

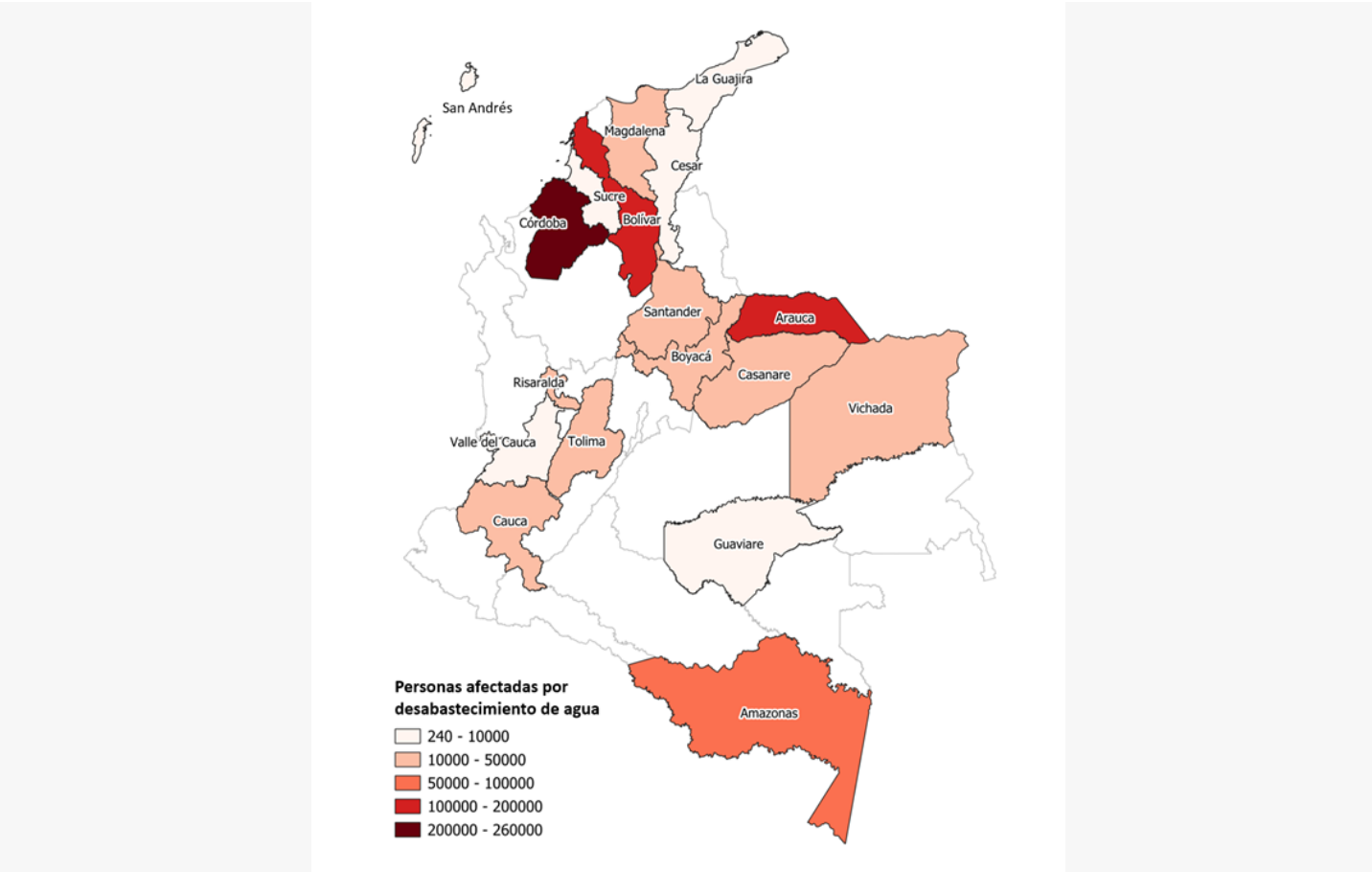


Delivery of hydroretainers to families affected by droughts. Huila, Colombia, May 2024. Source: Colombian Red Cross

Appeal: MDRCO025	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 458,836	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Drought
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 1,143,043 people	People Targeted: 9,320 people	People Assisted: 9,466 people
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 10-02-2024	Operational End Date: 31-08-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Targeted Regions: Boyaca, Cordoba, Cundinamarca, Huila, Santander, Sucre			

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

Description of the Event



People affected by water shortages. Source: UNGRD, April 2024

Date when the trigger was met

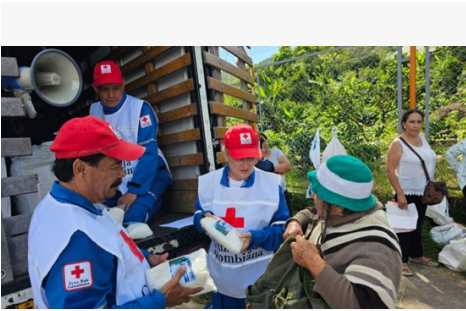
27-01-2024

What happened, where and when?

- Chronological summary events:
- On 3 November 2023, the Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM) officially declared the presence of the “El Niño” phenomenon in Colombia.
 - On 18 December 2023, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD, by its initials in Spanish), through Circular 065, sent to the territories and other members of the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD, by its initials in Spanish), the guidelines for the preparation and readiness for events under the influence of the “El Niño” phenomenon 2023-2024.
 - On 27 January 2024, by Decree No. 037, the Government of Colombia declared a National Disaster Situation for 12 months, due to the great impact of the “El Niño” phenomenon in the country.
 - On 10 February 2024, the Colombian Red Cross Society, with the support of IFRC, launched operation IFRC-DREF for drought associated with the El Niño phenomenon.
 - On 19 April 2024, the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) indicated that El Niño conditions still persist in the east-central equatorial Pacific, with significant oceanic and atmospheric indicators aligned with an ongoing El Niño event that is gradually decreasing.
 - On 15 June 2024, the Colombian Red Cross National Society requested the extension of the DREF for the operational and financial closure of the project.
 - On 15 July 2024 through special communiqué N°073, IDEAM announced that according to the analysis conducted by NOAA, during the previous quarter (April-May-June), the ocean-atmosphere interaction conditions were in a neutral phase, which indicates that the El Niño phenomenon is no longer present and its impact on the country has ended.
 - Through Circular 058 of 14 August 2024, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management informs the closure of the implementation of the National Management Plan for the El Niño Phenomenon.



The Colombian Red Cross Society with the support of IFRC monitored the evolution of droughts and the El Niño phenomenon in Colombia, to learn more visit the IFRC GO platform.



Delivery of hydrotainers to families affected by droughts. Huila, Colombia, May 2024. Source: Colombian Red Cross



Operation of water purification plant in the department of Cordoba, May 2024. Source: Colombian Red Cross



Operation for water transport in inter-institutional coordination with the UNGRD. May, 2024. Source: Colombian Red Cross



Operation of Drinking Water Treatment Plant, Boyacá, Colombia, April 2024. Source: Colombian Red Cross

Scope and Scale

As of 29 January 2024, the "El Niño" phenomenon in Colombia left 47,597 people affected (18,836 families) and the devastation of 26,274 hectares due to forest fires, droughts, and frosts as reported by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management. A total of 623 events associated with the "El Niño" phenomenon recorded in 26 departments, including 478 forest fires. Likewise, 134 municipalities reported water shortages in 11 departments.

According to the report issued by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management on 15 May 2024, the El Niño Phenomenon had effects in 30 Departments of the country, with a total of 1,143,040 people affected with 2.033 events related to Forest Fires (1,640) in 544 municipalities, Droughts (21) in 21 municipalities, Frosts (6) in 5 municipalities, Water shortage (274 municipalities) in 24 departments, Water rationing (91 municipalities) in 14 Departments and 106,180 Hectares affected.

The departments most affected by water shortages were Boyacá (61 municipalities), Santander (36 municipalities), Cundinamarca (33 municipalities) and Bolívar (20 municipalities), and those most affected by forest fires were Cundinamarca, Antioquia, Boyacá, Huila and Santander.

In the agricultural sector, the livestock sector was significantly affected with the death of 2,220,371 animals, including poultry, cattle, goats and pigs, 2,151,452 aquaculture species, and at least 2,469 beehives in 37 municipalities in the departments of Boyacá, Bolívar, Sucre, Cauca, Huila, Valle del Cauca, Norte de Santander, Vichada, Antioquia, Atlántico and Santander.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. National Management Plan for the "El Niño" Phenomenon 2024.	https://portal.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/Paginas/Slide_home/Plan-Nacional-de-Gestion-ante-el-Fenomeno-El-Nino.aspx



2. Evolution of events associated with the El Niño phenomenon in Colombia.	https://go.ifrc.org/emergencies/6864/additional-info/monitoreo-emergencia
3. Declaration of National Disaster	https://www.mineducacion.gov.co/1780/articles-419474_archivo_pdf.pdf

National Society Actions

Have the National Society conducted any intervention additionally to those part of this DREF Operation?	Yes
Please provide a brief description of those additional activities	The Colombian Red Cross prepared the specific Action Plan for the El Niño Phenomenon, which contemplated the lines of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance and food and nutritional security, WASH, community resilience, livelihoods and comprehensive health care, among others, which contributed to the UNGRD's preparedness plan. For this operation, the National Society participated in 22 Unified Command Posts for the coordination and follow-up of the response actions, and additionally, the crisis room was kept active for monitoring with the Branch Offices regarding the main effects and actions in the field. Additionally, it maintained its Information and Telecommunications Center - CITEL to monitor emergency situations. This operation had a national coverage, where the Branches provided significant support in the development of information gathering and evaluation processes, pre-hospital care and first aid services, and WASH actions. At the general level, through the Action Plan, the National Society prioritized 15 lines of intervention, between response and recovery, which allowed for fundraising and fund management, mainly by Movement partners, which will be specified below. With the contribution of resources obtained from IFRC-DREF funds, the actions identified during the response were supported.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC has a Country Delegation in Colombia that provides continuous support to the National Society. Likewise, the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for Andean countries, through the PMER Officer, and America's Regional Office provided technical support for the development and revision of this IFRC-DREF operation. In addition, the Communications Unit of the Regional Office provided technical support to make visible the impact of forest fires and drought in the country, the actions developed by the National Society and the support that IFRC provided for the management of this operation. The IFRC mobilized a SURGE in information management to support the monitoring of the progress of the Drought-El Niño DREF.
Participating National Societies	The Colombian Red Cross Society activated the American Red Cross Rapid Action Fund to focus actions in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for a value of \$195'000,000 COP. (50,000 USD), 450 kits were delivered for the transportation, treatment and storage of water at the household level for the departments of Santander and Cundinamarca. The German Red Cross with the MOFA project supported the emergency response in Wayúu communities affected by acute water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and food security crises aggravated by the effects of El Niño, in La Guajira, Colombia, for the improvement of twelve (12) water supply systems in the municipalities of Uribía and Manaure in the Department of La Guajira, and distribution of 720 market kits to 360



families in 12 communities in the rural areas of Manaure and Uribía in the Department of La Guajira.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

In response to the forest fires in rural areas of the municipalities of Argelia, in the department of Cauca, and Peque, in the department of Antioquia, and considering that the places where these emergencies occurred correspond to areas of armed conflict with the presence and territorial control of organized armed groups, as well as the presence of minefields; security management was carried out through the National Referent for Security in Operations of the Colombian Red Cross Society, with the support of the ICRC, at the national and local levels (sub-delegations in Cali and Peque, in the department of Antioquia), to make the respective contacts with these organized armed groups to obtain acceptance and thus generate the conditions for Safer Access for the staff of the National Society and other relief agencies within the framework of the National Risk Management System.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	The National Government issued the National Management Plan for the El Niño Phenomenon, which was developed with the Ministries, National Units and the operational entities of the National System for Disaster Risk Management. For this purpose, one (1) National Disaster Decree 0037 of 2024 was issued and at the local level, 10 departments and 161 municipalities declared a Public Calamity due to water shortage. Multiple coordination spaces were developed such as National Technical Committees, Expanded Boards and Unified Command Post, for follow-up and monitoring of the evolution and possible effects in the framework of the Low Rainfall Season - El Niño Phenomenon. National and local authorities (Bogotá, Santander and Boyacá), such as the District Institute for Risk Management and Climate Change (IDIGER), Fire and Volunteer Firefighter units, Civil Defense, National Police - PONALSAR, National Army and Helicopter Support with the Bambi Bucket system of the Colombian Aerospace Force, responded to the forest fire events registered in some areas of the national territory. The Bogota District Health Secretariat issued an air quality alert and shared recommendations for self-care. The Bogota Environment Secretariat issued alerts for fauna fleeing the fire and arriving in neighborhoods adjacent to the eastern hills so that the community can report them and not harm them. The Ministry of Agriculture socialized its sectoral contingency plan for the prevention, attention and recovery from the effects of the El Niño phenomenon in the agricultural sector. The Ministry of Mines and Energy implemented its strategy for monitoring and control actions to mitigate the risk of energy rationing in the country. Finally, the national government implemented water rationing campaigns in some of the country's municipalities, including the capital, due to the low flow levels of the sources from which the drinking water treatment and distribution systems are supplied.
UN or other actors	On 27 January 2024, the President of Colombia announced that international protocols had been activated to deal with the emergency caused by the "El Niño" phenomenon and to reinforce actions against forest fires; support received from countries such as Chile, Brazil, Mexico, the United States (BHA-USAID), and Canada. The Colombian Red Cross Society managed the activation of the Litres that Help Programme with the Postobón Foundation to support the department of Antioquia and Boyacá with the supply of water suitable for human consumption utilizing demijohns, considering the affectation of the municipalities due to the decrease in the flow of the water sources from which the rural and municipal aqueducts are supplied, where a total of 34,750 liters of water were delivered.



OCHA issued an Anticipatory Action Plan, preparedness and response of the Humanitarian Country Team (EHP, by its initials in Spanish) to the El Niño phenomenon on 3 November 2023, which involves all entities that are part of the WASH Cluster in Colombia, seeking to prevent and carry out actions to mitigate the effects of this natural phenomenon through coordination between the different actors involved in the humanitarian response.

For its part, FAO launched proactive actions to mitigate the impact of drought in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. In these countries, FAO mobilized \$6.28 million for activities with a total target of 121,437 people, of which, in Colombia, some 3.8 million hectares of crops were reported to be severely threatened by El Niño-induced drought (1).

One hundred and twenty (120) fire departments, Colombian civil defense boards and National Natural Parks were provided with tools and equipment for extinguishing and managing forest fires through USAID - BHA.

Source:

(1) Anticipatory Action and Response Plan, FAO, 2023.

<https://www.fao.org/3/cc8496en/cc8496en.pdf>

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Colombian Red Cross Society, as a member of the National System for Disaster Risk Management, participated permanently in the National Crisis Rooms and meetings of the National, Departmental or Municipal Councils for Disaster Risk Management. Within the framework of these spaces, coordination was developed with other entities, both public and private, the implementation of actions according to the mission and responsibility of each entity, as well as the actions implemented according to the needs identified. Among the other spaces:

- Participation in the National Council for Disaster Risk Management, where the Colombian Red Cross Society voted in favor of the previous concept for the Declaration of National Disaster Situation "El Niño" Phenomenon.
- Participated in 22 Unified Command Posts.
- Articulation of the branches with the Territorial Disaster Risk Management Councils.
- Supported in first aid care for personnel of the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD, by its initials in Spanish) and the community involved in firefighting operations.
- National Technical Roundtable developed with branches in departments with Declarations of Public Calamity and with members of the Advisory Commission on Disaster Risk Management to present the Action Plan for Response and Recovery and reports from the branches.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The impact on the agricultural sector was reflected in two specific scenarios:

- Economic losses due to crop damage and the death of production animals mainly affect small farmers, who cannot access protective measures such as agricultural insurance or do not have savings to quickly restore their livelihoods.
- Food insecurity, due to the high dependence of the least favored families dedicated to small-scale agriculture, who use part of the harvest for their sustenance. In addition, the shortage of products impacts the family basket, indirectly affecting consumers in other areas of the country.

Small producers in the category of Peasant, Family, Ethnic, and Community Agriculture were the most affected by their low access to resources, such as technical assistance, inputs, machinery, technology, and agricultural insurance. As agriculture is their main source of income, the loss of crops and animals not only affected the economic and food security of their families in the short and medium term but also undermines their capital, making it difficult for them to recover.

The population engaged in agricultural activities faced the loss of their livelihoods and needs to protect their remaining assets from the impact of the water deficit, which caused a decrease in crop profitability and losses in livestock due to low yields in milk production, low weights, death of offspring, abortions and death of animals due to dehydration.

On the crop side, farmers were in need to take advantage of the little water that was available in production areas through efficient risk



systems (drip, micro-sprinkler) or physical soil conditioners, known as hydro-retainers.

Events related to the El Niño phenomenon had a strong impact on the agricultural sector in the country. In the agricultural sector, more than 340,634 hectares of crops had been affected in 25 departments, with water deficit being the main cause. In the livestock sector, more than 2,220,371 animals were lost and 5,587,270 more were affected. In addition, more than 703,000 hectares of pastureland were affected in 23 departments, with water deficit also being the main cause.

The impact reached more than 161,890 producers in 532 municipalities in 24 departments, where Boyacá was the department with the highest number of affected producers, followed by Nariño, Cundinamarca, Cauca, among others.



Health

On 26 January 2024, the Ministry of Health and Social Protection issued a bulletin with recommendations regarding the main events and risks presented in "El Niño" phenomenon, due to the high temperatures, the risks of solar radiation and heat stroke (heat waves), and the spread of vector-borne diseases associated with the lack of water for human consumption and inadequate food handling.

Due to the forest fires, large plumes of smoke caused respiratory problems in people living near the affected areas. The groups most affected by the smoke plumes were children under 5 years old, people over 60 years old, pregnant women, people with diseases such as asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), especially those dependent on oxygen, as well as those with diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer and diseases that weaken the immune system. In addition, limited access to water was a determining factor affecting public health issues, as the lack or scarcity of this resource had a negative impact on diseases such as malnutrition, acute diarrheal diseases, and the spread of vectors, among others.

The environmental impact and the effect on certain population groups, first responders, including community members, firefighters, civil defense volunteers, and military personnel, among others, affected with eye and respiratory problems due to a large amount of smoke, injuries, muscle contractures, hypothermia, heat stroke, and dehydration, due to the long working days necessary to extinguish the fires.

From a public health perspective, in addition to recognizing the consequences of this environmental exposure for first responders, the impact of community events was highlighted, with high probability in lead to health conditions such as asphyxia, burns, and heat stroke in both affected and surrounding communities.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The "El Niño" phenomenon had a great impact on water availability. According to the report issued on 29 January 2024 by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, six departments were affected by water shortages: Boyacá, Santander, Atlántico, Casanare, Cundinamarca and La Guajira, with a total of 134 municipalities affected nationally and 176 prioritized municipalities with high vulnerability to possible problems of water shortages, droughts, and fires affecting the vegetation layer, which affected the quality and quantity of water supplied to people for human consumption or the development of family subsistence activities.

The decrease in water flows affected the collection, treatment and distribution of water in rural and urban aqueducts or alternative sources of supply, so the population was forced to access water for drinking, irrigation, and daily activities through other means, such as purchase or donation.

During April, historical figures on the decrease in the volume of reservoirs that supply electricity and water to some departments of the country were evidenced, cities such as Bogota were affected by the decrease in the water supply of these systems, which led the national government to decree water rationing to discourage excessive water consumption.

According to the 28 April update of the National Interconnected System, the average percentage of the useful volume of water reserves in reservoirs by region of the country was: Antioquia, 29.9%; Central, 43.5%; East, 12.5%; Valle, 39.1%; and the Caribbean, with 44.8% of useful volume.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The "El Niño" phenomenon generated negative impacts on the supply of strategic ecosystems, which are essential to providing supply and regulation services necessary for the development of life. The reduction in the flows of water sources, which supply the systems for catchment, treatment, and storage, had repercussions on the quantity and quality of water supplied to urban and rural areas in the

different municipalities of the country, which generated rationing and a lack of access to water, especially in dispersed communities that have low coverage of public services or whose access to this resource is through collective alternative solutions of water for human and domestic consumption, and individual alternative solutions and treatment in the home.

Forest fires represented significant damage to flora and fauna, disturbing biodiversity, causing imbalances in nature, and affecting land for crops. The ash and smoke affected people's health and generated income losses for families who depend on crops and animals, a situation made worse by the lack of water for human consumption and irrigation. Some fires were the result of human activity, therefore, it was necessary to design and activate a campaign with key messages to address the emergency, aimed at taking measures to reuse and conserve water, measures to deal with the smoke generated by fires, and measures to protect health.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF Operation, the Colombian Red Cross Society aimed to assist 9,320 people affected by the droughts in the departments of Cundinamarca, Huila, Sucre, Boyacá, Córdoba, Santander, through the implementation of actions in the areas of Livelihoods, Health, WASH, Disaster Risk Reduction and Multipurpose cash during 6 months. At the end, 9466 people were reached in the framework of this operation.

Operation strategy rationale

This IFRC-DREF Operation was framed under the Action Plan "El Niño 2024", developed by the Colombian Red Cross Society, which prioritized 15 lines of intervention, between response and recovery, to be developed during 2024 and part of 2025. To achieve greater coverage and avoid duplication of people reached through the prioritized sectors, activities were carried out in different municipalities. This response strategy sought to reach the most affected people in the most affected municipalities in the prioritized departments. To better understand the needs, the National Society conducted detailed needs assessments to inform decision making.

The six prioritized departments (Cundinamarca, Huila, Sucre, Boyacá, Córdoba, Santander) were selected because all declared emergencies due to water shortages caused by the effects of the El Niño phenomenon and because they were the departments with the largest number of municipalities affected by droughts and a decrease in the flow of their water sources.

The description of the intervention includes:

HEALTH:

To guarantee the health of first responders (firefighters, police, military, volunteers, among others), first aid teams and ambulances were strategically deployed in five of the six prioritized branches, except for Sucre. This initiative sought to shorten response times and ensure immediate initial attention to those on the front line of the emergency. In addition, 2,000 self-care kits were planned to be distributed. These kits contain essential items such as oral rehydration salts, energy bars and KN95 masks, which provided first responders with the necessary resources to maintain their health and well-being while performing their duties.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

In response to the increasing water shortages, corrective and preventive maintenance were carried out to ensure the operation of water treatment plants in the six priority branches. Likewise, support was provided for the distribution and delivery of water to the community. For the deployment and operation of the Drinking Water Treatment Plants, it was established a team of volunteers composed for an ENI Delegate and four volunteers for each Immediate Response Team in charge of a plant. In this way, the team guaranteed the operation continuously for eight hours a day, with shifts and availability for the team to take breaks and meals at the appropriate times, ensuring that staff do not become exhausted.

The Colombian Red Cross Society had pre-positioned water treatment plants in departments such as Huila, Cordoba, Boyacá and Cundinamarca to be mobilized and operational. The water treatment plants were deployed to the municipalities and departments with the greatest water shortages. The department and municipality selected depended on the following criteria:

- The manifest need of the Branches.
- The level of affectation of the area to be served.
- The municipality must ensure the safety of the equipment.
- The water quality of the effluent must be such that water suitable for human consumption can be obtained by means of primary treatment.
- The municipality ensures the safe distribution of water, in terms of quality.

For the operation of these plants, institutional transport was required to allow the transfer of the plant, equipment and supplies



necessary for the operation. Likewise, two laboratory tests were required to characterize the water, both before and after treatment. Maintenance for the treatment plants and the mobilization of a water tanker to support the distribution of water for a week in each treatment system had also been budgeted for.

For the other activities, a variable team of volunteers was planned, who was in charge of delivering the elements for water treatment at the household level, water bottles and the activities corresponding to hygiene promotion. This team received support to cover the costs of transport, accommodation, food, walking allowance and provided with personal protection items such as safety boots, work gloves, nitrile gloves, goggles, face shields, sunscreen and repellent.

Family kits for household water storage and treatment were distributed (50-litre water storage tank, 20-litre water canister for transport and family filter). This kit can be provided to families who have a water source that alternatively supplies water for their daily activities but require elements that allow them to maintain or improve the characteristics of the water they receive.

Drinking water for hydration was also distributed in 5-litre jugs (2 per family) in hard-to-reach communities where it is not possible to distribute water with water tankers or treatment plants. Finally, prevention and promotion of hygiene and basic sanitation were carried out in order to optimize the use of water, control vectors and minimize skin diseases and STDs that can occur due to water quality.

Through the proposed actions, the Colombian Red Cross Society aimed to assist 8,000 people with approximately 3,600,000 liters of water in one month of operation of the four water treatment plants. In addition, 1,800 water bottles were expected to be delivered to benefit 900 families with the vital minimum of 3 liters of water per person per day. With the home treatment kits, 600 families were expected to take care of their health by having access to safe water.

At the end of the operation, the Colombian Red Cross Society was able to continue with the deployment and operation of the water treatment plants in coordination with the Government and the National Disaster Risk Management System, sought to provide continuity of access to water, according to the needs that founded. Additional measures can be assessed in the future in coordination with the partners.

LIVELIHOODS:

500 nutritional blocks for cattle feed were purchased and delivered to 100 families. The delivery of the nutritional blocks depended on the livestock units and the species (cattle, goat or buffalo), according to the manufacturers' data sheets. The nutritional blocks were food supplements rich in protein, soluble energy, minerals and vitamins A, D and E, which stimulate grass consumption and increase digestibility and utilization, increasing livestock productivity in terms of reproduction, weight gain, milk production and body reserves, especially in summer, in the case of production animals (cattle, buffalo, sheep, goats). It was estimated to deliver four nutritional blocks per family to 100 families. Each block was a nutritionally supplement between 10 to 15 livestock units.

In addition, 800 kg of water-retainers (hydrogel) were purchased and delivered. It was estimated to deliver 8 kilograms per family/productive unit to 100 families; however, this depended to any variance once the people to be assisted were characterized and the type of crop, species and extension is known. The water-retainers come into contact with water, absorbing 200 to 250 times its weight, turning it into a granulated gel so that the roots of the plant can take advantage of this water reserve, as well as the nutrients dissolved in it. With the use of hydrogel, the aim was to reduce the frequency of irrigation by 30% to 50%.

Finally, communities were trained in the use of water-retainers and nutritional blocks, and awareness was raised on the protection of crops and production animals in times of drought. This strategy sought to ensure that communities and families received inputs were aware of their use, dosage or supply and, in the face of the consequences of the "El Niño" phenomenon, can apply measures to protect/restore their livelihoods.

Because the amount of livelihood aid given varies, especially when it comes to crops, it was necessary to use a more nuanced approach when assessing the number of people reached because it does not always match the average number of family members. In contrast to other sectors, such as CVA and WASH, where a different approach was required for precise estimation due to the unique dynamics of agricultural assistance allocation, calculating reach based on average family size may be more appropriate.

MULTIPURPOSE CASH:

A feasibility study was carried out in the prioritized areas, in which three criteria were evaluated to identify the viability of the project: availability of local markets, household characterization survey, and verification of financial services with which there are agreements for the delivery of cash.

Based on the feasibility study, the cash delivery modality was determined. Where, the presence of the financial operator of the RedRose platform (MoneyGram) was identified, and self-registration was carried out through the AccessRC tool, with the support of IFRC. For any contingency, due to the lack of capacity of the RedRose financial operator in the prioritized areas, the National Society decided to rely on traditional methods for the registration or characterization of beneficiaries and the delivery of cash. Initially, it was planned to reach 250 families through the RedRose (MoneyGram) platform and 250 families through Efecty, which was an initial estimate, as Moneygram and Efecty were not available in all territories, so a comparative analysis of the two financial service providers was carried out. Additionally, in

cases where there is not a possibility of access participants through the above mention platform, AccessRC tool, the NS planned to developed other mechanisms to identify participants, such as Kobo.

Multipurpose cash transfers were delivered to families affected by the effects associated with the "El Niño" phenomenon (frost, drought or forest fires) in order to cover their basic needs. By their nature, multipurpose transfers offered people a maximum degree of choice, flexibility and dignity. Through the operation, 500 families were reached with a one-off payment of COP 916,000 (approx. CHF 214); which would be covering two month. As in every CVA program in Colombia the value was estimated taking into account the Colombian Government Guidelines.

The delivery and use of cash were monitored and, at its conclusion, a post-distribution survey were conducted, which aims to determine the impact and experience of the population with the delivery of cash transfers. The post-distribution survey were applied to assisted population in this sector.

For the implementation of the strategy, support actions were considered, such as: training for the focalized branches in the multipurpose cash transfer protocol, reviewing and updating instruments with Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approaches, updating protocols, among others.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:

A community communication campaign was developed through the production of videos and graphic pieces with key messages on the impacts caused by the events associated with the "El Niño" phenomenon, such as droughts, increased temperatures, frost and water shortages. The campaign had key messages to enable the population to recover quickly from the impacts on their livelihoods, health and water, and was carried out through the official social networks of the Colombian Red Cross Society, such as Facebook, Instagram, X and its website. The target audience of the campaign was the users who follow the official social networks and others reached by the publications.

In addition, the Colombian Red Cross maintained its environmental responsibility guidelines, where activities were developed for the disposal and management of solid and liquid waste generated in the different activities of supplying drinking water and delivering humanitarian aid, and developed awareness and education workshops with the community regarding the proper management and disposal of solid and liquid waste.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

All planned activities were carried out with the active participation of community leaders and in coordination with the Municipal Administration, in order to promote the active participation of the community and decision making in order to select the different alternative solutions, giving sustainability to the elements or equipment delivered to the communities.

During the awareness-raising and community hygiene promotion days, spaces were developed with the aim to people from the community can express their doubts, recommendations, complaints or claims. A contact was provided so that they can communicate continuously during the operation and after the end of the intervention. It was contemplated to strengthen the promotion of the existing National Society feedback channels during the activities and community focus groups proposed.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION:

In all components, the intervention sought to respond adequately to the needs of the affected population, the intervention adopted a differentiated approach to ensure that it effectively addressed the specific needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups, where appropriate, in line with the principles of inclusion and non-discrimination. Staff and volunteers involved in the operation received virtual training on child protection and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child protection risk analysis for DREF operations was also updated.

NATIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING:

A Lessons Learned Workshop was held with the branches on the response to the "El Niño" phenomenon, to present the experiences of the country's Branches in relation to the occurrence of events associated with the "El Niño" phenomenon (forest fires, water shortages, droughts, frosts, among others) and the actions that were implemented in the territories. In addition, a IFRC-DREF Training was conducted, with support from IFRC regional office, to provide a learning opportunity for Colombian Red Cross Society staff and volunteers on the use of the IFRC-DREF as a funding mechanism to be able to reach populations before, during and after disasters in a timely and qualitative manner.

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY:

The actions proposed for this operation were framed within the Response Lines that make up the Colombian Red Cross Society's Action Plan "El Niño 2024", which includes the following Lines of Action: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health, Food Security, Livelihoods, Cash Transfers, Community Resilience and Risk Communication (1).

The IFRC-DREF operation was articulated with actions supported through other funds. Among them, the National Society developed an agreement for 2024 with the National Risk Management Unit, which envisages: Operation of Drinking Water Treatment Plants, operation

of water tankers for the supply of drinking water, water treatment at household and community level, and implementation of community water storage points nationwide.

In addition, prior to this operation, the Colombian Red Cross Society worked on an Early Action Protocol for Droughts, which is expected to be updated before the end of the operation to complement the planned actions. Regarding the actions contemplated in the Plan's Recovery Line, efforts were developed to obtain the necessary funds. In addition, the Colombian Red Cross Society's El Niño Action Plan contributed to the strategic lines of the Unified Plan 2025.

Source:

(1) The plan is accessible through the following link:
<https://ifrcorg.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/ARODisasterandCrisis/EV9N9Wv9bylLqDUzW7HiAuMBld3nLjbOW3tg54SjZMsg7Q?e=me2768>

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The IFRC - DREF Operation was framed in the El Niño 2024 Action Plan, developed by the Colombian Red Cross, which prioritized 15 lines of intervention, between response and recovery, to be developed during 2024. The communities and municipalities to be assisted, within the prioritized departments, were determined by the needs assessment carried out at the start of the operation, in coordination with the National Risk Management System at departmental and local levels.

In order to achieve a greater scope from the Colombian Red Cross, a detailed evaluation of the needs was carried out taking as a reference the information from the Branches and official sources of the National Government, which allowed to prioritize six Departments: Boyacá, Cundinamarca, Córdoba, Huila, Santander and Sucre, which had Emergency Declarations due to water shortages as well as the largest number of municipalities affected by droughts caused by the effects of the El Niño phenomenon.

In the case of Multipurpose Cash Transfers and Livelihoods, complementary secondary information was taken into account in the form of the reports of affectation shared by the National Risk Management Unit and the Colombian Red Cross Society support groups and branches, as well as the feasibility analysis was carried out as part of the operation. Once the municipalities to intervene were selected, a characterization of the affected and target population were developed, considering the application of the CEA and PGI approaches.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

- The criteria for prioritizing families and the population to be served were as follows:
- Families with children under 5 years old.
 - Families with pregnant or breastfeeding women or adolescents.
 - Families with members with special abilities (physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual) or with chronic or degenerative diseases that make it impossible for them to work.
 - Families with two or more dependents per adult of working age and able to work (dependency ratio equal to or higher than 2): dependents are persons under 18 and over 60, and persons with disabilities.
 - Persons at risk of protection (due to armed conflict)
 - Single adult heads of household with dependent children.
 - People over 60 years of age.

Total Targeted Population

Women	3,728	Rural	49%
Girls (under 18)	1,118	Urban	51%
Men	3,635	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	839		
Total targeted population	9,320		



Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Risk of low community participation in activities.	- Consult with the community and local focal points for safe meeting places. - Communication and invitation to activities. - Agree with the community on the most suitable spaces and times.
Insufficient supply of drinking water for the development of activities.	- Definition of optimal scenarios and infrastructures for the development of the activities. - Articulation with WASH sector activities.
Health risks to people and animals due to poor air quality and high temperatures from forest fires affecting the respiratory system, visibility of support personnel.	- Preventive delivery of personal protective equipment to the exposed population in the high-threat area. - Delivery of hydration - Monitoring for early identification of warning signs in staff health.
Longer duration of administrative and financial processes due to unforeseen events that may affect the implementation of activities.	- Continuous monitoring of the schedule of activities and budget. - Efficiency in the procurement request and follow-up processes.
Technical risk due to non-existence of any admissible offer from suppliers, in accordance with the Terms of Reference (ToR), or non-compliance with the obligations subscribed to for the supply chain.	- Performance policies subject to contracts, in terms of stock. - Process monitoring. - Adequate selection of suppliers according to previous processes.
Risks of non-coordination with other humanitarian actors present in the intervention areas, leading to duplication of assistance.	- Articulation through roundtables, groups and Clusters
Presence of armed actors limiting access to the territory.	- Strengthening operational communication skills - Articulation with the ICRC and local organizations, for identification and communication with related entities. - Implementation of the 1000 series standards and Safer Access Framework.
Health risk due to exposure to vectors that cause tropical diseases such as dengue, zika and chikungunya, as well as untreated water.	- Strict use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staff supporting the operation. - Addressing public health and self-care measures by the authorities - Company staff.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

In terms of security conditions for Red Cross humanitarian activities in the prioritized departments, there are guarantees of acceptance and respect from the community, authorities, and armed groups. In case of possible risks, the National Society has a National Security Policy and protocols to guarantee access in the communities. Among these measures are the monthly sessions of the Multilateral Security Committees, in which the security conditions of the country and the actions to be taken by the National Society are analyzed. In addition, all Colombian Red Cross Society volunteers have a protection policy backed by the country's National Disaster Risk Management Unit and personal health insurance. However, it is possible to identify political risks for the operation and coordination with local authorities, since, as of 1 January 2024, there was a change of administration at the local and departmental level, so the Colombian Red Cross Society, through its branches, municipal units and support groups, must ensure the unrestricted fulfillment of its mandate, in coordination with the new authorities.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Implementation



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 39,251

Targeted Persons: 600

Assisted Persons: 1,043

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Families receiving water-retainers (hydrogel)	100	124
Families receiving nutritional blocks	100	134

Narrative description of achievements

March, 2024: Selection of departments and municipalities for intervention according to the greatest impact on livelihoods due to the effects of the El Niño phenomenon: This was done based on the report issued by the UNGRD in February and according to the result of the needs analysis implemented in the Branches where Huila and Sucre were the selected departments.

March, 2024: Socialization of the intervention strategy of the livelihoods line with local authorities, for subsequent initiation of the procurement process of inputs (nutritional blocks and hydro-replenishers).

April, 2024: Deployment of two ENI volunteer delegates to the departments of Sucre and Huila for the development of the livelihoods and multipurpose cash transfer activities. They were in charge of the characterization of the families according to the needs analysis.

May, 2024: Distribution and community awareness on the use of 1,000 kilograms of hydro-retainers in the Department of Huila, distributed as follows: 850 kilograms Pitalito, 150 kilograms Timana. Also, community awareness on the use of 800 nutritional blocks for cattle in the municipality of Sincé - Sucre.

The number of families reached in the livelihood line was met, taking into account that the market price presented a favorable value. An additional 200 kilograms of hydro-retainers and 106 nutritional blocks were purchased, surpassing the goal of 200 to 258 families. Due to the composition of the families in the prioritized departments and according to the information collected in the characterization, a higher number of persons per family reached was identified.

The training activities and delivery of humanitarian assistance were carried out within the established schedule, the Huila and Sucre Sections had trained personnel for the development of the actions with the support of the ENI Delegates.

Lessons Learnt

- The articulation with the mayors' offices and offices for Disaster Risk Management made it possible to speed up the selection of the target population, taking into account that the territory already had a record of the needs and effects of the drought.
- It is important to implement mitigation projects that allow communities to carry out actions for prevention and timely response to climate phenomena.

Challenges

- Advocate for the independence of Red Cross actions, taking into account inter-institutional articulations with authorities and/or institutions.
- Conduct post-distribution follow-up of the inputs delivered, in order to know the usefulness of the intervention in the communities.





Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 125,120

Targeted Persons: 1,500

Assisted Persons: 1,661

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Feasibility study	1	1
Families that receive cash transfers	500	500

Narrative description of achievements

April, 2024: Needs assessment and feasibility analysis, as well as the targeting of intervention areas, carried out in collaboration with the regional offices and the government. For this, databases of families already registered as affected were provided. Additionally, preparation of the AccessRC application, including the project's needs.

April, May and June 2024: Deployment of two ENI volunteer delegates in Huila and Sucre with the tasks of: (1) Review of lists provided by the organizations. (2) initiation calls with potential program participants, community outreach and guidance for families. (3) administrative and financial coordination with the selected financial service provider (Efecy). (4) Registration, characterization, and application process. (5) Remote and in-person support. (6) Distribution of transfers and follow-up of the post-distribution survey. (7) Sharing information about the people reached with local authorities and the team at the National Headquarters of the Colombian Red Cross.

A total of 200 families in the department of Sucre and 300 families in the department of Huila received support from CASH in the amount of 916,000 COP to cover their most urgent basic needs, which according to the characterization of the families correspond to a total of 1,661 people reached through this line of intervention. The target number of people was exceeded, supporting a total of 1,661 individuals, and the post-distribution survey target was also surpassed, with a total of 291 surveys complete.

Among the main results of the post-distribution survey, it was found that 98% of the surveyed families were aware of the project's objectives, timelines, beneficiaries, and data treatment policy from the start. 95% of the families had no difficulties when withdrawing assistance. Finally, 98% of the families stated that the cash assistance allowed them to cover their most urgent basic needs, 97% reported that they were able to strengthen and/or reactivate their productive unit, and 99% believe that the cash assistance changed the difficult and/or negative situations they faced at the beginning of the project.

Lessons Learnt

- Continue promoting the use of the AccessRC application for cash transfers and expand its use to other intervention areas, as it helped reduce the technical time for registration, characterization, payment processes, and post-distribution.
- It is important to verify and follow up on the lists provided by government entities together with community leaders in person to target the most vulnerable families and validate any issues for registration in the application.

Challenges

- The use of the AccessRC application in different contexts, considering the difficulties faced by some community members due to lack of signal, internet, or data plans, as well as issues with technology usage and/or ownership of a smartphone, which were resolved through various strategies such as: telephone and WhatsApp guidance, step-by-step instructions, and in-person sessions.
- The lists provided by the Municipal Mayors' Offices and Governors' Offices were not up to date in some cases, nor were they verified through home visits, which could pose a risk in prioritizing program participants.
- The times to receive the transfer were affected by climatic variability, community occupations, and dynamics, as well as the capacity of the financial service provider in hard-to-reach areas.





Health

Budget: CHF 31,255

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 1,997

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of first aid teams and/or ambulances deployed	20	32
Number of people receiving self-care kits	2,000	1,997

Narrative description of achievements

Deployment of first aid equipment and ambulance for pre-hospital care for first responders: For the health care of personnel such as firefighters, the army, police, civil defense, and national natural parks who supported the response to managing the forest fires that occurred in forested areas and vegetation cover.

Department of Boyacá: 14 deployments in the municipalities of Paipa, Jenesano, Duitama, Corrales, and Nobsa

Department of Cundinamarca: 14 deployments in the municipalities of Bogotá, Subachoque, Sopó, Teusa, Zipaquirá, Chía, Cucunubá, Mosquera, and Sibate.

Department of Santander: 4 deployments in the municipalities of Barrancabermeja and Santurbán.

A total of 1,000 self-care kits were distributed, consisting of rehydration salts, energy bars, and face masks, in the departments of Córdoba (200), Cundinamarca (1,000), Boyacá (300), Huila (200), and Santander (300), for the entities of the National Disaster Risk Management System. These were delivered to Firefighters, Police, Civil Defense, and National Natural Parks.

Pre-positioning of 30 health kits, distributed as 5 units in each of the six regional offices of the project.

The National Society branches of Santander, Cundinamarca, and Boyacá, where the health line intervention was prioritized, managed to support the response with the resources allocated for first aid, achieving a greater number of deployments than initially proposed, considering the situation caused by the forest fires.

Lessons Learnt

- Consider the delivery of self-care kits as pre-positioning for operational entities (Firefighters, Army, Civil Defense, Police) so that they can be stored and available to be used as soon as the need arises.

Challenges

- The consolidation of verification materials took longer than planned due to difficulties in transporting them to the representatives of the entities that received the kits



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 158,094

Targeted Persons: 4,500

Assisted Persons: 6,301

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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Number of water purification plants deployed	4	4
Litres of drinking water delivered through mobilization and operation of mobile Drinking Water Treatment Plants	3,600,000	8,210,020
Families receiving water storage and treatment kits	600	800
Families receiving two 5-litre jugs of drinking water	900	900
Percentage of families satisfied with access to water	80	21

Narrative description of achievements

• Operation of Drinking Water Treatment Plants: During the months of March, April, May and June, the Colombian Red Cross mobilized and operated four drinking water treatment plants, achieving the purification of 8,210,020 liters that were distributed through the articulation with entities of the National System for Risk Management such as Firefighters, National Police and Municipalities in four departments:

- Santander: (Municipalities of Güepsa, Vélez and Barichara). Total of 6,372,000 liters of water purified.

- Boyacá: (Municipality of Duitama). Total of 811,400 liters of water purified.

- Sucre: (Municipality of Tolú Viejo). Total of 744,620 liters of water purified.

- Córdoba: (Municipality of Lorica and San Antero) 282,000 liters of water purified.

The four teams were deployed, operating in Sucre, Santander and Boyacá for more than 30 days, exceeding the number of liters of drinking water treated by 228% based on the first goal defined.

The operation was carried out at each point with a team made up of four volunteers and an ENI delegate, as well as the support and follow-up of the Branch Directors. In-situ monitoring of some parameters (pH, turbidity, free chlorine) was performed, as well as water sampling for analysis by certified laboratories of the parameters defined by Colombian regulations according to the Water Quality Risk Index established in Resolution 2115 of 2007.

In the case of the departments of Boyacá, Santander and Sucre, good coordination was achieved with the governments and mayors' offices for the transportation of potable water, reaching the people most affected by the lack of this resource.

When analyzing the water quality at the outlet of the filters, it is evident that the three samples show the efficiency of the filter to remove pathogenic microorganisms.

According to the perspective of the communities through the CEA activities developed, the team reached with the delivery of filtration systems, storage and transport of water at the household level, generated an impact on different aspects in the families from the economic sector (reducing investment in the purchase of bags, bottles and water bottles), Health (reducing the incidence of skin problems, Acute Diarrheic Diseases, Acute Respiratory Infections, especially in the most vulnerable population such as children, older adults or with morbidities), Environmental (reducing consumption and disposal of waste such as plastics), Acute Diarrheic Diseases, Acute Respiratory Infections, (especially in the most vulnerable population such as children, elderly or with morbidities), Environmental (Reducing the consumption and disposal of waste such as plastics), since the use of the filter is an element that can be used in the medium or long term with proper use and maintenance.

Kits for the transport, treatment and storage of water at household level: In May and June, 800 kits for household water management, consisting of two 20-liter jerry cans, a 50-liter container and a clay filter, were distributed and awareness was raised about their use in the departments of: Boyacá, in the municipalities of Tunja, Villa De Leyva and Jenesano (320 kits); Cundinamarca, in the municipalities of Facativá and Guaduas (120 Kits); Huila, in the municipalities of El Agrado, Colombia, Yaguará and Aipe (150 Kits); Santander, in the municipality of Vista Hermosa (50 Kits); and Sucre, in the municipality of Sincé (160 Kits).

Delivery of 1,800 drinking water carafes distributed in three departments: Córdoba, in the municipalities of Montería and Buena Vista (636 Garrafas) Huila, municipality of San Agustín (636 Garrafas); and Sucre, in the municipalities of San Benito and San Marcos (528 Garrafas).

Lessons Learnt

- For the operation of the drinking water treatment plants, it was essential to coordinate with the mayors' offices and risk management offices, taking into account that the scope of the Red Cross corresponded to the purification of drinking water and it was necessary to join efforts to have the appropriate vehicles available to transport the water to the target communities.
- The daily monitoring and testing of water quality with certified laboratories are key to support before the community and entities, such



as (Aqueducts or health secretary), compliance with the requirements established in the Colombian regulations according to resolution 2115 of 2007 for the Risk Index of the quality of water for human consumption.

Challenges

- To comply with the schedule established by the Branches Offices for deliveries and raising awareness of the use of water treatment filters at the household level, taking into account the supplier's delay in the manufacturing process.
- In the department of Córdoba it was a challenge to locate a suitable point for water collection close to where the operation of the Water Treatment Plant was to be carried out, since the technical conditions of the water supply sources did not comply with the appropriate technical conditions.
- The coordination with the entities that are part of the National Disaster Risk Management System to have the appropriate vehicles for the transportation of potable water by the Colombian Red Cross.
- The road conditions in the department of Sucre hindered access to the communities and, therefore, the delivery of supplies.
- The established goal for the post-test was not met, as 80% of the families targeted with the filter distribution were not reached. Only 138 people, representing the reached families, were interviewed, which corresponds to 21% of the target population.



Budget: CHF 745
Targeted Persons: 20
Assisted Persons: 29

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of staff and volunteers sensitized on the PSEA policy and care routes.	20	29
Document formulated with the risk analysis for the protection of children within the framework of the operation	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

From the Doctrine and Peacebuilding Team, a space was led to train the representatives of the six Branches and the National Headquarters Team on PGI and PSEA topics, successfully reaching 29 people in two sessions held in July 2024.

The analysis of child protection risks was conducted with the six branches, where, in a virtual setting, each Director of Disaster Risk Management and the relevant staff presented the situations identified in the project during the implementation of the intervention lines.

The goal of raising awareness on Protection, Gender and Inclusion topics was exceeded, due to the National Society's interest in strengthening its knowledge and learn about the subject.

Lessons Learnt

- The representatives from the branches who participated in the sessions on PGI topics acknowledged the importance of including these issues, emphasizing that in previous project experiences, this line had not been included

Challenges

- The production of audiovisual materials was not carried out due to the time constraints of the orientations
- Contingencies arose regarding the availability of the branch' representatives, considering that the orientations were held during the closing process of the operation.





Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 2,483

Targeted Persons: 120,000

Assisted Persons: 8,286

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people indirectly reached with key messages through social networks and institutional media	120,000	8,286
Number of audiovisual pieces elaborated	5	10

Narrative description of achievements

Summary of activities: Design of a communication campaign to socialize key information. Design of audiovisual pieces (videos, graphic pieces and infographics). Dissemination of messages on social networks and institutional media of the Colombian Red Cross at national and branch level.

Description of the activity: Considering the context and the greater impact generated in the country due to lack of water availability, the decision was made to prioritize the key messages on the care and efficient use of water. In this way, 10 graphic pieces in Reel format were generated and disseminated through social networks and communication channels of the Colombian Red Cross at local and national level. The total number of people reached is based on the National Society's communications team's report on the number of accounts reached during the project period. These pieces can be replicated and adapted by the National Society in future drought events in the country.

With the resources allocated, ten graphic pieces were produced, surpassing the goal, that can be replicated in similar threatening phenomena.

Lessons Learnt

- Key messages should be disseminated prior to the start of the operation or in the first few days, in order to achieve timely community awareness and to adopt measures to mitigate the impacts that may be generated by the emergency.
- The line for the development of key messages provides a toolbox with graphic pieces on specific topics that can be disseminated at different times or in projects developed by the Colombian Red Cross.

Challenges

- The process of formulating, procuring and developing key messages took longer than expected.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 1,440

Targeted Persons: 120

Assisted Persons: 56

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of community focus groups for feedback	18	5



Number of people participating in community focus groups and interviews for feedback	120	56
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Narrative description of achievements

A work plan was defined for each branch office and action line to monitor the community's experience with the actions carried out by the Colombian Red Cross in the areas of water, sanitation, hygiene, and livelihoods as follows: Filtration Systems (Cundinamarca and Boyacá), Water Jugs (Córdoba), Operation of Water Treatment Plants (Santander), Nutritional Blocks (Sucre), and Hydro-retainers (Huila).

The strategy was successfully implemented in the regional offices of Cundinamarca, Boyacá, Córdoba, Santander, and Huila, where the team traveled to the reached communities and conducted the survey using the KOBO platform

Although the entire planned sample was not covered, a considerable portion of the intervention lines was reached, with the goal of obtaining feedback on the activities carried out.

Among the interventions collected in the community, the people targeted by the intervention report that the activities developed within the framework of the DREF operation are very useful, for example, it was identified that in the agricultural productive sector, people did not know about the use of hydro-retainers and nutritional blocks, and therefore, they will adapt their productive unit taking into account this strategy. People reached also report a great utility of the services provided in the WASH sector as well as the importance of using water filters. They also highlighted the importance of knowing the scope that the Red Cross has in the country in different emergency response services.

Lessons Learnt

- It is important that the CEA strategy be implemented from the beginning of the operation to raise awareness among field teams about this approach, form focus groups prior to the delivery of humanitarian assistance or intervention by the Colombian Red Cross, and ensure they can also participate in the analysis at the end of the activities and monitor the defined goals.

Challenges

- Calling and attending the municipalities where the population reached by the Colombian Red Cross interventions was located, considering the distance and the availability of time for the branch teams to carry out the activity, the target of 18 focus groups and the goal of reached individuals were not achieved. However, the focus groups were prioritized according to the intervention line, where the operation had the greatest reach and impact per department.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 7,904

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Monitoring visits	2	2

Narrative description of achievements

- The operation had high standards of efficiency in information management thanks to the IFRC's SURGE deployment. The results of this SURGE deployment have allowed the replication of the tools used in new DREF operations as well as the standardization of quality for information management products in emergency interventions. Deployment of a Surge for period of two months to manage information related to the project and affection status: The main results of the SURGE Deployment in Information Management included the matrix for monitoring progress and compliance with goals, as well as a Dashboard of the emergency and response by the country, the 3W information available in the GO, summary infographics of the DREF plan, training for the National Society on the creation of



Infographics/PowerBI and the completion of the 3W in the GO platform. Surge's intervention made it possible to facilitate the monitoring of cash transfers, the systematization of emergency events and the people reached within the framework of this operation.

- The monitoring visits made it possible to analyze ongoing actions based on direct feedback from the communities and strengthening the methodology to develop monitoring visit to generate efficient results related to decision making. Development of two monitoring visits to the departments of Boyacá and Cundinamarca: (1) The National Management Team and the IFRC went to the municipality of Duitama - Boyacá, in order to monitor the operation of the drinking water treatment plant and the progress of the implementation of the health line. Feedback was given to the technical team on key aspects to be taken into account, related to the measurement of water quality parameters and the strategy for the distribution of self-care kits. (2)The second monitoring mission was carried out in the municipality of Facativá, Department of Cundinamarca, where the CEA strategy was implemented with the community through to evaluate the delivery of 50 kits for household water treatment.

Lessons Learnt

- For future operations, it is important to define a field monitoring plan in order to define an advance schedule with the teams of the Branches.
- Monitoring visits with the participation of the community allow for a better understanding of the impacts, perspectives and opportunities for improvement of the people reached. Therefore, the recommendation is to perform one at the beginning of the operation.

Challenges

- Challenges were encountered in reporting project implementation progress from the local level, requiring greater support from the national management.



Budget: CHF 92,544
Targeted Persons: 0
Assisted Persons: 60

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Induction workshop	1	1
Lessons learned + DREF workshop	1	1
Number of volunteers receiving uniforms	60	60

Narrative description of achievements

March, 2024: The kick-off workshop was held, with the participation of the referents in the livelihood, multipurpose cash transfers and health lines, and the referent for the project coordination, to socialize and review the activities to be carried out within the framework of the operation.

March, 2024: The purchase and distribution of 60 uniforms for the 6 branches prioritized was carried out, so that the volunteers would have the institutional elements required to support the different actions in the field.

July/August, 2024: During the week of July 29, 2024 to August 2, 2024, the DREF Formulation and Lessons Learned workshop was held with the support of the IFRC. DREF Workshop: A 30-hour workshop was held, in which, through theoretical and practical activities, the following activities were carried out, with a total of 28 people from the Colombian National Red Cross Society and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies participated. Lessons learned workshop: Two after-action discussion tools were used to develop a dialogue on drought response activities in 6 regions of the country. 32 people participated, composed of 3 representatives of the intervened communities in the departments of Santander, Boyacá and Sucre; 3 IFRC referents, 26 people of the Colombian Red



Cross, including volunteers and employees of the National Headquarters and Branches of Huila, Boyacá, Cundinamarca, Santander and Sucre.

The proposed indicators were met within the planned schedule.

The inter-institutional articulation processes included the participation of representatives of the prioritized Branches, allowing for a more comprehensive analysis of the operational status. Likewise, the lessons learned workshop also gathered inputs from community representatives, who expressed their experiences in the emergency and the response of the Colombian Red Cross.

Lessons Learnt

- Constant communication with the Branches and feedback on the situations that arise in the field allows the intervention to be carried out in a more effective and efficient manner, with the aim of mitigate financial and technical contingencies.

Challenges

- There were contingencies in the administrative processes that affected the request for the second disbursement; therefore, this initial socialization will be carried out on an ongoing basis throughout the operation.
- Challenges were encountered in reporting project implementation progress from the local level, requiring greater support from the national management.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDRCO025 - Colombia - Drought

Operating Timeframe: 10 Feb 2024 to 31 Aug 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024-2025	Operation	MDRco025
Budget Timeframe	2024-2025	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 14/Apr/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	458,836
DREF Response Pillar	458,836
Expenditure	-395,037
Closing Balance	63,799

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods	36,856	37,854	-999
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	117,484	118,376	-892
PO04 - Health	29,347	26,391	2,956
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	148,445	127,831	20,614
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	699	745	-45
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	30,335	2,394	27,941
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	1,352	1,232	120
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	364,518	314,824	49,694
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	7,421	3,351	4,071
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	86,896	76,862	10,034
Enabling Approaches Total	94,318	80,213	14,105
Grand Total	458,836	395,037	63,799

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

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 458,836 was allocated from the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) for the implementation of this operation. By the end of the operation, total expenditures amounted to CHF 395,037. The unspent balance of CHF 63,799 will be returned to the DREF.

The most notable variances between the budgeted and actual expenditures include: The optimization of resources achieved by the National Society, it was possible to increase the delivery of WASH and livelihood kits. In addition, given the coordination and advocacy activities carried out by the Colombian Red Cross with other institutions that make up the national disaster risk management system, it was possible to optimize resources for the transportation and treatment of water safe for human consumption in the branches.



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[Click here for reference](#)

