

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

Ecuador | Floods and Environmental Contamination

Emergency Appeal №: MDREC027 Emergency appeal launched: 23/03/2025 Operational Strategy published: 07/04/2025	Glide №: AC-2025-000037-ECU FL-2025-000026-ECU
Operation update #6 Date of issue: 30/09/2026	Timeframe covered by this update: From 10/03/2025 to 25/08/2026
Operation timeframe: 19 months (10/03/2025 – 31/10/2026)	Number of people being assisted: 187,386
Funding Needs (CHF): CHF 4 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal CHF 4.5 million Federation-wide	Initially allocated DREF amount: CHF 1,000,000

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which sought to raise CHF 4,000,000, is 52.72 per cent funded. This Operational Update presents the current implementation status of the Emergency Appeal as it approaches the end of its operational timeframe. All humanitarian, recovery and community-based activities under the Emergency Appeal will be completed by 30 September 2026, as planned. A one-month administrative extension, until 31 October 2026, is requested solely to fulfil the remaining contractual commitments related to the external final evaluation.



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

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the crisis

Situation Overview: Esmeraldas Province

During 2025, the province of Esmeraldas experienced a sequence of overlapping emergencies that significantly affected both the population and the ecosystem. Since February 2025, the province has faced multiple shocks, including severe flooding, landslides, a crude oil spill, a 6.1 MLv earthquake, and repeated disruptions to water supply, generating a complex and evolving humanitarian context.

Between 1 January and 13 March 2025, a total of 1,682 adverse events associated with the rainy season were recorded nationwide, affecting 23 provinces, 189 cantons, and 611 parishes. The most recurrent events included landslides (40.78%), floods (38.35%), structural collapses (5.59%), erosion (5.35%), strong winds (4.34%), and mudflows (3.03%). The provinces with the highest population impact were Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Santa Elena, Loja, Pichincha, Chimborazo, and Cotopaxi. According to National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR) Situation Report No. 59¹, these incidents resulted in 19 deaths, 94 injured people, 98,071 people affected, and 11,968 displaced, corresponding to 28,004 affected families and 4,889 displaced families.

Crude Oil Spill and Environmental Emergency (March 2025)

On 13 March 2025, landslides caused damage to the Trans-Ecuadorian Pipeline System (SOTE), resulting in a crude oil spill that contaminated key water sources in the cantons of Atacames, Esmeraldas, Muisne, Quinindé, and Rioverde. Environmental remediation efforts were led primarily by the state-owned company EP Petroecuador in coordination with the Ministry of Environment and Water. More than 500,000 people were estimated to be affected, mainly due to the loss of livelihoods and disruption of access to safe water. Emergency Operations Committees (EOCs) at national, provincial, and cantonal levels were activated to coordinate the response, including environmental monitoring in the Esmeraldas River Estuary Mangrove Wildlife Refuge, humanitarian assistance delivery, and clean-up operations such as hydrocarbon suction. Drinking water supply was progressively restored until July 2025, complemented by water trucking operations in areas without network access, coordinated by EP Petroecuador and other entities.

Earthquake (25 April 2025)

On 25 April 2025, a 6.1 MLv magnitude earthquake struck the province, affecting 8,241 people, including 2,391 displaced people who experienced partial or total housing loss, and 49 injured people. The Esmeraldas Cantonal Emergency Operations Committee declared Emergency No. 016-GADMCE-2025 to facilitate humanitarian assistance, restoration of basic services, and psychosocial support. At the same time, Esmeraldas was one of the provinces most severely affected by hydrometeorological events, with 7,057 people impacted by flooding. In response, the SNGR declared a provincial red alert between February and May 2025.

Water Supply Disruption (September 2025)

On 12 September 2025, the province faced another major water supply emergency affecting approximately 300,000 people in the cantons of Esmeraldas, Atacames, and Rioverde. The emergency was caused by severe damage to a transformer at the San Mateo Drinking Water Treatment Plant, which interrupted water pumping operations. The

¹ SitRep No. 59, from 1 January to 13 March 2025. Available at: [National SITREP No. 59 – 01/01/2025 to 13/03/2025](#)

Following the resolution of the water supply crisis in September, the province entered a preventive monitoring phase during October and November 2025 under a national yellow alert. Institutional efforts focused on drainage cleaning and community preparedness in critical areas of Esmeraldas and Quinindé. However, the beginning of the rainy season towards the end of the year, combined with the intensification of the Intertropical Convergence Zone, progressively saturated urban drainage systems that already presented structural vulnerabilities.

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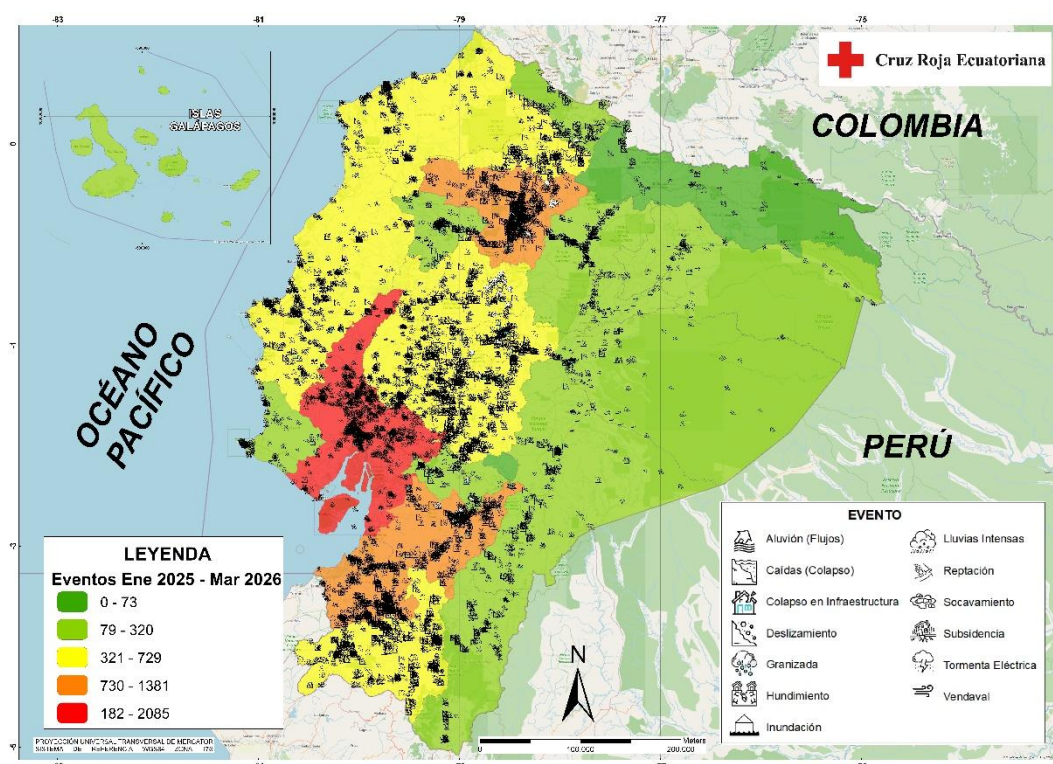
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National emergency due to rainfall

Since 1 January 2025, Ecuador has faced a prolonged period of intense rainfall that has caused recurrent impacts across the national territory. According to SitRep No. 146 of 2025², issued by the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), between 1 January and 31 December 2025, a total of 4,443 adverse events were recorded, affecting 24 provinces, 219 cantons and 967 parishes. Subsequently, between 1 and 25 January 2026, 107 additional rainfall-related events were reported in 19 provinces, 52 cantons and 81 parishes (SitRep No. 08³ of 2026).

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

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



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

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

² Available at: [Infografía Nacional Lluvias 01/01/2025 al 31/12/2025](#)

³ Available at: [SitRep No. 08 Lluvias 01/01/2026 al 23/01/2026](#)

1. Provinces Most Affected by the Rainy Season Emergency

Province	Number of Events	People Impacted	People severely affected	Affected Houses	Destroyed Houses	Affected Length (meters)	Road
Esmeraldas	155	517,599	520	2,409	6	2,200	
Manabí	349	104,532	43,624	34,237	199	8,020	
Guayas	525	62,673	4,970	17,152	28	117	
Los Ríos	213	61,014	14,489	18,139	26	2,335	
El Oro	332	29,602	4,726	7,282	234	9,171	
Loja	324	9,399	1,238	1,382	383	12,236	
Santa Elena	48	4,642	29	544	7	695	
Zamora Chinchipe	99	3,598	633	931	13	29,163	
Bolívar	208	1,071	227	199	2	7,368	
Santo Domingo de Los Tsáchilas	85	290	5	91	0	1,833	
Total	2,338	794,420	70,461	82,366	898	73,138	

Source: National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), National Rainfall Infographic, 01/01/2025 to 31/12/2025.

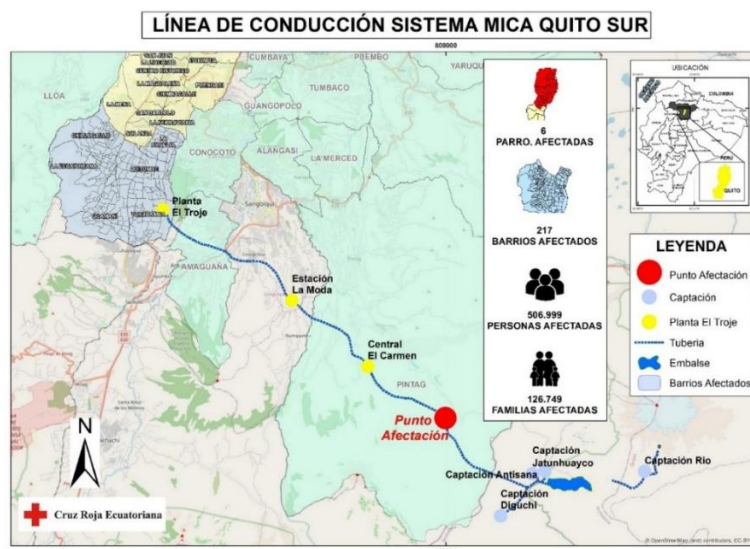
Operations Covered under the Emergency Appeal

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

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

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

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



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

- **Zamora Chinchipe and Napo Provinces**

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

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

Summary of response

Overview of the host National Society and the ongoing response

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

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

Institutional Response to the Emergency

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

In coordination with the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR), the ERC conducted Initial Needs Assessments (EVIN) covering 43,652 people and 12,169 families. Based on these findings, and through the Emergency Appeal, as of 25 August 2026 the ERC has reached 187,386 people with humanitarian assistance in the affected provinces.

The response included the distribution of 3,214 kits (hygiene, kitchen, household cleaning, community cleaning, vector control and tool kits) and 23,892 relief items (blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, water filters and jerrycans), as well as multipurpose cash assistance for 580 families. In addition, 265 people received support to restore their livelihoods. In the area of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), the ERC delivered 6.3 million litres of safe water and 25,761 litres of chlorine across the affected provinces.

In the area of health, the ERC conducted 853 medical consultations and reached 21,677 people through health promotion, hygiene and healthy living activities. It also provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to 5,331 people through individual and group sessions with community members, including responders from other institutions and key public and private sector actors, as well as through interventions in shelters and neighbourhoods.

To sustain these efforts, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) carried out more than 6,000 operational deployments using vehicles, ambulances, and river boats to deliver life-saving assistance and essential services to affected communities. In parallel, continuous primary prevention and mental health promotion activities were implemented for humanitarian personnel, including debriefing, defusing, psychological deactivation and emotional release sessions. More than 789 staff members across the provinces covered by the Appeal participated in these actions, which were further strengthened through training processes to enhance MHPSS response capacities in emergency contexts.

Achieving these results was made possible through the generous contributions of Movement partners and donors, which significantly strengthened the operational capacity of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC). The German Red Cross donated the M15 unit; the Canadian Red Cross deployed a WASH technical specialist; the Spanish Red Cross provided a water specialist; and the Honduran Red Cross deployed a WASH Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and a water technician. In addition, the IFRC–DG ECHO Programmatic Partnership (PPP) enabled the immediate response through the distribution of pre-positioned kits and humanitarian assistance.

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

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

Needs analysis

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) actively participates in initial emergency assessments, in fulfilment of its humanitarian auxiliary role, its coordination role with national and local authorities, and its strong community

presence across the country. Information collected through field assessments and the application of the Initial Needs Assessment (EVIN) tool is processed by the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR) and used as a basis for humanitarian response planning.

The information presented below is based on the most recent official reports from the SNGR, particularly SitRep No. 146 of 2025 and SitRep No. 54 as of 17 March 2026, which consolidate data collected since 1 January 2025. The analysis incorporates information related to the impacts of the earthquake, environmental contamination in the province of Esmeraldas, and the evolution of the rainy season.

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

Pillar	Identified needs
Housing and Shelter	During the first half of 2025, intense rainfall caused significant damage to housing across several provinces in the country. The destruction, partial damage or uninhabitability of homes forced many families to resort to improvised solutions or overcrowded conditions, increasing their exposure to climatic, health, protection and public health risks. These impacts resulted in a substantial gap in access to safe shelter solutions. For example, in Manabí, 31,715 homes were affected and 177 destroyed, impacting 100,082 people, while in Guayas, 15,882 homes were affected and 27 destroyed, affecting 59,541 people. Across several rural, urban and peri-urban areas, families continue to live in damaged structures or in locations exposed to recurrent flooding, maintaining high levels of vulnerability. In response, the national temporary shelter system was activated as a key measure to protect affected populations. According to SitRep No. 79 – Rainfall (1 January to 30 March 2025), during the initial phase of the emergency, 31 temporary shelters were established, while 22 were closed after fulfilling their purpose. Subsequent reports from the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR) indicate that, as of 27 March 2025, 33 shelters were active simultaneously, while 18 had already been closed. During this phase, facilities such as coliseums and community centres were enabled in provinces including El Oro and Manabí. By mid-April, the system reached its peak, with 44 active shelters and 36 closed cumulatively. At this stage, the province of Guayas, particularly the canton of Milagro, strengthened its response through the establishment of shelters in educational facilities, which hosted more than 100 people within a few days. From 12 May 2025 onwards, the operation entered a phase of gradual decline, with 28 shelters remaining active and 58 closed, including the closure of large shelters in the province of El Oro. According to SitRep No. 146 – Rainfall (1 January to 31 December 2025), a total of 96 temporary shelters were activated throughout the year, hosting 4,170 people corresponding to 1,310 families, and were progressively closed as families returned or were relocated. By 31 December 2025, the temporary shelter infrastructure activated during the emergency had been fully closed. However, following the closure of these facilities, many vulnerable families who have not been able to restore their homes continue to face critical shelter needs. The continued reliance on temporary or inadequate solutions increases protection risks, health concerns and housing insecurity.

Pillar	Identified needs
	In this context, transitional shelter solutions are required to ensure minimum standards of habitability, safety, privacy and access to basic services, incorporating an age, gender and diversity approach, in order to support a dignified and sustainable recovery for affected families.
Livelihoods	During 2025, impacts varied across provinces, reflecting differentiated effects on local production systems: • El Oro: A total of 694.08 hectares of crops were lost and 29,598 animals died, leaving many families without their primary sources of income. • Zamora Chinchipe: Recorded the most severe impact in the livestock sector, with 45,827 animals dead and 53,897 affected, highlighting the need for interventions focused on animal health and livelihoods recovery. • Manabí: Experienced significant impacts in both agriculture and livestock, with 4,014.8 hectares of crops lost and 8,031 animals dead, underscoring the need for measures to support productive recovery and protect household income. • Los Ríos: Productive capacity remains compromised, with 2,495.7 hectares of crops lost and 9,591 animals affected, limiting the economic recovery of many rural households. • Santa Elena: A total of 196.35 hectares of crops were lost, directly affecting the economic resilience of small-scale producers. As of March 2026, heavy rainfall in Ecuador has caused significant impacts on the agricultural sector, with sustained effects on rural livelihoods. More than 8,000 hectares of crops have reportedly been lost, primarily affecting water-sensitive products such as rice, maize, and cocoa. In the livestock sector, more than 150,000 farm animals have died, reflecting a progressive deterioration as the rainy season advanced. As a result, the productive capacity of small- and medium-scale producers has been reduced, affecting household income and compromising the food security of numerous families. In addition, the persistence of flooded and degraded soils continues to limit recovery efforts, prolonging the effects of the crisis beyond the immediate emergency phase. In this context, response efforts are increasingly focused on livelihood recovery interventions aimed at restoring productive capacity and strengthening community resilience to future shocks.
Health	Health needs have intensified due to the direct impact on health and educational infrastructure. At national level, 130 health facilities have been affected, limiting primary care and epidemiological surveillance capacity in the most impacted areas. The situation is particularly critical in education, with 207 educational units affected and 934 reporting functional damage, compromising the safety and continuity of schooling for thousands of students. In provinces such as Guayas and Manabí, the high recurrence of flooding (1,516 events nationwide) underscores the need to strengthen community-based prevention of vector- and water-borne diseases in areas where health systems have been weakened. • Epidemiological needs

Pillar	Identified needs
	In the context of flooding, strengthening epidemiological surveillance and the response capacity of health services remains a priority, particularly in relation to respiratory and febrile conditions with the potential to increase in emergency settings. In Ecuador, up to Epidemiological Week (EW) 13 of 2026, corresponding to 29 March to 4 April, a total of 33,365 pneumonia cases have been reported, with the highest concentration in Pichincha (36.4%), Guayas (11.0%), Tungurahua (5.3%), Azuay (4.9%), and Morona Santiago (4.3%). At the same time, up to EW 12 of 2026, corresponding to 22 to 28 March, 6,189 dengue cases were recorded. The Ministry of Public Health (MSP) also reported that 2025 closed with 37,840 confirmed cases, highlighting the continued risk of vector-borne diseases and their sensitivity to environmental conditions associated with rainfall and flooding. This situation reinforces the need to maintain active case finding and timely reporting, strengthen community-based surveillance, and ensure continuity of care through triage systems, infection prevention and control measures, availability of essential supplies, and effective referral mechanisms, in order to prevent complications and avoid overburdening health services. • Health promotion needs Recurrent flooding has deepened existing health gaps, demonstrating that clinical care and access to supplies are insufficient without addressing behavioural and knowledge barriers. In contexts of persistent vulnerability, service disruption and environmental degradation have exceeded household coping capacities, creating a critical need to strengthen early detection of water- and vector-borne diseases. Limited community surveillance mechanisms and insufficient self-care tools place families at constant risk, making the adoption of safe hygiene and sanitation practices at household level essential. In areas with stronger community capacities, the challenge shifts towards sustaining resilience and managing fatigue from recurrent emergencies. Strengthening local leadership is key to transitioning from reliance on external assistance to more autonomous community-based surveillance and shared responsibility, ensuring that preventive practices remain embedded beyond the emergency phase. • Mental health and psychosocial support needs At the onset of the operation, psychosocial support focused on crisis containment for affected populations and first responders, addressing emotional disruption caused by the emergency. As the response evolved, needs shifted towards restoring routines, stabilising emotional well-being and coping with distress, particularly in shelters during the first three months. Between May and July, in provinces such as Esmeraldas, Manabí and Guayas, where emergencies persisted, interventions were reinforced with group activities focused on post-traumatic growth and community resilience. High levels of insecurity and violence, combined with limited access to public mental health services, further increased reliance on psychosocial support provided by ERC provincial branches.

Pillar	Identified needs
	Among ERC personnel, emotional needs related to workload and direct exposure to the emergency were identified early on. Staff care measures have therefore been prioritised and sustained throughout the operation, complemented by team-strengthening and integration activities, as these needs persist. As of the current date, in response to the new flooding period affecting several provinces, the integrated response remains active. As a result, the need for emotional support at both community and staff levels continues. In response, Provincial Branch teams have maintained psychosocial support and psychological care interventions. In addition, staff care measures remain in place, including the rotation of virtual reality headsets to support emotional well-being among response teams.
WASH	In the context of rainfall and flooding emergencies, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) remains a critical humanitarian priority, given the direct relationship between access to safe water, adequate sanitation and hygiene conditions, and disease prevention, particularly in situations of flooding, environmental contamination and disruption of basic services. These risks are exacerbated when WASH services are severely compromised by cross-contamination, the collapse of water treatment systems and failures in waste management. Limited community awareness and hygiene practices further increase the risk of water-borne diseases and other public health impacts. Between January and December 2025, Ecuador faced a prolonged rainy season and recurrent hydrometeorological events, resulting in 4,443 adverse events affecting 241,737 people, of whom 74,128 were displaced, across 24 provinces. Reported damage to housing, road infrastructure and basic services, including water supply and sanitation systems, generated immediate humanitarian needs across multiple areas. This situation continued into early 2026, with at least 262 rainfall-related adverse events recorded between 1 January and 2 February across 21 provinces, primarily landslides (44.27%) and floods (28.24%), affecting coastal, highland and Amazon regions and highlighting the sustained risk and continued disruption to WASH services. The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC), with the support of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), played a key role in the response through joint assessments, identifying eight provinces (Esmeraldas, Guayas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo, Los Ríos, El Oro and Loja) with urgent needs related to hygiene and cleaning kits, access to safe water, WASH awareness activities and the rehabilitation of affected water treatment systems. This enabled timely prioritisation of humanitarian interventions. This resulted in the provision of millions of litres of safe water through treatment plants, the restoration of community water systems, the deployment of specialised personnel, the distribution of hygiene and cleaning items and the implementation of needs assessments in affected communities. In line with its auxiliary role to public authorities, the ERC also provided technical and operational support in response to requests from local authorities during unforeseen events, such as the disruption of drinking water supply in Pichincha (Quito) and Tungurahua (Patate), contributing to the continuity of essential services in emergency contexts.

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

Operational Risk Assessment

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

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

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

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

Another significant factor has been mobility restrictions established by the National Government through Executive Decree No. 329 in provinces such as Guayas, Los Ríos, El Oro, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, including the implementation of a curfew from 23:00 to 05:00.

Together, these elements create complex risk scenarios characterized by insecurity conditions that affect both the living conditions of communities and the capacity for humanitarian intervention. In this context, a heightened state of alert is maintained among the population as well as among Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) volunteers and staff.

The main identified risks include active criminal violence in areas of intervention, aggression and temporary retention of volunteers and humanitarian personnel, theft of humanitarian assistance, equipment and institutional vehicles, extortion by criminal groups operating in intervention areas, exposure to crossfire during clashes between armed groups, risk of impact from explosive devices, health risks due to lack or improper use of personal protective equipment, and traffic accidents associated with damaged road conditions and basic infrastructure affected by flooding during operational movements.

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

This approach is complemented by strengthened coordination mechanisms, regular dissemination of security guidelines, contingency planning with clearly defined roles and responsibilities, reinforcement of institutional visibility through the proper use of the emblem, and the provision of ongoing psychosocial support to staff and volunteers. In

addition, humanitarian diplomacy efforts are maintained to facilitate safe access and reinforce adherence to the Fundamental Principles of the Movement.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Update on the strategy

This Operational Update presents the progress of the operation as of 25 August 2026 and provides an overview of the current implementation status of the Emergency Appeal as it approaches the end of its operational timeframe.

All humanitarian, recovery and community-based activities under the Emergency Appeal will be completed by 30 September 2026, as planned. A one-month administrative extension, until 31 October 2026, is requested solely to fulfil the remaining contractual commitments related to the external final evaluation.

C. OPERATIONAL REPORT

STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

	Shelter, Housing and Settlements	Female > 18: 2,259	Female < 18: 1,010
		Male > 18: 2,145	Male < 18: 959
Objective:	Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Current	Target
	# of families provided with essential household items	130	500
	# of families provided with temporary emergency shelter solutions ⁴	1,921	1,700
	# of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on safe shelter	1,700	1,700

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

Humanitarian Assistance Delivery

As of 25 March 2026, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) had assisted 1,921 families, each of whom received at least one shelter-related relief item, including tool kits, blankets, plastic sheets or tarpaulins. These distributions were carried out primarily in the provinces of Guayas, Esmeraldas, Manabí and El Oro. All items were sourced from prepositioned stocks and were subsequently replenished with the support of the IFRC Logistics Hub in Panama.

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

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

Awareness and Training on Safe Shelter Practices

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

Coordination with Other Institutions

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

Challenges

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



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

	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	Female > 18: 95	Female < 18: 15
		Male > 18: 89	Male < 18: 14
Objective:	Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Current	Target
	# of families reached with CVA assistance to recover and/or strengthen their livelihoods	265	1,600
	# of people who received technical assistance/training to recover and/or strengthen their livelihoods	265	1,600
	# of communities with livelihoods microprojects implemented	0	4

of families reached with food kits

0

1,000

Cash assistance and capacity-building to strengthen livelihoods

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

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

Esmeraldas

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

Key activities included:

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

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

Livelihoods assistance delivered in Esmeraldas			
Community	N° of Families	Value delivered	Total delivered
Bellavista	44	\$800	\$35,200
Cotopaxi	33	\$800	\$26,400
Guayabo	38	\$800	\$30,400
Morastuve	3	\$800	\$2,400
Total	118		\$94,400



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

Manabí

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

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

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

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



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

El Oro

Following the approval in April 2026 of the proposed use of the project's exchange rate gains, support was planned to assist 52 families in El Oro Province with the recovery of their livelihoods.

El Oro is among the provinces most affected by the country's rainy season due to its geographic and population characteristics, with recurrent flooding, landslides, disruption of road access and interruptions to basic services. Within the province, Marcabellí and Pasaje cantons were identified for livelihoods recovery assistance based on the impacts experienced by affected communities.

Marcabellí Canton is recurrently exposed to the impacts of the rainy season. In April 2025, the simultaneous overflowing of the El Caucho stream and local rivers triggered a mudflow that severely affected 27 families across four rural communities: La Palmerita, San Francisco, El Caucho and El Arenal. Families experienced losses of household belongings and productive assets, structural damage to homes caused by mud intrusion, damage to road infrastructure and increased risks in riverside areas. The affected population relies primarily on small-scale livestock farming and subsistence agriculture, has limited access to formal credit and depends directly on productive assets for household income and food security.

Pasaje Canton is also highly exposed to adverse weather events. Heavy rainfall caused the El Burro stream to overflow in Loma de Franco parish, resulting in flooding of homes in several communities. A subsequent period of heavy rainfall directly affected Caña Quemada, El Progreso and Loma de Franco, the communities assessed for this intervention. Local livelihoods are largely based on banana and cocoa production, both of which were severely

affected by the floods. Affected families lost crops, tools and productive infrastructure, disrupting their main source of income during the peak production season.

A market assessment conducted by the El Oro Provincial Branch confirmed that local markets in both cantons remained operational and had sufficient availability of goods and agricultural inputs to meet the needs of the targeted families. In Marcabelí, the nearest agricultural input suppliers are located in Balsas, less than 20 minutes away, while in Pasaje the identified suppliers are located within the urban area and are directly accessible to families. Cash withdrawals through Banco Pichincha were also assessed as feasible in both cantons. In Marcabelí, the distance to the nearest branch in Piñas represented the main logistical constraint, which was addressed through coordination of transportation arrangements for participating families.

The identification and selection of families took place on 29 and 30 May 2026, followed by training activities during the first half of June. Between 5 and 15 June, cash assistance was provided through over-the-counter withdrawals at Banco Pichincha. Each family received a total of USD 800 in two instalments, linked to the completion of agreed requirements designed to support the recovery and sustainable management of their livelihoods.

Participating families completed training on good agricultural practices and financial education and developed an individual improvement plan outlining the intended use of the assistance. Prior to receiving the second instalment, families were required to provide receipts documenting expenditures made with the first transfer. Subsequent monitoring, including verification of expenditures related to the second transfer, confirmed that the assistance was used to restore agricultural and livestock activities in line with the objectives of the intervention.

Throughout the process, the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs) of Pasaje and Marcabelí supported community outreach, training and follow-up activities, strengthening interinstitutional coordination during implementation.

Livelihoods assistance delivered in El Oro			
Communities	Households	Value (USD)	Total (USD)
Marcabelí & Pasaje	52	\$800	\$41,600



El Oro Provincial Branch volunteer team. Cash assistance distribution, June 2026. Source: ERC (2026).

Food Kit Distribution

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

	Multi-purpose Cash	Female > 18: 658	Female < 18: 294
		Male > 18: 625	Male < 18: 279
Objective:	Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Current	Target
	# of people reached with multipurpose cash assistance to cover basic needs	1,856	4,800

	# of people trained to effectively manage funds	580	1,500
	# of volunteers and staff trained in CVA	94	94

Rapid Assessment for Markets (RAM)

In May 2026, the National Technical Team, in coordination with the Provincial Branches of Esmeraldas, El Oro, Manabí and Guayas, carried out the Rapid Assessment for Markets (RAM), which generated key information on market functionality and informed the feasibility analysis for implementing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) as part of the operation.

Pre-Distribution Processes

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

Institutional Coordination

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

Participant Selection and Validation

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

The selection criteria used for prioritisation are detailed below:

Prioritisation criteria	
Essential Criteria	• Being within the affected area • Having suffered the impact of the disaster on health, livelihoods, housing, family well-being, or other.

Vulnerability criteria	• People affected by violence • Women who are heads of household • Family members who are older adults • Family members under five years of age • Family members with disabilities • Family members with chronic or critical illnesses • Households composed of more than three members • Pregnant or breastfeeding women • Families with income below one Unified Basic Salary (SBU) • Individuals living alone • People in situations of human mobility • Families with limited access to basic services such as drinking water, electricity, sewage, waste collection, mobile phone coverage, or internet access
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Delivery Mechanism Request

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

Training for Volunteers and Staff on CVA Implementation

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

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

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

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

CVA Delivery

As of 25 July 2026, cash assistance had been delivered to 580 participating families. These households had an average size of 3.2 members, resulting in a total of 1,856 people assisted through the CVA intervention. Detailed information on the participating families is presented below.

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

Financial Management Training for Participants

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

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

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

The analysis of the collected data revealed the following findings:

- From the participants' perspective, 99% of respondents rated the organisation of the distribution process as excellent or very good, and 100% felt safe at the distribution sites.
- On average, the distribution process lasted less than 30 minutes, and 97% described the treatment received from humanitarian staff as excellent or very good.
- The cash assistance was primarily used to cover food, health and livelihood-related needs.
- The main sources of income among participating families were agriculture and livestock (day labour), representing 72.41% of respondents. About 13.36% of women stated that they did not have a source of income as they were dedicated to childcare or household activities, while 84% of families reported living on incomes below USD 200 per month.
- 81.9% of participants indicated that the cash received from the ERC was sufficient to cover their most urgent household needs.
- Regarding decision-making within households, 46% of women reported being responsible for managing the cash assistance, suggesting increased participation and empowerment in household financial decisions. Meanwhile, 27% stated that the decision was made jointly within the family, reflecting a balanced approach to financial management.
- Following the receipt of cash assistance, 100% of participants reported an improvement in their economic situation, and 81.9% confirmed that the amount provided was sufficient to meet their immediate needs.
- 99% of participants considered the delivery mechanism safe and accessible. Although 8% expressed concern about potential risks such as theft or extortion, no incidents or negative impacts were reported within households or communities during the monitoring process.

- 99% of respondents perceived that the implementation of the CVA programme was conducted safely, transparently and inclusively. Overall, the ERC achieved an average satisfaction score of 9.85/10 for CVA implementation in the communities reached.

Challenges

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

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



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

	Health & care <i>(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	Female > 18: 8,371	Female < 18: 3,744
Objective:	<i>Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Current	Target
	#of people reached with MHPSS services	5,331	1,500
	# of volunteers and staff trained in MHPSS	324	70
	# of health consultations given through Ecuadorian Red Cross medical services	853	300
	# of people reached by health promotion/awareness activities	21,677	10,776
	# of families reached with mosquito nets	4,186	3,592
	# of people reached by vector control activities ⁵	23,632	2,160

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

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)

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

A total of 3,409 people were reached with 4,346 MHPSS services across nine provinces (El Oro, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, Loja, Santo Domingo, Pichincha, Los Ríos and Santa Elena), including targeted support in temporary shelters where families faced prolonged uncertainty and unstable living conditions.

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

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

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

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

People reached with MHPSS activities ⁶						
Province	Total	M<18	M>18	F<18	F>18	Persons with disabilities
El Oro	838	126	282	133	297	75
Esmeraldas	302	45	102	48	107	27
Manabí	424	64	143	67	150	38
Guayas	2,706	407	911	429	959	242
Loja	206	31	69	33	73	18
Los Ríos	308	46	104	49	109	28
Santa Elena	136	20	46	22	48	12
Santo Domingo	278	42	93	44	98	25
Bolívar	134	20	45	21	48	12
Total	5,331	802	1,794	845	1,890	464



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

⁶ The distribution has been estimated based on demographic data from the 2021 census conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC).

HEDA equipment acquisition

To strengthen staff well-being, the operation procured three HEDA virtual reality kits designed to support stress reduction and emotional recovery among humanitarian personnel. The equipment has been delivered to Ecuador and is now available for integration into staff care and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) initiatives.

The kits will be hosted at National Headquarters and made available to Provincial Branches based on operational needs, contributing to the strengthening of staff well-being and psychosocial support mechanisms across the National Society.

MHPSS training for volunteers and staff

A total of 324 ERC personnel have been trained in MHPSS to strengthen operational capacity at community level. Training was delivered progressively across Provincial Branches, including Esmeraldas, Santo Domingo, Manabí, Los Ríos, Loja, Bolívar and Guayas, complemented by virtual sessions coordinated from National Headquarters.

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

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

Number of ERC volunteers and staff trained in MHPSS					
Province	Total	M<18	M>18	F<18	F>18
El Oro	62	0	29	0	33
Esmeraldas	34	0	15	0	19
Manabí	21	0	11	0	10
Guayas	67	0	29	3	35
Loja	47	0	21	0	26
Los Ríos	35	0	10	0	25
Santa Elena	25	0	11	0	14
Santo Domingo	22	0	11	0	11
Bolívar	11	0	3	0	8
Total	324	0	140	3	181



HEDA management training, Loja Provincial Branch delegation, June 2026. Source: ERC (2026).

Health consultations provided

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

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

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

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



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

Health promotion

Health promotion activities reached 21,677 people, delivering a total of 27,281 services through household visits, community fairs, and awareness sessions conducted alongside the distribution of humanitarian assistance.

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

The methodologies employed included household visits, community fairs, talks, and participatory workshops, adapted to the sociocultural characteristics of each community to promote active participation and ownership of key health messages.

The following section presents the breakdown of actions by province:

Number of people reached through health promotion activities ⁷						
Provinces	Total	M<18	M>18	F<18	F>18	Persons with disabilities
El Oro	2,605	392	877	413	924	182
Esmeraldas	3,239	487	1,090	513	1,148	227

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

Manabí	3,407	513	1,147	540	1,208	239
Guayas	3,877	583	1,305	615	1,374	271
Loja	1,460	220	491	231	517	102
Los Ríos	2,079	313	700	330	737	146
Santa Elena	911	137	307	144	323	64
Santo Domingo	1,664	250	560	264	590	116
Pichincha	889	134	299	141	315	62
Tungurahua	1,314	198	442	208	466	92
Bolívar	232	35	78	37	82	16
Total	21,677	3,262	7,295	3,436	7,684	1,517



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

Vector control

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

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

As part of household-level prevention, 10,776 mosquito nets were distributed to 4,124 families, providing between two and three nets per household as a protective barrier against mosquito bites, particularly during peak exposure hours.

Number of families that received mosquito nets ⁸								
Province	Total			M<18	M>18	F<18	F>18	Persons with disabilities
	Fam.	item	People					
El Oro	392	750	1,255	188	423	199	445	88
Esmeraldas	332	645	1,301	194	438	207	462	91
Guayas	2,009	6,006	6,484	962	2,242	1,014	2,266	454
Los Ríos	191	500	639	96	215	101	227	45
Manabí	646	1,875	2,169	326	730	344	769	152
Santa Elena	305	500	975	146	328	155	346	68
Santo Domingo	249	500	796	120	268	126	282	56
Total	4,124	10,776	13,619	2,032	4,644	2,146	4,797	953

Additionally, 23,632 people were reached through vector control activities, including awareness campaigns and community engagement actions aimed at eliminating breeding sites. Complementary support included the distribution of community cleaning kits (one per community) and household-level vector control kits, reinforcing sustainable prevention practices.

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

Number of people reached through vector control activities ⁹						
Provinces	Total	M<18	M>18	F<18	F>18	Persons with disabilities
El Oro	2,712	408	913	430	961	190
Manabí	4,133	622	1,391	655	1,465	287
Santa Elena	1,860	280	626	295	659	144
Esmeraldas	1840	277	619	292	652	124
Los Ríos	1,934	291	651	307	686	135
Guayas	9,953	1,498	3,349	1,578	3528	690
Santo Domingo	1,200	181	404	190	425	84
Total	23,632	3,556	7,953	3,746	8,377	1,654

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

⁹ Estimated data based on demographic information from the 2021 census conducted by the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC).



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

	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	Female > 18: 66,425 Male > 18: 63,059	Female < 18 27,704 Male < 18: 28,198
Objective:	<i>Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Current	Target
	# of volunteers and staff trained in WASH	112	50
	# of families reached with hygiene supplies	80	6,400
	# of families reached with cleaning supplies	647	6,400
	# of families reached with chlorine	24,406	17,000
	# of families reached with jerrycans	4,173	27,500
	Average number of litres of safe water distributed per person per day	51.35	51.35

# of people provided with an improved drinking water source (constructed or rehabilitated)	4,160	8,000
# of people reached by the Ecuadorian Red Cross WASH promotion/awareness activities	46,613	20,000

Delivery of basic hygiene items that contribute to the promotion of health and prevention of diseases

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

In total, 8,627 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) items were distributed, including jerry cans, hygiene kits, and cleaning kits. Each assisted household received at least one of these items.

In addition, more than 25,761 litres of sodium hypochlorite were distributed, representing approximately one litre per family. This action contributed to improving access to safe water and strengthening hygiene conditions at the household level.

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

During the reporting period, the distribution of 1% sodium hypochlorite was prioritised for vulnerable households in anticipation of the new rainy season, which intensifies from November onwards. This measure enabled families not only to disinfect water and food on a daily basis, but also facilitated routine cleaning and sanitation activities at the household and community levels.

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

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

The assistance provided is disaggregated as follows:

Number of families reached with WASH items								
Provinces	Water filters		Jerrycans		Chlorine		Cleaning kits	
	Families	Items	Families	Items	Families	Litres	Families	Items
El Oro	80	80	277	500	1,059	1,059	100	100
Esmeraldas	0	0	1,671	3,410	3,788	3,863	0	0

Manabí	0	0	750	1,500	6,915	7,355	318	318
Guayas	0	0	1,323	2,500	6,689	7,207	250	250
Loja	0	0	0	0	607	670	0	0
Los Ríos	0	0	52	100	1,528	1,891	0	0
Santa Elena	0	0	100	100	1,771	1,667	0	0
Santo Domingo	0	0	0	0	1,533	1,533	0	0
Tungurahua	0	0	0	0	516	516	0	0
Total	80	80	4,173	8,110	24,406	25,761	668	668



Distribution of sodium hypochlorite to communities, March 2026, Los Ríos. Source: ERC.

Safe water production and distribution

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

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

In Esmeraldas Province, an oil spill contaminated key water sources, requiring the deployment of emergency water treatment solutions. Initial Kit 5 treatment units were installed at CELEC facilities, followed by the

deployment of the M15 water treatment unit at the Tachina campus of the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCESE). Operating with three active treatment lines and a daily capacity exceeding 75,000 litres, the system has produced and distributed more than 4 million litres of safe water to date.

A third major intervention was implemented in southern Quito following a disruption to the water supply system. In coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), the Municipality of Quito, the Metropolitan Public Water and Sanitation Company (EPMAPS), and the Provincial Branches of Pichincha and Esmeraldas, three mobile water treatment plants were deployed, each with a production capacity of 3 to 5 m³ per hour, alongside ten flexible bladder tanks ranging from 5 to 15 m³. Through these systems, more than 962,000 litres of treated water were distributed, ensuring a minimum daily supply of 190,000 litres through temporary storage solutions. Priority areas such as Nueva Aurora and Jazmines de Guamaní were selected based on population density, vulnerability and health risks. The intervention also included community awareness activities reaching 1,081 people, as well as targeted support for 282 individuals requiring priority care.

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

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

Province	Safe Water	
	# of litres	# of families
El Oro	265,000	5,500
Esmeraldas (first moment)	4,018,550	30,990
Pichincha	962,700	16,045
Tungurahua	225,000	650
Esmeraldas (second moment)	865,000	4,384
Total¹⁰	6,336,250	57,569

¹⁰ Reported figures have been adjusted following a verification process of distribution records and community-level documentation.



Safe water distribution to communities, July 2025, Pichincha. Source: ERC.

Access to improved water sources

Under the Emergency Appeal, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) completed the strengthening and upgrading of community water systems in La Unión and Tabiazo parishes, Esmeraldas Province. These interventions focused on infrastructure, electrical systems, pumping, treatment and storage improvements, aiming to ensure safe, continuous and quality water supply for communities facing recurrent service disruptions and heightened vulnerability during emergencies. This action reached 4,160 people from the two parishes.

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

In Tabiazo, the system relied on a deep well (approximately 130 feet) equipped with a 5 HP submersible pump supplying four storage tanks with a combined capacity of around 80 m³. However, the system operated with deteriorated pumping conditions, low water production (approximately 5 gallons per minute), manual chlorination without automation, frequent failures due to voltage fluctuations and lack of preventive maintenance. These constraints limited effective coverage for approximately 1,000 households. Through the Appeal, the system was upgraded by repowering the deep well pump, replacing the electrical system, carrying out structural repairs, expanding storage capacity, installing a shock chlorination system and conducting comprehensive maintenance of the treatment plant.

In La Unión, the water treatment plant supplied approximately 30 households through physical filtration (sand, gravel, and activated carbon) and chlorination, supported by two storage tanks of 100 m³ and 40 m³. However, the infrastructure showed deterioration in tanks and filters, lacked structural protection, had limitations in the chlorination system, and insufficient flow monitoring. These constraints became critical when the system was required to support neighbouring communities or supply water through tankers during emergencies. The intervention included full rehabilitation of the treatment plant, including waterproofing and protection of tanks and filters, installation of roof structures, improvements to the chlorination system, installation of flow meters, and maintenance of electrical and pumping systems.

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

communities have been completed, ensuring the availability and sustained operation of the rehabilitated infrastructure.

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

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

Additionally, a procurement process was completed to strengthen the operational capacity of the WASH sector. This included the acquisition of pumps, reagents, hoses, fittings, tools, protective equipment, tanks, and measurement devices. These resources will enable the conversion of the M15 treatment plant into three Kit 5-type water treatment units, enhancing the capacity to respond to potential simultaneous emergencies across the national territory.

At the same time, improvements were implemented at the National Water and Sanitation Training Center (CNFRW) to optimize the storage of WASH resources and enhance facilities for the reception and technical training of humanitarian personnel.

These efforts were complemented by the procurement of basic and intermediate water quality testing equipment, replacement filters, and storage tanks, enabling initial WASH assessments in the field and the deployment of mobile water purification units. A total of 29 portable PW5660 units were acquired for targeted use in small-scale or community-level interventions, while 4 Kit 5 units, corresponding to medium-capacity mobile treatment plants with an approximate production of 36,000 liters per 8 hours, are intended for large-scale water supply.



WASH promotion and awareness activities

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

Through this integrated approach, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) reached 46,613 people with WASH promotion and awareness activities. Sessions focused on the correct use of 1% sodium hypochlorite, handwashing at critical times, safe water consumption and storage, solid waste management, and the elimination of vector breeding sites.

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

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



WASH awareness point, Esmeraldas, March 2026. Source: ERC

WASH capacity strengthening

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

a combination of theoretical sessions, practical exercises and on-the-job learning during emergency deployments.



Water source assessment exercise (zonal workshop), January 2026, Santo Domingo. Source: ERC

Key capacity strengthening actions included:

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



Community Engagement and Accountability

Objective:

Communities in high-risk zones receive relevant, timely information

Key indicators:	Indicator	Current	Target
	# of community consultation meetings	-	42
	# of satisfaction surveys completed	1,935 ¹¹	1
	% of surveyed people reporting that they receive useful and actionable information through different trusted channels	98.25%	50%
	% of affected people surveyed report that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner	99.08%	85%
	# of staff, volunteers, and leadership trained on CEA	144	60
	# of people reached with messages about the auxiliary role of the ERC and the humanitarian assistance it delivers	301,284	8,000

Community outreach

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

¹¹ From this reporting period onward, these indicators will be measured through the macro survey methodology designed for the operation. Unlike standard satisfaction surveys, the macro survey allows for a broader assessment of community perceptions, accountability, communication, access, safety, and overall experience with the intervention, while also functioning as both a baseline and endline measurement tool.

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

Macro survey

In July 2025, a large-scale perception survey was conducted in communities across the eight provinces targeted by the operation. The survey was designed to serve both as a baseline and endline assessment within a reduced sample, allowing the monitoring of changes associated with the intervention over time. The results presented below correspond to the comparison between baseline and endline measurements, which assessed community perceptions regarding the humanitarian assistance received.

A total of 847 surveys were conducted during the baseline phase. All respondents were aged 18 years or older (100%), with no respondents under the age of 18. Women represented the majority of respondents (71.4%), with 605 women, followed by 240 men (28.3%) and 2 people (0.2%) who identified as other or preferred not to respond. The baseline findings highlighted the following perceptions regarding the intervention:

- **85.6% of respondents considered the distributed items to be fully appropriate**, indicating that the assistance effectively met their needs in terms of both quantity and quality. This suggests adequate identification of needs and appropriate planning of humanitarian distributions.
- **98% stated that they received clear information on how to use the distributed items**, reflecting effective communication by staff during the intervention. This result indicates that messages were understandable, timely, and culturally appropriate, facilitating the correct use of assistance and reducing the risk of misuse or waste.
- **89.3% expressed satisfaction with the actions implemented in their communities**, demonstrating that the intervention was perceived as relevant, useful, and aligned with community expectations. This level of satisfaction also suggests that activities contributed positively to community well-being and strengthened trust in the implementing organization.
- **98% of respondents reported feeling safe during the intervention and considered staff to have acted respectfully and kindly**, highlighting adherence to humanitarian principles, particularly regarding dignity, respectful treatment, and the creation of safe environments. This result reflects the appropriate conduct of Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) personnel and positive interaction with communities.

Despite these positive findings, barriers to accessing distribution points were identified, including distance, limited transportation, poor road conditions, and health-related limitations, which affected safe access for some people. In addition, awareness of feedback mechanisms remained limited, with only 42.9% of respondents indicating familiarity with these channels. At the same time, 98% confirmed that their needs had been consulted prior to distributions and that their opinions had been taken into account. In this context, the implementation of a final evaluation survey was considered relevant in order to assess the final activities carried out under the project.

The endline survey was conducted with 950 people, with predominant participation from adults aged 40 to 59 years (32.04%) and young adults aged 18 to 39 years (24.6%). Women represented the majority of respondents (68.62%). The results provided a comprehensive overview of how communities understood, experienced, and evaluated the intervention.

The main findings from the endline survey included:

- **94.03% of respondents indicated that the distributed items were fully appropriate**, demonstrating that the assistance effectively met their needs in terms of quantity and quality and reflecting appropriate targeting and distribution planning.
- **96.33% reported having received clear information regarding the use of the distributed items**, demonstrating effective communication throughout the intervention and facilitating the appropriate use of assistance.
- **93.82% expressed satisfaction with the activities implemented in their communities**, highlighting the perceived relevance and usefulness of the intervention, as well as its positive contribution to community well-being and trust in the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC).
- **98.33% reported feeling safe during the intervention and perceived staff as respectful and supportive**, reflecting adherence to humanitarian principles, particularly dignity, respect, and the creation of safe environments.

Despite these positive results, the survey also identified limitations affecting safe access to distribution points. The main challenges included long distances, limited transportation options, poor road conditions, and existing health conditions, which hindered access for some individuals. Awareness of feedback mechanisms remained comparatively low, although 77.79% of respondents indicated that they were aware of these channels. In response, community engagement strategies were implemented, including reminders at the beginning and end of activities regarding the existence of suggestion boxes and QR codes to facilitate access to feedback and complaint mechanisms.

At the same time, 96.66% of respondents confirmed that they had been consulted about their needs prior to distributions and that their opinions had been considered, highlighting the importance of continuing to strengthen communication and accountability mechanisms.



CEA survey data collection, March 2026, Loja. Source: ERC.

- **Feedback Surveys**

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

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

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

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

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

The feedback received indicates a positive perception of the actions implemented, with messages of appreciation and recognition prevailing. This reflects a high level of acceptance of the work carried out, both in terms of humanitarian assistance, including in-kind support, cash transfers, and services, as well as the training activities delivered.

At the same time, it is important to highlight community requests, which include a greater frequency of visits and the continuity of support. These expectations are often challenging to sustain for a Provincial Branch outside the framework of project-based interventions.

Overall, while the response has been well received and has contributed to building trust, these requests provide a clear direction for continuing to strengthen community capacities and ensure that people are better equipped to face future emergencies.

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



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

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

Communication efforts on the auxiliary role and Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross remained active, reaching 23,672,769 views and generating 79,478 interactions across social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook¹².



¹²https://cruzrojaecuatoriana.sharepoint.com/:b/s/GESTINDEPROYECTOS/EdI0b35k0SxDr33BLVA_8rsBSzh_Ha2DbI-FJLkhkH2mMw?e=Fp6iZw

Tailoring the strategy as needed

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

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

In addition, in Loja Province, the need to establish a permanent feedback mechanism was identified by the community of Lauro Guerrero. In response, a regular feedback channel was implemented; however, no information has been collected through this channel because project activities had already concluded.



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



Protection, gender and inclusion

Female: 300

Male: 300

Objective: <i>Communities identify the needs of the most at risk and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, due to inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs</i>			
Key indicators:	Indicator	Current	Target
	# of staff and volunteers trained on implementing PGI Minimum Standards	138	30
	# of people reached by protection, gender, and inclusion services ¹³	-	TBC
	# of referral pathways established or updated for the response	3	3
	# of people reached with RFL services	600 ¹⁴	600

Protection, Gender and Inclusion

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

- A. Identification and approaches with entities to establish safe referral routes.
- B. Development of 3 provincial Guidelines for Safe Referral¹⁵.
- C. Internal socialization workshops of the Guidelines have been conducted with paid staff and volunteers to ensure the tool is appropriately used across governance and operational levels. Although these workshops were initially planned to be delivered virtually, a joint decision established that face-to-face sessions would ensure better comprehension. This approach also permitted reaching a greater number of people:
 - People reached in Guayas: 94
 - People reached in Manabí: 15
 - People reached in El Oro: 30

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

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

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



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

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



Restoring Family Links (RFL)

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

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

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

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

Restoring Family Links – Additional services

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

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

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

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

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

Period	Total	Physical delivery		Connectivity		Social Media Outreach		RFL Referred Cases	
		Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women
April	5,242	1,256	1,324	16	24	1,276	1,345	1	0
May – September	9,945	409	430	0	0	4,671	4,435	0	0
October - December	16,400	0	0	0	0	7,986	8,414	0	0
Total	31,587	1,665	1,754	16	24	13,933	14,194	1	0



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

	Risk reduction, climate adaptation, and recovery	Female > 18: 164	Female < 18: 73
		Male > 18: 156	Male < 18: 70
Objective:	<i>Strengthen community preparedness and capacities to respond more effectively to future disasters, while simultaneously reinforcing the National Society's capacity throughout the operation to ensure an effective response and the continuity of interventions beyond the immediate emergency phase</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Current	Target
	# of communities with EVCA developed in collaboration with the National Society	8	14
	# of communities with EVCA with disaster support teams established	8	14
	# of communities that received response gear and equipment	-	14

# of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on DRR	2,034	2,200
# of CEWS established	n/a	14

Risk and Disaster Reduction

During the first year of implementation, the development of the community exchange platform was completed. Within this framework, several community-oriented courses were developed on different thematic areas, using accessible and easy-to-understand language to facilitate participation and course completion.

These processes will contribute to strengthening community capacities in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), promoting a preventive approach that enables people to identify risks and understand the actions required in emergency and disaster situations.

EVCA implemented

As part of the Disaster Risk Reduction component, a comprehensive set of activities has been implemented, including Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (EVCA) and Early Warning Systems (EWS) analysis. These efforts also encompass the development of community action plans, community awareness-raising, the establishment and training of integrated community committees, the procurement and installation of EWS equipment, and the organization of drills and simulation exercises.

These actions are currently being carried out in the following communities:

Provincia	Cantón	Comunidad	Actividades que están en desarrollo				
			AVCA Plan de acción comunitario	Equipamiento Conformación Comités Comunitario	Sistemas Alerta Temprana	Sensibilización Comunitaria	Simulacros
Santa Elena	Santa Elena	Aguadita	1	1	1	310	1
Guayas	Santa Lucía	La Judit	1	1	1	393	1
Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas	Santo Domingo	Valle Hermoso	1	1	1	187	1
Manabí	Portoviejo	El Guabo	1	1	1	421	1
Esmeraldas	Esmeraldas	Guayabo	1	1	1	111	1
Bolívar	Caluma	Pita	1	1	1	234	1
Loja	Paltas	Lauro Guerrero	1	1	1	159	1
El Oro	Machala	Machala	1	1	1	50	1
Total			8	8	8	1,865	8

Training and Awareness Sessions on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

As part of community preparedness and prevention actions, the Provincial Branches of Esmeraldas, Santa Elena, Guayas, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Loja, El Oro, Bolívar, and Manabí, in coordination with key stakeholders

and local representatives, implemented community assessments to identify priority needs and define short-, medium-, and long-term improvement actions.

Each community established trained committees under an integrated approach, covering basic first aid, family emergency plans, health, and safety. In addition, based on Early Warning Systems (EWS) analysis, the acquisition, installation, and testing of community alarm systems were initiated, contributing to strengthening risk awareness and dissemination mechanisms.

Through participatory activities and awareness-raising simulation exercises, 1,865 people were reached. These exercises validated community capacities to provide initial response and support during emergency situations.



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

National Workshop on Livelihoods with an Entrepreneurial Focus

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

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

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



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

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

In response to Ecuador's complex humanitarian context, characterized by increasing needs and operational challenges, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) conducted a national workshop in Quito from 6 to 8 February 2026. The workshop focused on the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Auxiliary Role of National Societies, and key messages for effective humanitarian diplomacy.

The workshop aimed to strengthen volunteers' capacities in institutional representation, strategic communication, humanitarian advocacy, and the application of the Fundamental Principles. It also reinforced understanding of the ERC's Auxiliary Role in its engagement with public authorities, contributing to more coordinated, principled, and protection-focused humanitarian responses, as well as improved access to and engagement with key stakeholders.

Training of Trainers in First Aid

As part of the activities planned under the Emergency Appeal, a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop in First Aid and Resuscitation was conducted from 4 to 8 March 2026 in Quito, with the participation of 25 participants and 6 facilitators, supported by external trainers for specific thematic areas.

This initiative strengthened both the pedagogical and technical capacities of selected personnel to serve as facilitators in Basic First Aid, ensuring mastery of updated content and the application of methodologies that promote active participation and the development of practical competencies for effective emergency response.

The five-day training process was led by emergency care professionals and methodological specialists, who used technical resources and educational materials to ensure effective knowledge acquisition through the "Learn-Practice-Apply" approach. This methodology prioritized competency development and metacognitive skills, encouraging self-regulated learning through reflection and adaptation, rather than memorization.

The training included an initial diagnostic assessment to determine baseline knowledge, theoretical sessions combined with practical skill stations, and a field exercise at UTE University. This enabled participants to validate their competencies in real learning environments through a final applied exercise.

A total of 25 participants, including 16 men and 9 women, successfully completed the process, becoming trainers with expertise in active methodologies and pedagogical facilitation. This cohort received comprehensive technical updates in First Aid, aligned with IFRC guidelines. American Heart Association (AHA) and International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) standards, strengthening the institutional network and territorial operational capacity of the National Society. Additionally, the development of metacognitive competencies contributes to the quality and consistency of future trainings, ensuring sustainability through trained facilitators. The process was supported by a team of 6 instructors, including 4 men and 2 women.

The programme combined pedagogical and technical components, covering competency-based training design, active methodologies, and the use of technological tools, as well as in-depth knowledge of human body functions, biosafety, and vital signs. Technical training focused on emergency response principles and the management of critical conditions such as bleeding, shock, burns, fractures, and intoxication, in line with updated IFRC guidelines. The process also included training on different evaluation methods and practical presentations adapted to various target groups, laying the foundation for knowledge replication.

As part of the continuation of this institutional strengthening effort, a second Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop was conducted from 22 to 26 April 2026, further strengthening the institutional capacity of the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Replication of First Aid training

As part of sustainability commitments, trained facilitators have initiated the replication of First Aid and Resuscitation training workshops, with the aim of transferring andragogical and facilitation tools, as well as reinforcing the technical updates in place for 2026.

This strategy has strengthened Provincial Branches within the territorial network by consolidating local teams of highly trained facilitators. As of the reporting period, replication activities have been successfully completed with 66 people in the provinces of Manabí, Santo Domingo, and El Oro.

Humanitarian innovation workshop

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

The workshop was structured around three key components:

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

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



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

Training of Trainers in EVCA

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

Branches	Participants (Volunteers and Staff)
Esmeraldas	2
Santo Domingo de Los Tsáchilas	3
Manabí	2
Santa Elena	2
Guayas	2
El Oro	2
Loja	2
Bolívar	2
Imbabura	2
Cotopaxi	1
Chimborazo	1
Azuay	1
Carchi	1
Pichincha	1
Pastaza	1
National HQ	1
TOTAL	26

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

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

This contributes to strengthening institutional capacity and promoting community resilience.



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

National Workshop on Nutrition, Community Surveillance, and MHPSS

The National Workshop on Health Promotion in Emergencies strengthened the capacities of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) across three strategic areas: nutrition in emergencies, community-based health surveillance, and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).

In the nutrition component, participants enhanced their capacity to identify and manage nutritional risks in crisis contexts, with a focus on the application of anthropometric measurements such as Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC), weight-for-height, and Body Mass Index (BMI), enabling early detection of acute malnutrition, particularly among children under five years of age and pregnant or lactating women.

Regarding community-based surveillance, the workshop addressed field data collection methodologies to support timely decision-making, including the use of monitoring tools, early warning alerts, and coordination between community networks and public health systems.

Within the MHPSS component, sessions focused on the fundamentals of Psychological First Aid (PFA), identification of individuals in situations of emotional distress in emergency settings, and referral mechanisms to specialized mental health services.

The workshop brought together 21 territorial focal points, including 12 men and 9 women, from 20 provinces. This broad representation, led by Santa Elena and including strategic participation from the Amazon and southern

regions, supports the replication of preventive strategies and strengthens the delivery of timely and technically sound health responses adapted to diverse local contexts.

Total Trainings

A comprehensive training cycle was implemented across five strategic thematic areas: livelihoods, innovation, humanitarian diplomacy, health, and first aid. During this period, 125 technical focal points were mobilized and trained, achieving national coverage across 23 provinces, as detailed in the following summary table:

Training Name	Number of Participants	Number of Participating Provinces
Livelihoods Innovation	20	20
Humanitarian Diplomacy	37	21
Innovation in Emergencies	42	21
First Aid (Training of Trainers)	25	21
First Aid Training Replication	66	3
Training of Trainers (EVCA)	25	15
Health Promotion in Emergencies	21	21
TOTAL	125¹⁶	23

	Environmental sustainability	Female > 18: 0	Female < 18: 0
		Male > 18: 0	Male < 18: 0
Objective:	Communities in high-risk areas are prepared and able to respond to disasters.		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Current	Target
	# of green activities developed to promote environmental sustainability	n/a	14
Due to current funding constraints, the actions initially planned under this pillar will not be carried out.			

¹⁶ Total refers to the number of participants counted without duplication.

Enabling approaches

	Strengthening National Societies		
Objective:	<i>Ensure that the National Society is capable of delivering an effective response, based on a clear mandate, community and authority acceptance, an adequate operational structure, financial resources, and robust systems for the safe and efficient management of volunteers and staff</i>		
Key indicators:	Indicator	Current	Target
	# of volunteers involved in the response operation who have been trained in security	782	400
	# of volunteers and staff who received MHPSS	743	200
	# of insured volunteers	782	600
	Lessons Learned Workshop conducted	0	1
	# of volunteers provided with equipment for protection, safety, and support appropriate to the emergency	0	200
Integrity assessment As additional support to the Provincial Branch of Esmeraldas following the earthquake, the Appeal enabled the implementation of the official integrity assessment process to ensure the operational safety of personnel and volunteers. These actions were supported through enabling measures that were not only critical for the current emergency response but also strengthened institutional and operational foundations for future emergencies. Human Resources The Appeal is supporting the recruitment and deployment of key personnel of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) to respond to this national emergency, aligned with priority needs identified in the field. To date, 13 specialised professionals have been recruited, including a Project Coordinator, PMER officer, field technician, Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) specialist, Health technician, administrative/logistics technician and two local technical staff for the Appeal based in Esmeraldas. Additionally, the project covers the salaries			

of two technicians from the National WASH Centre, as well as a procurement assistant, a driver and a finance technician. A Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) technician has also been incorporated from October 2025 to March 2026.

The technical team structure has been optimised through two key adjustments: strengthening the WASH component with a specialised technician and transitioning the CVA technician into field functions. These changes ensure a more robust and needs-based technical deployment.

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

Mobility and vehicles

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

In Esmeraldas and El Oro, private vehicles were rented to support field mobility. These services concluded in July 2026, marking the completion of vehicle rental activities under the Emergency Appeal.

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

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

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

Responder Care and Self-Care (CAI, from the Spanish acronym *Cuidado y Autocuidado al Interviniente*)

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

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

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

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

A total of 743 personnel have been reached through these interventions.

Staff and volunteers reached with MHPSS					
Provinces	Total	M<18	M>18	F<18	F>18
El Oro	110	17	37	17	39
Esmeraldas	125	19	42	20	44

Manabí	134	20	45	21	48
Guayas	131	20	44	21	46
Loja	70	11	24	11	25
Los Ríos	78	12	26	12	28
Santa Elena	43	6	14	7	15
Santo Domingo	83	12	28	13	29
Bolívar	15	2	5	2	5
Total	789	119	266	125	280



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

Communication

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

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

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

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

Strengthening of the National WASH Centre

Activities are underway to strengthen the National WASH Training Centre, focusing on improving operational, technical and logistical capacities. This includes process optimisation, infrastructure improvements and procurement of equipment such as bladders and jerrycans to enhance the operation of Kit 5 treatment plants. At the time of reporting, procurement and contracting processes are ongoing, with delivery and installation

planned for early March 2026. The operation strengthened the National WASH Training and Response Centre by improving its operational, technical, and logistical capacities. This included process optimisation, infrastructure improvements, and the procurement of equipment and supplies, such as pumps and jerrycans, to enhance the operational capacity of Kit 5 water treatment plants.

The rehabilitation works, infrastructure improvements, and procurement of equipment have been completed, strengthening the National Society's capacity to support WASH training, preparedness, and emergency response activities across the country.

Logistics and Supply Chain

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

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

Transport, storage, accommodation, and communication material production services were contracted to support the implementation of the operation. Procurement processes, including the acquisition of imported supplies supported by the IFRC, were completed within the operational timeframe.

Warehouse equipment was acquired and safety systems were installed in Quito, Ambato, and Ibarra, contributing to improved operational efficiency, safer working conditions, and strengthened logistical capacities across the National Society.

Telecommunications

As part of the strengthening of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) National Telecommunications Network, actions during the reporting period focused on ensuring operational continuity, closing critical coverage gaps, and laying the foundation for a more resilient and sustainable network.

As a first strategic line, the continuity of key infrastructure was secured through the leasing of the Cóndor Cocha and Reventador repeaters for the period April 2025 to March 2026. This ensures the uninterrupted availability of essential communication links for the provinces within their coverage area, preventing service degradation and reducing the risk of disruptions during emergency operations.

A second line of action focused on strengthening field-level capacities through the procurement of 16 portable radios, distributed across eight prioritized Provincial Branches: Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo, El Oro, Los Ríos, and Loja. This investment enhances immediate deployment capacity and operational autonomy during response actions.

Finally, the emergency communication kits were strengthened through the incorporation of one HF radio and one Cadex C7400 battery analyzer. These investments improve long-distance interoperability and support more effective battery lifecycle management, extending equipment service life and reducing recurring replacement costs. The completed procurement contributes to a more reliable and sustainable institutional communication network at the national level.

Overall, these actions support the transition from a predominantly reactive communications model to a more planned and structured system, aimed at ensuring coverage, reliability, and sustainability of the institutional network at the national level.

Training Equipment (Manikins)

The procurement of nine First Aid training manikins was carried out with the strategic objective of enhancing institutional technical standards and transitioning towards a simulation-based learning methodology. This investment enables the development of practical skills in controlled environments, ensuring that staff and volunteers can refine critical techniques such as airway clearance, abdominal thrusts, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and ventilation prior to deployment in real scenarios.

The manikins include realistic anatomical features, such as the Adam's apple, carotid arteries, rib cage, and sternal notch, as well as immediate feedback systems, including an audible "click" during chest compressions. This allows participants to adjust their technique in real time.

To ensure operational sustainability in the field, eight durable nylon transport kits with wheels were assembled. Each kit includes five adult/child manikins, two infant manikins, and 50 protective face and lung bags. The kits were distributed to the Provincial Branches of Bolívar, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Loja, Manabí, Santa Elena, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, strengthening decentralized training capacity and technical quality across the National Society.

EVIN kits

The procurement process for four EVIN (Initial Needs Assessment in Ecuador) kits has been initiated to strengthen operational capacities, particularly in field data collection. These kits are designed to ensure that information gathering processes are carried out in an efficient, accurate, and timely manner.

The kits will complement equipment provided through previous projects, allowing for expanded operational coverage and continuity in data collection activities. Their use will enable real-time data recording, reduce errors associated with paper-based tools, and improve the traceability, consistency, and reliability of information.

Overall, this investment supports more effective evidence-based management and contributes to timely and technically informed decision-making at the institutional level.

Blood centre

As part of efforts to strengthen the Blood Services Network in prioritized Provincial Branches, the procurement of blood donation chairs, medical-grade refrigerators, and mobile blood collection kits aims to ensure safe, standardized, and efficient processes for blood donation, storage, and transportation.

Given the continuous demand for blood and the importance of maintaining adequate stock levels for emergency response, these investments are essential to ensure timely availability of blood components at the national level.

With the support of the IFRC logistics team, the procurement process was completed, including the validation of technical specifications and certifications to ensure compliance with quality standards. The equipment was subsequently distributed, strengthening the operational capacity and response readiness of blood services across the network.

Security

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

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

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

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

Monitoring and Evaluation

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

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

Volunteering

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

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

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

National Society capacity strengthening

Capacity strengthening efforts focused on enhancing the technical and operational capacities of the National Society through workshops on livelihoods, humanitarian innovation, and zonal WASH training. These initiatives complemented the specialised training activities reported in the relevant sections of this Operational Update, contributing to the development of institutional capacities and improved preparedness for emergency response.

Lessons learned workshop

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

Key findings include:

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

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



Coordination

Objective:

Strengthen coordination among International Federation members and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), promoting technical and operational complementarity within the Movement, while enabling a collaborative and efficient approach with all relevant humanitarian actors

Key indicators:

Indicator

Current

Target

Membership coordination meetings organised and updates are provided to Membership partners (Yes/No)

Yes

Yes

Regular coordination meetings are held with all partners involved in the response. Communication flows are channelled through the Americas Regional Office of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in Panama, the Secretariat in Geneva and the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Lima. The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) provides continuous updates on its humanitarian response and maintains active engagement with donors through formal coordination mechanisms.

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

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



Secretarial Services

Objective:

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

Key indicators:

Indicator

Current

Target

Joint coordination tools and mechanisms are in use within the Membership's response (Yes/No)

Yes

Yes

of surge missions or deployments carried out

8

8

of people deployed as part of the WASH ERU/WASH Hub

5

6

Personnel deployed to Ecuador

Profile	Duty Station
Operations Manager	Quito
Emergency Public Health Coordinator	Quito – Santo Domingo
Support to the Public Health Coordinator	
ERU M15 Team Leader	Esmeraldas
Chemistry Technician ERU M15	Esmeraldas
WASH Coordinator	Esmeraldas
Laboratory Chemistry Technician	Esmeraldas
WASH officers – Wash Hub x 2	Esmeraldas
Security Coordinator	Esmeraldas
Senior Communications Officer	Esmeraldas

Operational Coordination:

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

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

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

Technical Collaboration and Remote Support:

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

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

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

Health:

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

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH):

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

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

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

Safety:

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

Communications:

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

Contact Information

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

At the Ecuadorian Red Cross:

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For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:

- Regional Head, Global Supply Chain: Stephany Murillo; email: stephany.murillo@ifrc.org

Reference documents



Click here to:

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

How we work

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

All figures in Swiss Francs (CHF)

APPEAL

MDREC027 - Ecuador - Floods

OPERATING TIMEFRAME
10 Mar 2025 to 30 Sep 2026

APPEAL LAUNCH DATE
12 Mar 2025

REPORT STATUS

INTERIM

SECTION I Emergency Appeal Funding Requirements

TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

4,000,000
CHF

DONOR RESPONSE* (as per 29 Sep 2026)

1,108,184
CHF

APPEAL COVERAGE

28%
of total funding requirement

SECTION II IFRC Operating Budget Implementation

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES & ENABLING APPROACHES	OP STRATEGY	OP BUDGET	EXPENDITURE	VARIANCE
AP000 - Undefined output	4,000,000	0	0	0
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	0	171,492	155,509	15,983
PO02 - Livelihoods	0	132,243	89,231	43,012
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	0	138,034	173,793	-35,759
PO04 - Health	0	125,617	116,635	8,982
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0	416,423	245,597	170,826
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0	7,672	5,259	2,413
PO07 - Education	0	0	0	0
PO08 - Migration	0	0	0	0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0	326,587	617,962	-291,375
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	0	8,994	4,696	4,299
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability	0	0	0	0
Planned Operations Total	4,000,000	1,327,062	1,408,682	-81,620
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	0	0	4,145	-4,145
EA02 - Secretariat Services	0	291,631	235,358	56,273
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	0	457,222	403,277	53,946
Enabling Approaches Total	0	748,853	642,780	106,073
TOTAL	4,000,000	2,075,915	2,051,461	24,453

SECTION III Operating Movement & Closing Balance

Opening Balance	0
Income (includes outstanding DREF Loan per IV.)	2,108,184
Expenditure	-2,051,461
Closing Balance	56,723
Deferred Income	0
Funds Available	56,723

SECTION IV DREF Loan

* not included in Donor Response	Loan:	1,000,000	Reimbursed:	0	Outstanding:	1,000,000
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SECTION V Contributions by Donor and Other Income

Opening Balance						0
INCOME TYPE	Cash	InKind Goods	InKind Personnel	Other Income	TOTAL	Deferred Income
American Red Cross	202,368	0	0	0	202,368	0
DREF Allocations	0	0	0	1,000,000	1,000,000	0
Electrolux Food Foundation	90	0	0	0	90	0
European Commission - DG ECHO	374,628	0	0	0	374,628	0
German Red Cross	18,728	0	0	0	18,728	0
Japanese Red Cross Society	27,001	0	0	0	27,001	0
On Line donations	266	0	0	0	266	0
Red Cross of Monaco	9,344	0	0	0	9,344	0
Swedish Red Cross	116,830	0	0	0	116,830	0
The Canadian Red Cross Society	58,634	0	0	0	58,634	0
The Netherlands Red Cross	300,295	0	0	0	300,295	0
Total Contributions and Other Income	1,108,184	0	0	1,000,000	2,108,184	0
TOTAL INCOME AND DEFERRED INCOME						2,108,184