASH interventions may involve exposure to contaminated water, sludge, waste, vectors, and other unsanitary conditions.

The Panamanian Red Cross will implement the measures established in its Safety Manual, which guides actions to reduce the risks associated with the deployment of personnel and volunteers. Likewise, before the start of each day or deployment in the field, security briefings will be held, in which the conditions of the context, identified risks, routes and means of access, communication mechanisms, responsibilities of the teams, meeting points and procedures in the event of incidents or changes in security conditions will be reviewed. Permanent monitoring of weather and access conditions, coordination with SINAPROC and COEP, the movement of volunteers in teams, communication with the operational base and the use of personal protective equipment and institutional identification will also be maintained. Activities will be rescheduled or suspended when conditions do not allow safe mobilization.

For cash assistance, risks related to the protection of personal data, fraud, security of recipients and possible tensions associated with the selection of families will also be considered. These risks will be mitigated through transparent criteria for the selection, protection and confidentiality of information, community communication and accessible mechanisms for feedback and complaints. All personnel and volunteers must comply with the Panamanian Red Cross Safety Manual, the Code of Conduct and the PGI and PSEA guidelines, prioritizing at all times the safety, dignity and protection of the response teams and the communities served

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 210,953

Targeted Persons: 3,665

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families reached with multipurpose cash assistance to cover their basic needs	733
Number of market and feasibility assessments carried out.	1

Priority Actions

- Conduct an initial market and feasibility assessment to determine the relevance of the cash assistance in the selected communities, as well as the supply capacity of businesses, physical accessibility of markets, connectivity, and possible risks associated with the transfer mechanism.
- Mobilize 10 volunteers for five days to carry out house-to-house evaluations, to collect data and priorities.
- Apply criteria of affectation and vulnerability for the identification of families.
- Prioritize households with affected livelihoods, pregnant women, people with disabilities, the elderly, single-parent households, and other conditions of vulnerability. Validate, purify, and consolidate the database of the selected families.



- Coordinate with authorities and other actors to reduce possible duplication of assistance.
- Inform communities about the selection criteria, scope of assistance, amount of transfer, and feedback mechanisms.
- A one-time, unconditional cash transfer of 250 Swiss francs to 733 households through JORDEX (subject to the results of the market and feasibility assessment and the corresponding checks of the transfer mechanism).
- Carry out post-distribution monitoring.
- Document results, feedback, and lessons learned from the intervention.



Health

Budget: CHF 17,998

Targeted Persons: 400

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people assisted from prioritized communities who have received primary health care and psychosocial support services within the first two weeks of the intervention	100
Number of health promotion campaigns carried out in the prioritized communities (including vector control and psychosocial support issues)	1
Number of MHPSS kits for children delivered	300

Priority Actions

- Provide assistance in primary health care and psychosocial support.
- Develop community fairs and days for the prevention and control of vector-borne diseases, particularly dengue.
- Develop, validate and disseminate messages on the prevention of vector-borne diseases.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 9,265

Targeted Persons: 500

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people participating in awareness-raising sessions on hygiene, safe water management and sanitation	500
Number of cleaning and sanitation days carried out.	6

Priority Actions

- Conduct a WASH assessment in prioritized communities to identify impacts and risks related to wells, water sources, latrines, excreta disposal, solid waste, and stagnant water, and identify and prioritize wells and water sources that require intervention.
- Train staff and volunteers on cleaning and safe disinfection of wells and hygiene promotion.

- Carry out house-to-house workshops to promote sustainable sanitation practices, promoting appropriate practices for the storage and safe management of water.
- Carry out community days of cleaning and disinfection of wells.
- Monitor and follow up on WASH conditions in the intervened communities.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 10,117

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of needs assessments with PGI considerations conducted.	1
Number of CRPA volunteers and staff trained in PGI, PEAS, child protection and Code of Conduct.	25
Number of luminaires installed in prioritized areas	100

Priority Actions

- Conduct a PGI risk and needs assessment using PGI Minimum Standards, integrating PGI criteria into house-to-house assessments, and identifying barriers to access and conditions of vulnerability.
- Incorporate vulnerability criteria in the selection of the 733 families.
- Identify potential barriers to access to cash assistance for people with disabilities, older adults, pregnant women, and other vulnerable groups.
- Train 25 members of the Bocas del Toro Provincial Emergency Operations Center.
- Adaptation of lighting systems in affected areas.
- Identify, map and/or update the reference routes available for protection cases.
- Establish secure and confidential mechanisms for the identification and referral of cases.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 10,384

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of staff and volunteers in the operation who have been trained on community engagement and accountability.	100
Percentage of people consulted who know the selection criteria and know how to provide feedback on the operation	50
Number of community meetings and broadcasts to share and discuss the results of the evaluation with communities.	3



Priority Actions

- Identify the communication channels preferred by the communities and establish accessible mechanisms to receive consultations, complaints and feedback.
- Record, classify, analyze, respond and follow up on the feedback received.
- Establish mechanisms to refer sensitive or protective cases to the appropriate focal points.
- Inform communities about the objective, scope and duration of the operation.
- Community meetings: communicate in a clear and transparent manner the selection criteria for the 733 families; inform about the amount of 250 Swiss francs, the purpose and mechanism of the transfer; and clearly communicate that the assistance provided by the Red Cross is free of charge.
- Establish feedback mechanisms to the community and conduct satisfaction surveys and post-distribution monitoring.
- Use feedback results to adjust activities where appropriate.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 31,578

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of rapid response/SURGE personnel deployed to support the operation.	1
Number of monitoring and technical accompaniment visits carried out by IFRC	1

Priority Actions

- Deployment of a Cash and Coupon Assistance specialist, through the SURGE system, is critical to strengthening the capacity of the National Society in the design and implementation of a cash transfer program. This specialist will provide the necessary technical support to carry out a comprehensive feasibility study, evaluating the logistical, economic and security conditions in the affected area. In addition, it will guide the National Society in the development and implementation of an effective and transparent cash and voucher assistance programme, ensuring that emergency interventions reach the most vulnerable communities quickly and appropriately. This deployment is expected to be for a period of two months.
- A monitoring and technical accompaniment visit by IFRC is also planned.
- Support in a mid-term evaluation through a lessons learned workshop, with support from the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting team.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 37,993

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers receiving visibility kits.	80
Number of operational personnel hired to support the operation.	4



Number of volunteers who have received emotional ventilation during the operation.	80
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Priority Actions

- Acquire and distribute 80 visibility kits for volunteers and field staff, including identification elements.
- Procurement and distribution of protective equipment (rubber boots for latrine cleaning and assessment equipment, daily use boots, hoods).
- Recruitment of operational staff (1 coordinator, 1 logistician-driver, 1 financier, 1 purchasing assistant).
- Develop a mid-term lessons learned workshop to evaluate processes and results, identifying areas for improvement for the intervention (face-to-face).
- Acquire operation-specific visibility material, such as informational material, banners, and other promotional items to increase the visibility of the operation.
- Maintain and supply fuel to the vehicles used in the operation, ensuring that they are in optimal condition to carry out the activities without interruption.
- Recognize the work of volunteers through formal recognitions to value their essential contribution in the realization of the activities.
- Press conference for the launch of Operation DREF.
- Train/guide staff and volunteers in PGI, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PEAS), child protection and Code of Conduct.
- Auxiliary role training and operational communication for members of the National Operations Center.
- Acquire the necessary supplies for the administrative operation of the operation.

About Support Services

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

For the implementation of the operation, it is expected to hire four people who will provide permanent support during the established period: an Operation Coordinator, a Financial Specialist, a Logistics Officer and a driver with support functions in mobilization and cargo handling.

The Operation Coordinator will be responsible for articulating and monitoring the implementation of the Action Plan, coordinating the deployed teams and maintaining the articulation between the Local Committee of Changuinola, the Central Headquarters, authorities and other actors. The Financial Specialist will carry out budgetary monitoring, documentary and financial control and will support accountability in accordance with the procedures of the National Society and the IFRC-DREF. The Logistics Officer will manage the acquisitions, services, mobilization of inputs and other logistical requirements, seeking to streamline the processes of the operation. The driver will support the safe transport of the equipment to the communities, as well as the mobilization, loading and unloading of necessary materials and supplies.

From the Panamanian Red Cross Headquarters, the operation will also be accompanied by PMER, Risk Management, Finance, Logistics, General Management and the competent technical areas, according to the needs of each sector.

Initially, 10 volunteers will be deployed for house-to-house assessments over five days. Subsequently, additional volunteers will be mobilized according to the different lines of intervention, including capacities in damage assessment and needs analysis, WASH, Health, MHPS, PGI, CEA and other required areas.

Volunteers will support the collection and recording of information, identification of needs and vulnerabilities, health and hygiene promotion, community WASH and vector control actions, primary health care, psychosocial support, identification and referral of protection risks, communication with communities and collection of feedback. The number of volunteers mobilized may be adjusted according to the evolution of the emergency and the needs identified during the operation. These actions will be articulated by the Health, MHPSS, WASH and Risk Management focal points of the National Society.

The total estimated number of volunteers who will participate during the operation will be 80, including those mobilized for evaluation and sectoral activities.



Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

The National Society will seek to form diverse volunteer teams in terms of gender, age and sociocultural context, taking into consideration the characteristics of the communities of Bocas del Toro. The participation of local volunteers is a strength due to their knowledge of the territory, community dynamics and the cultural characteristics of the population.

A balanced participation of women and men will be promoted, especially in house-to-house evaluations, PGI, MHPSS and CEA activities. When linguistic, cultural or accessibility barriers are identified, the accompaniment of local volunteers, community leaders or other appropriate mechanisms will be sought to ensure inclusive and culturally relevant communication.

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

Yes

The deployment of a specialized profile in Cash and Coupon Assistance (CVA) will be requested to provide technical support to the National Society in the design, implementation and monitoring of the cash transfer component.

The Panamanian Red Cross has a PTA focal point and experience gained in previous operations; however, considering the scale of the proposed intervention, which includes a single cash transfer for 733 families, it is necessary to temporarily reinforce existing capacities through specialized technical support from IFRC.

The SURGE profile will support the market and feasibility assessment, definition and review of the delivery mechanism, the selection and validation process of families, risk management, data protection, coordination with the financial service provider (FSP), transfer preparation and post-distribution monitoring (PDM). It will also provide accompaniment and capacity building to the CVA focal point and the National Society team.

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

The acquisitions will be managed mainly by the Panamanian Red Cross, in accordance with its institutional procedures and the applicable requirements of the IFRC-DREF, with technical support from IFRC when appropriate.

Local and national suppliers will be prioritized, provided that there is availability, delivery capacity and compliance with the required technical specifications. The acquisitions will mainly be related to inputs for WASH, Health, volunteer protective equipment, communication and visibility, as well as services and other operational requirements.

The acquisition and distribution of cleaning kits or kitchen kits is not contemplated, since these needs, along with food, will be covered through the monetary assistance provided for the selected families. The procurement processes will incorporate, where appropriate, basic environmental criteria, seeking to reduce packaging and the unnecessary generation of waste.

For the monetary assistance component, it is envisaged to use JORDEX as a financial service provider (FSP), subject to appropriate checks and procedures. A one-time transfer of CHF 250 is planned for each of the 733 selected families.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Panamanian Red Cross has a team at the Central Headquarters that will coordinate the monitoring of the operation with the focal points deployed in the field, the Operation Coordinator, the technical areas and the financial team.

The collection and management of information will be carried out through Kobo, allowing the recording of the evaluations, population reached, activities carried out and progress of the indicators established in the Action Plan. Quality controls and periodic consolidation of data will be carried out to facilitate decision-making and the preparation of the reports required by the IFRC-DREF.



Progress will be reviewed through periodic follow-up meetings with operational, technical and administrative staff, in which operational and financial progress, compliance with indicators, difficulties encountered and corrective measures will be analyzed.

For monetary assistance, specific monitoring will be carried out on the process of selection and validation of families, transfers made and failed and operation of the delivery mechanism. Likewise, post-distribution monitoring will be carried out to know the accessibility, safety, relevance, use and satisfaction of the families with the assistance received.

Monitoring and technical support visits and monthly monitoring meetings with IFRC are also planned, including support in market assessment and at different times of the monetary assistance component. A lessons learned workshop will be held in the middle of the operation to document results, good practices, challenges and recommendations.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The communication strategy will seek to ensure a wide dissemination of the response and transparent and two-way communication with the affected communities, articulating the actions of Communication and CEA.

As part of the visibility of the operation, a launch event is planned with the participation of the media, following experiences previously developed by the National Society. The Panamanian Red Cross has contacts and relations with national and local media, which will be used to expand the scope of information about the operation and the humanitarian actions carried out.

At the same time, campaigns and content will be implemented on institutional social networks, including information on the response, preventive messages and actions developed in the communities, with the aim of reaching a wider population.

At the community level, the CEA mechanisms and community channels available will be used to keep the population informed about activities, selection criteria, monetary assistance, feedback mechanisms, and other relevant information. Particular attention will be paid to clear, accessible and context-appropriate information in the communities.

The National Society will also maintain permanent coordination with the IFRC Communication team, ensuring that the communication and visibility of the operation are articulated and aligned with the guidelines of the IFRC-DREF and the Movement.



Contact Information

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

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