

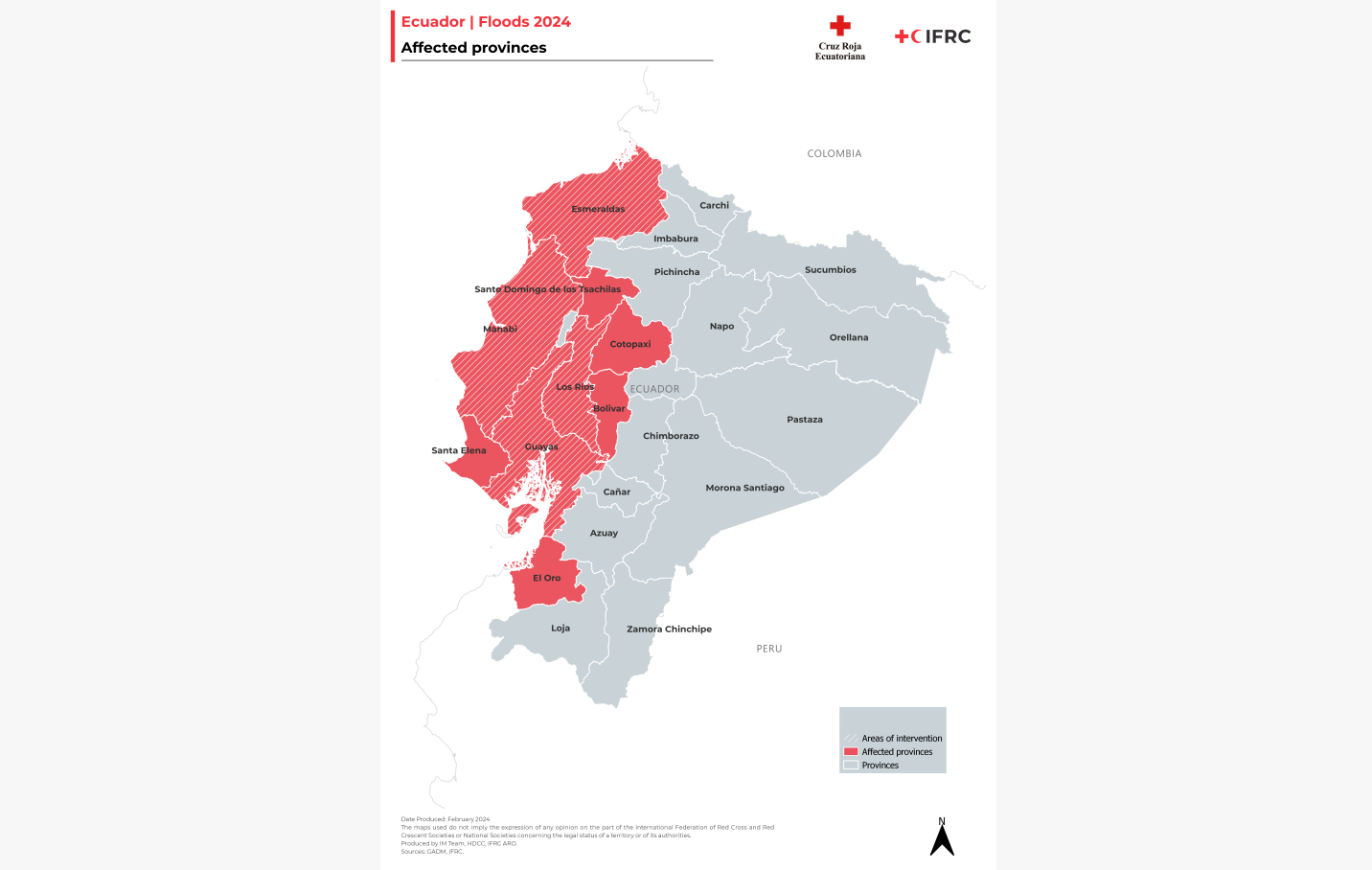


Volunteer assisting families after cash collection. Balzar, Guayas. July 2024

Appeal: MDREC026	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 486,886	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 203,340 people	People Targeted: 10,000 people	People Assisted: 24,223 people
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 08-03-2024	Operational End Date: 31-08-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 5 months
Targeted Regions: Esmeraldas, Guayas, Los Rios, Manabi			

The major donors of the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO, Mondelez International Foundation and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.

Description of the Event



Map of affected and prioritized provinces. Source: ERC

Date of event

22-02-2024

What happened, where and when?

On 22 February 2024, the Chone Canton in Manabí Province declared a State of Disaster in accordance with Article 65 of the Organic Law for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management. The declaration, effective until 22 April, was issued in response to severe flooding caused by intense rains associated with the El Niño phenomenon, which led to the collapse of the sanitation and sewerage systems, exceeding the response capacity of local authorities. On 28 February, the overflow of the Mosquito River further worsened the situation, hindering efforts to restore water and sanitation services.

This event occurred within an exceptionally intense rainy season that affected Ecuador between December 2023 and June 2024, particularly impacting the provinces of Manabí, Esmeraldas, Los Ríos, and Guayas. During this period, 1,854 hazardous events were reported, including river overflows, floods, landslides, and others.

The main impacts of the emergency included the disruption of drinking water services due to damage to distribution systems and the presence of solid waste in water sources, as well as contamination in rural areas from contact with sewage or latrines. These conditions contributed to an increase in skin, respiratory, and digestive illnesses. Additional effects included the loss of crops and livestock, temporary power and landline outages, road blockages at multiple levels, and the suspension of in-person educational activities, which were progressively resumed as floodwaters receded.

In response, the Presidency of the Republic of Ecuador issued multiple Executive Decrees declaring States of Emergency due to Public Calamity. Notably, decrees issued on 20, 21, and 23 February 2024 covered the cantons of Palestina (Guayas), Chone (Manabí), and Muisne (Esmeraldas), respectively. These decrees enabled the implementation of contingency plans, the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and coordination among different levels of government and international organizations.



To coordinate the damage assessment and delivery of assistance, the national government activated 13 Provincial Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs), 67 Cantonal EOCs, and four Parish-level EOCs between January and June 2024. At the national level, Technical Working Group No. 4, responsible for managing temporary shelters and delivering humanitarian assistance, was established to coordinate and oversee the emergency response across different levels of government. A total of 35 temporary shelters were opened, of which only four remained active by the end of June 2024 to assist people affected by subsequent rainfall events that month.



Distribution of tarpaulins. Las Pampas, Balzar, Guayas. June 2024. Source: ERC



Mattress distribution. Atacames, Gatazo, Esmeraldas. June 2024. Source: ERC



Initial Needs Assessment. Esmeraldas. May 2024. Source: ERC



EVIN survey application. Tosagua, San Roque, Manabí. May 2024. Source: ERC

Scope and Scale

Between January and June 2024, Ecuador experienced intense and persistent rainfall that triggered widespread emergencies across the country. According to the "Situation Report No. 85: Rainfall Emergency – 29 January to 20 June 2024", the last report issued by the National Risk Management Secretariat (SGR, by its Spanish acronym) on this emergency, a total of 203,340 people were affected by 1,854 hazardous events linked to the rainy season. The impact was classified as a Level 4 emergency, indicating that local capacities had been exceeded and a nationwide response was required.

The most frequent events were floods (49.57%), followed by landslides (29.23%), structural collapses (7.44%), erosion (5.07%), strong winds (3.51%), mudflows (2.75%), and land subsidence (1.19%). These events resulted in 203,340 people impacted, including 199,538 people affected and 3,802 people severely affected. In addition, there were 28 deaths, 60 injuries, 44,796 houses damaged, and 318 completely destroyed. A total of 100.70 kilometers of roads were damaged, along with various bridges and public and private properties, including significant damage to educational and healthcare infrastructure. In the agricultural sector, 22,856.31 hectares of crops were affected and 85,815 animals perished.

Impact by Province

The most affected provinces were Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos, Esmeraldas, Cotopaxi, Orellana, Bolívar, Chimborazo, and Santa Elena. In Manabí, 73,090 people were affected by 159 hazardous events, primarily due to the collapse of the sewage system, infrastructure damage, rodent infestations, and the lack of access to safe drinking water, which led to the loss of most personal belongings of the affected families. A total of 17,963 houses were damaged, including 50 destroyed; 64 schools and 11 health centres were also affected.

In Guayas, rainfall caused 305 hazardous events, including 244 floods and 29 structural collapses, impacting 56,020 people. The number of damaged houses reached 14,851, with 156 completely destroyed. The province also recorded the largest area of affected farmland in the country, with approximately 10,673.45 hectares damaged. In response, a state of emergency was declared in the cantons of Palestina, San Francisco de Milagro, and Santa Lucía between 13 and 21 February.

In Los Ríos, 156 hazardous events were recorded, including 117 floods. A total of 29,302 people were affected, 6,844 houses damaged, and 2,169 hectares of crops lost, prompting the declaration of emergency in the cantons of Valencia and Baba in early February.

In Esmeraldas, 181 hazardous events were reported, including 102 floods and 49 landslides. A total of 19,953 people were affected, including 4,244 severely. The rains damaged 3,369 homes and destroyed 40. As a result, a state of emergency was declared in the canton of Muisne on 23 February 2024.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. "Chone declared a 'disaster area' due to flooding." Source: Primicias	https://www.primicias.ec/noticias/sociedad/chone-coe-declaracion-desastre-lluvias/
2. "Situation Report No. 85 – Rainfall, from 29 January to 20 June 2024." Source: National Risk Management Secretariat	https://SitRep-No-85-Lluvias-29012024-al-20062024-1.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	In response to the emergency, the National Society deployed volunteer teams to the affected areas to support immediate health needs. These teams provided first aid services and psychosocial support in coordination with local authorities. In the province of Los Ríos, pre-hospital care was delivered to 10 individuals affected by the floods.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The IFRC, through its Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for Andean Countries maintained close coordination with the Ecuadorian Red Cross throughout the operation. Technical teams from both the CCD and the IFRC Regional Office for the Americas provided support to the National Society for the application to the DREF fund, ensured constant communication, monitored the implementation of the operation, and supported its closure and reporting. During the implementation of this operation, the country was also managing a separate DREF operation (MDRC025) in response to the Internal Security Crisis. This operation, active until July 2024, included the deployment of a telecommunications technician to support the reactivation and strengthening of the National Society's telecommunications systems at both the short and medium-term levels. This support was particularly relevant to ensure communication in areas also prioritized under the El Niño-related emergency. In parallel, an Early Action Protocol (EAP) for heavy rains associated with the El Niño phenomenon was activated in August 2023 and remained active until March 2024. Although the EAP prioritized different geographic areas than those targeted in this DREF operation, its implementation contributed to enhancing community preparedness and early action capacities.
Participating National Societies	During the emergencies associated with the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon, the Ecuadorian Red Cross received technical support and funding from the Spanish Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, and German Red Cross through the Movement ENSO Plan. This plan, developed in 2023, included a coordination module outlining support capacities, intervention areas for each partner, and cooperation mechanisms. It



also anticipated the possibility of convening a mini emergency summit in the event of a situation that exceeded the response capacities of a single mechanism.

In addition, support from the Spanish, Italian, and German Red Cross Societies was activated through the Programmatic Partnership Project (PPP), enabling the Ecuadorian Red Cross to maintain a pre-positioned stock of humanitarian assistance in strategically located warehouses. These stocks were distributed primarily in provinces not covered by the DREF operation, thereby complementing and expanding the overall humanitarian response.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), a key partner in emergency response, did not intervene directly in this operation. However, it maintained ongoing communication with the National Society's technical team, providing advice and information when requested.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	As the governmental agency responsible for disaster risk management, the National Risk Management Secretariat (SGR) led efforts to ensure the protection and well-being of individuals and communities during the emergency. Its core mandate included the development of policies and strategies aimed at strengthening national capacities to identify and reduce risks associated with various hazards, mitigate their effects, prevent the creation of new risks, and improve preparedness and response mechanisms. During the rainy season, and in coordination with local governments (Gobiernos Autónomos Descentralizados, GADs), the authorities set up 35 shelters equipped with essential services such as bathrooms, showers, dormitories, dining areas, kitchens, and medical care points to support affected populations. By the end of June, only four shelters remained active, serving communities impacted by additional rainfall episodes occurring during the second half of the year. As an intervention strategy, provincial Emergency Operations Committees (EOCs), cantonal EOCs, and one Parish Emergency Committee (COPAE, by its initials in Spanish) delivered emergency vouchers, food kits, personal hygiene items, community cleaning supplies, sleeping kits, crockery, and kitchenware, among other basic relief items, to families affected by floods, landslides, and the earthquake. In addition, the Office of the Presidency, through the SGR and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), distributed emergency cash assistance to affected families, along with food kits, personal hygiene items, cleaning supplies, sleeping kits, and kitchen utensils, complementing the national response efforts.
UN or other actors	During this operation, United Nations agencies did not launch new interventions specifically in response to the emergency. Nevertheless, through ongoing programmes, they continued providing assistance to affected families, particularly in the province of Manabí. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), which brought together the main non-governmental and UN organizations present in the country, maintained its role in monitoring the situation and preparing support plans.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

In Ecuador, disaster risk management is coordinated through the National Decentralized Risk Management System (SNDGR), which integrates governmental entities, civil society, the private sector, and communities. The National Risk Management Secretariat (SGR) leads national disaster risk management policies and strategies, while Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs) are responsible



for implementing local policies and coordinating emergency response at their respective levels.

During the floods, the SNDGR activated Emergency Operations Committees (EOCs) at parish, cantonal, provincial, and national levels, depending on the severity of the events. These committees coordinated the actions of public and private institutions, ensured that assistance was not duplicated, and served as platforms for analysis and decision-making. Their work was guided by contingency plans and early warning systems that monitored and helped prevent emerging threats. The EOC Manual established the structure of the SNDGR and outlined the coordination framework for emergencies and disasters.

The technical component of the response was made up of sectoral and territorial teams responsible for operations. This multidisciplinary body issued directives to mobilize resources, defined the necessary actions, addressed operational challenges, and identified gaps in the response to inform the political decision-making component, maintaining continuous communication with implementation teams.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) played an active role, participating in water, health, education, humanitarian assistance, productivity, and infrastructure committees at cantonal, provincial, and national levels, including those linked to international cooperation. The auxiliary role of the ERC is reinforced by the Organic Law for Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management, which mentions the National Society in three articles, facilitating its inclusion in national humanitarian interventions.

As part of this coordination framework, other key actors also contributed according to their mandates:

- Sectoral Ministries: Ministries such as the Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Transport and Public Works fulfilled specific functions in preparedness and emergency response within their respective sectors.
- Specialized Institutions: Entities such as the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI) and the Geophysical Institute of the National Polytechnic School provided technical and scientific information that was essential for risk management and decision-making.
- Response and Rescue Bodies: Fire brigades, the National Police, the Armed Forces, and the ERC assumed direct operational roles in response and rescue actions.

National Technical Working Groups (MTT)

Humanitarian Assistance:

MTT 1 – Safe water, sanitation, and waste management

MTT 2 – Health and Pre-Hospital Care (ERC as lead member)

MTT 3 – Essential basic services

MTT 4 – Temporary shelter management and humanitarian assistance (ERC as supporting member)

Complementary Assistance:

MTT 5 – Education in emergencies

MTT 6 – Livelihoods and productivity

MTT 7 – Essential infrastructure and housing

Working Groups:

WG 1 – Logistics

WG 2 – Security and control

WG 3 – Search, rescue, and lifesaving (ERC participant)

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Floods had a severe impact on housing and settlements, leaving thousands of families in urgent need of shelter and basic household items. According to the final Situation Report No. 85 – Rainfall Emergency (29 January to 20 June 2024), an estimated 44,796 houses were damaged, of which 318 were completely destroyed. Families also reported the loss or damage of household belongings, including beds, mattresses, blankets, sheets, and cleaning supplies, which further reduced their living conditions.



The main needs identified included the provision of sleeping items such as mattresses, blankets, and sheets; the removal of debris and cleaning of affected homes; and the rehabilitation of damaged housing infrastructure.

In rural areas of Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos, and Esmeraldas, where most of the affected population resided, 70–80% of houses were of mixed construction, combining cement bases with wood, blocks, or zinc sheets. Although many of these houses were raised above ground level to mitigate flooding, they remained highly vulnerable to severe events, as wood and zinc deteriorated quickly with prolonged exposure to water. The elevation of houses was often insufficient to prevent structural damage during intense flooding.

More modern houses, mainly built with cement blocks and zinc or tiles, were also at risk. In coastal areas, the use of sea sand in construction corroded metal structures more rapidly, weakening their resistance and increasing the risk of collapse. The overall vulnerability of housing was compounded by the fact that only about 30% of houses nationwide had been built according to approved plans and with quality materials.

Another need identified was access to safe temporary accommodation for families who lost their homes or lived in high-risk areas. Temporary shelters were established to host displaced families during the emergency, but in the short and medium term, these households faced the challenge of returning to their damaged homes, relocating, or rebuilding. This underscored the importance of providing tools and basic support to facilitate at least the rehabilitation of living spaces and the clearing of debris.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Floods had a devastating impact on the livelihoods of affected communities, particularly in provinces where agriculture, livestock, and tourism were the backbone of the local economy.

Agricultural production was at high risk, as crops and farmland could be destroyed, agricultural infrastructure severely damaged, and soils eroded. Such impacts would generate significant economic losses for farmers and the wider community, causing food shortages, increasing food prices, and undermining food security.

In the livestock sector, families faced the risk of losing animals due to the lack of safe pasture, drowning, or injuries during the floods. This would directly affect household economies and reduce the availability of dairy and meat products in local markets.

Tourism, another key livelihood in several provinces, was also highly vulnerable. Floods could damage hotels, restaurants, roads, bridges, and other tourism infrastructure, leading to the loss of income for communities dependent on this sector.

These economic pressures increased the likelihood that families would resort to negative coping strategies to meet their basic needs, further threatening their well-being and security.

In addition, immediate access to cash was a critical need. Disruptions to electrical and communication systems limited the use of debit/credit cards or electronic transfers, making cash the only secure means of payment for food, clean water, medicines, and shelter. Cash was also necessary to cope with supply shortages, as it would allow households to purchase goods where available. Moreover, displaced or stranded families required funds to pay for transport and evacuation to safer areas. Access to cash therefore represented a vital need, as it would enable households to respond flexibly to rapidly changing circumstances while supporting the recovery of local markets.



Health

The heavy rains had significant impacts on the health, environmental, and social sectors, affecting not only the population but also the infrastructure and equipment of health facilities. Several urgent needs were identified for short-term intervention.

High numbers of dengue cases were reported during the emergency, particularly in the provinces of Santo Domingo, Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos, Esmeraldas, and Napo. Limited availability of medical supplies led to the reduction or suspension of health services, which increased the risk of transmission of communicable diseases and the worsening of conditions among people without access to medicines for chronic or catastrophic illnesses.

First-level health facilities became saturated due to high demand, including referrals from smaller localities, which exceeded their capacity to respond. Access was further hampered by road damage and blockages caused by landslides and rising rivers, leaving health services out of reach for many communities. In Chone, for example, severe flooding forced the evacuation of patients from the Dr. Napoleón Dávila Córdova General Hospital, the Type C Health Centre, and the IESS General Hospital, after water entered the ground floors of these facilities.



Pre-hospital care needs were also acute. Injuries most frequently associated with the floods included multisystem trauma, drowning, respiratory distress, electrocution, blunt force injuries, fractures, hemorrhages, and snakebites. Limited access to health centres and hospitals due to blocked streets and roads highlighted the urgent need to strengthen local ambulance and pre-hospital care systems.

The psychological well-being of the affected population was severely impacted. Communities faced grief over the loss of relatives, homes, livelihoods, and basic services, while the broader context of insecurity in the country heightened stress, including fears of attacks in public establishments such as hospitals. Children, adolescents, and their caregivers were particularly exposed to psychosocial harm. This underlined the need for psychosocial support, grief management, and strengthened capacities of volunteers and staff to prevent and address psychological distress.

Although the official number of recorded injuries was relatively low, it was recognized that many minor injuries, such as cuts and bruises, were often left untreated during the floods and could worsen over time due to exposure to contaminated environments. Continuous monitoring and access to basic treatment for such cases were therefore essential.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Assessments in the provinces of Guayas, Manabí, Los Ríos, and Esmeraldas identified an urgent need for the rehabilitation and strengthening of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services. Access to safe water, both in quantity and quality, became a critical priority in the aftermath of the floods, as it was essential for human consumption, hygiene, and domestic cleaning.

Community water systems, managed by local Water Boards, suffered severe damage due to the collapse of infrastructure, accumulation of debris, damage to suction pumps from electrical storms, contamination of water collection points, and broken distribution pipes. These failures left many communities without reliable access to safe drinking water.

As a result, households were forced to resort to unsafe alternatives such as water from rivers contaminated with agricultural waste and rubbish, untreated rainwater collected from roofs, or water delivered by tankers but stored improperly during transport and at the household level. This situation increased the risk of gastrointestinal and skin infections, particularly among children under five, pregnant women, and older adults.

In addition to safe water, there was a need to strengthen sanitation and hygiene practices. Families required hygiene kits, cleaning supplies, and safe water storage containers. Temporary shelters and community spaces also required adequate facilities, such as sinks, showers, and toilets, to prevent the spread of disease and to ensure living conditions in line with Sphere standards.

At the community level, awareness-raising on safe household water management and hygiene practices was also identified as a priority. At the institutional level, Water Boards and local governments needed support to improve water quality testing and strengthen their contingency plans for service provision during emergencies. Finally, at the national level, the production and distribution of chlorine was recognized as an essential measure to ensure safe water treatment at the household scale.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The increase in violence across the country had further exposed communities to risks, deepening their vulnerabilities during the floods. People in affected areas faced significant challenges to their dignity, access to services, participation, and security, which became even more evident in the case of groups already at heightened risk.

Children, adolescents, pregnant women, women survivors of gender-based violence, older adults, persons with disabilities, persons with chronic illnesses, migrants in transit, persons deprived of liberty, and the LGBTIQ+ population were among those most affected. Their main needs included access to clear, accessible, and timely information on the mechanisms and services available during the emergency, as well as assistance that was adapted to their specific circumstances.

Communities consistently expressed the importance of receiving support that addressed these differentiated needs, ensuring that the humanitarian response recognized the particular risks they faced and did not exacerbate existing inequalities.



Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF Operation, the Ecuadorian Red Cross aimed to provide humanitarian assistance to 10,000 people affected by the effects of the floods in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Guayas, Manabi, and Los Rios, through the implementation of activities in the sectors of Shelter, Health, WASH, Multipurpose Cash, PGI and CEA.

By the end of the operation, the ERC reached a total of 24,223 people. This figure includes 5,564 families (approximately 22,256 people) who received in-kind assistance and 1,967 individuals who participated exclusively in health promotion and psychosocial support activities. In addition, an estimated 551,000 people were indirectly reached through the combined dissemination of edu-communication videos, social media campaigns, and radio broadcasts, which reinforced awareness on preparedness, equity, and protection.

Operation strategy rationale

The intervention strategy for this operation was designed based on the experience of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) in responding to floods and on the results of damage and needs assessments conducted on the ground. Although no national state of emergency was declared, 11 cantons declared emergencies at the local level, which required support beyond local capacities. The intervention was designed to complement the official response plans of the National Decentralized Risk Management System (SNDGR).

The planned strategy was structured around the following components:

I. Health

Reach at least 1,666 families (6,664 people) through health interventions. Provide health promotion and disease prevention with emphasis on communicable and non-communicable diseases and nutrition. Conduct health brigade visits to temporary shelters and rural areas with limited access to services. Provide psychosocial support through mental health teams to affected communities, ERC volunteers, and response staff.

II. Shelter, Housing and Settlements

Reach at least 500 families (2,000 people) through shelter assistance. Deliver tool kits, plastic sheeting, blankets, wheelbarrows, and sacks to support debris removal, land clearing, rehabilitation of partially damaged houses, and cleaning of drainage channels to reduce the risk of further flooding.

III. Multipurpose Cash

Reach at least 800 families (3,200 people) through multipurpose cash transfers. Support families whose livelihoods in agriculture and livestock were affected, as well as those facing economic difficulties due to road damages limiting access to markets. Select targeted households using the EVIN database and Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock data, validated with community leaders. Socialize the intervention proposal with community representatives to ensure participation in implementation. Provide a transfer value of CHF 260 per family, aligned with government contingency vouchers and calculated as 50% of the basic food basket. Conduct a market and feasibility study to confirm the modality and apply post-distribution monitoring surveys.

IV. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Reach at least 2,500 families (10,000 people) with WASH interventions. Deploy water purification plants and install sinks at strategic community points. Conduct awareness sessions on safe water management. Implement vector control and fumigation campaigns. Distribute impregnated mosquito nets and repellents. Produce and distribute sodium hypochlorite for household water disinfection. Disseminate key health and hygiene messages.

V. Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI)

Reach at least 100,000 people indirectly through PGI integration. Apply an intercultural, inclusive, and protective approach across all activities. Raise awareness among institutional staff and partners on gender and protection issues. Mitigate risks that may arise in shelters or during assistance distributions.

VI. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Reach at least 15,000 people indirectly through CEA activities. Maintain continuous communication with communities and key actors.



Disseminate key messages for prevention and response. Hold meetings with community leaders and conduct satisfaction surveys to gather feedback. Use social media as a mass communication tool. Develop awareness materials adapted to the local context of affected populations.

Targeting Strategy

Who was targeted by this operation?

The operation was initially planned to assist 10,000 people affected by floods in the provinces of Esmeraldas, Guayas, Manabí, and Los Ríos through activities in the sectors of Shelter, Health, WASH, Multipurpose Cash, PGI, and CEA. The target figures were established based on the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) previous experience in flood response, as follows:

- Shelter, Housing and Settlements: 2,000 people (500 families) to be reached. Each family was planned to receive one shelter toolkit, one mattress, and two tarpaulins.
- Health: 6,664 people (1,666 families) to be reached. Each family was planned to receive three mosquito nets. In addition, 1,000 people were to have access to Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS).
- Multipurpose Cash: 3,200 people (800 families) to be reached. Families supported under the shelter component were not to receive multipurpose cash transfers.
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH): 10,000 people (2,500 families) to be reached. Each family was planned to receive sodium hypochlorite and two jerrycans.

By the end of the operation, the ERC reached a total of 24,223 people. This figure includes 5,564 families (approximately 22,256 people) who received in-kind assistance and 1,967 individuals who participated exclusively in health promotion and psychosocial support activities. In addition, an estimated 551,000 people were indirectly reached through the combined dissemination of edu-communication videos, social media campaigns, and radio broadcasts, which reinforced awareness on preparedness, equity, and protection.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Priority was given to people affected by the floods whose homes or livelihoods were directly impacted by the emergency, as well as to those who lost a family member due to the disaster. Based on the experience of previous interventions, special attention was given to vulnerable groups such as women, children, older adults, and persons with disabilities, acknowledging that these groups faced higher risks and challenges in crisis situations.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) relied on its established community networks to identify these vulnerable groups and worked in close collaboration with local institutions to facilitate and strengthen the process of identifying and assisting the affected population. This inter-institutional cooperation was key to ensuring an effective and timely humanitarian response.

The following strategies were used to corroborate the lists of the selected population:

- Collection of family information through surveys conducted by the ERC or the Secretariat for Risk Management (EVIN).
- Review and validation of information with community leaders.

The vulnerability criteria used to prioritize assistance included:

- Families with destroyed or uninhabitable houses.
- Single-parent families.
- Families with at least one member with a disability.
- Families with at least one breastfeeding member.
- Families with at least one person suffering from a chronic or catastrophic illness.
- Families with at least one pregnant woman.
- Families with older adults.
- Families with children under 3 years old.



Total Assisted Population

Assisted Women	8,336	Rural	75%
Assisted Girls (under 18)	4,086	Urban	25%
Assisted Men	7,902	People with disabilities (estimated)	2.6%
Assisted Boys (under 18)	3,899		
Total Assisted Population	24,223		
Total Targeted Population	10,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

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

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Emergency operations are characterized by high levels of exposure to risk, which can cause physical, emotional, and psychosocial strain on volunteers and humanitarian personnel.	Organize and ensure deactivation sessions for volunteers and staff involved in response actions, providing spaces for rest, emotional relief, and psychosocial support to safeguard their well-being and sustain their engagement in future operations.
Volunteers and humanitarian staff were at risk of becoming collateral victims of crossfire due to insecurity in the affected areas, compromising both their safety and the effectiveness of operations.	ERC promoted awareness and compliance with safe behaviour guidelines and established clear procedures for timely reporting of security incidents, ensuring rapid adjustments to operational plans when needed.
Risks of extortion, criminal violence, and theft against volunteers and contracted staff were present during field activities, threatening their safety and the continuity of humanitarian operations.	The operational security manual was strictly applied, complemented by permanent security context monitoring. Safe conduct recommendations and the ERC safe behaviour booklet were disseminated, while continuous supervision and stress-relief sessions were organized to support volunteers and staff exposed to high-risk environments.
Traffic incidents involving vehicles used during the operation, which could endanger staff and volunteers or delay the delivery of humanitarian assistance.	Ensure that all vehicles and drivers have the required documentation. Conduct follow-up and monitoring of vehicle movements in the field in line with the Security Plan to reduce exposure to accidents and ensure rapid response in case of incidents.



Volunteers and staff may face health impacts due to exposure to hazardous conditions during emergency operations.	Promote and enforce the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) adapted to the emergency context, ensuring that all personnel are adequately protected during field activities.
ERC humanitarian personnel may face risks of sexual harassment or abuse during the operation, which could compromise their safety, dignity, and ability to continue participating in field activities.	Implement a Security Plan with clear prevention and response measures. Ensure mixed-gender team composition, avoiding all-female teams. Prior to deployment, identify the nearest Community Policing Unit (CPU) and maintain respect for operational security schedules and protocols to reduce exposure to risk.
Access to affected areas was restricted by hazards associated with the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO), including landslides, floods, structural collapses, and road damage.	Continuous monitoring of weather conditions and road infrastructure was conducted, along with permanent operational and security risk analysis to anticipate access challenges and adjust field interventions accordingly.
During emergency operations, the sensitivity of the affected population can be heightened, creating the possibility of psychological or social crises during information collection processes. Such situations may disrupt the flow of activities and the trust built with communities.	Deployed teams should include personnel specialized in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS), ensuring appropriate management of crisis situations and providing immediate support to individuals while maintaining the continuity and integrity of the operation.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

During the 2023–2024 period, Ecuador experienced a marked increase in insecurity, with high levels of violence and crime shaping the context in which the operation was implemented. Homicides accounted for around 30% of reported serious crimes, with estimated rates ranging between 14 and 18 per 100,000 inhabitants. Robberies and thefts represented approximately 40% of crimes, particularly in urban areas. Sexual violence, including rape and abuse, comprised close to 10% of reported cases and showed an upward trend, underscoring the need to strengthen reporting mechanisms and victim support. Kidnappings, although less frequent, made up about 5% of serious crimes, often associated with organized crime. Economic crimes such as fraud and scams represented another 10%, while gender-based violence, including femicides and domestic violence, accounted for approximately 5% and remained a critical concern. Drug trafficking persisted as a significant threat, closely tied to organized crime.

These dynamics particularly affected the provinces of Guayas, El Oro, Pichincha, Los Ríos, Manabí, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Esmeraldas, and Santa Elena, where both urban and rural areas experienced high levels of insecurity. Although a state of emergency declared by the Presidency in early 2024 temporarily reduced incidents due to the increased presence of the Armed Forces, risks remained high and required constant monitoring by humanitarian actors.

According to security assessments, 14 specific risks were identified, eight of which were categorized as high risk. These included the likelihood of criminal violence in intervention areas, aggression or detention of volunteers and staff, robbery, extortion, collateral exposure to crossfire or explosive devices, and health-related incidents linked to insufficient use of personal protective equipment or traffic accidents. Furthermore, violence, extortion, kidnappings, and homicides, particularly in coastal provinces, generated mistrust among communities, with some families reluctant to share personal information (such as contact details, household composition, or income) for fear of reprisals.

Within this context, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) adopted security management as a transversal element of the operation. The operational structure included the appointment of a Field Security Officer, the dissemination of safe behaviour guidelines for staff, and the enforcement of a security protocol to safeguard personnel. At the same time, ERC response teams reinforced communication on the auxiliary role of the National Society and the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement to strengthen community acceptance and facilitate safe access in high-risk areas.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	No
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Implementation



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 88,289

Targeted Persons: 2,000

Assisted Persons: 3,068

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of families receiving shelter kits (1 per family)	500	549
Number of families trained in the use of the shelter kits	500	549
Number of people receiving mattresses (1 per family)	500	641

Narrative description of achievements

I. Assessment and targeting

The ERC, in coordination with the National Secretariat for Risk Management, collected data on 7,091 families using the EVIN tool and through direct field identification. The majority of affected families were concentrated in Guayas (5,242), followed by Los Ríos (1,119) and Manabí (730). This evidence-based assessment guided the targeting process, ensuring that distributions reached the most affected households while avoiding duplication of efforts with other actors.

II. Distribution of humanitarian assistance

Distribution processes prioritized families whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged, as well as those indirectly affected by debris accumulation or structural risks. As a general standard, the ERC delivered one toolkit, one mattress, and two tarpaulins per family. In cases of severe damage or larger family size, more than one unit of each item was provided.

During the procurement process, supplier offers were lower than expected, which allowed the ERC, with IFRC's authorization, to purchase 50 additional toolkits and to increase mattresses from 500 to 700 units, while maintaining the original target of 1,000 tarpaulins. These adjustments optimized resources and expanded the coverage of the operation.

The final distributions were as follows:

Toolkits

- Guayas: 133 toolkits distributed to 133 families
- Los Ríos: 192 toolkits distributed to 192 families
- Manabí: 225 toolkits distributed to 224 families

Total: 550 toolkits delivered to 549 families

Tarpaulins

- Guayas: 216 tarpaulins distributed to 108 families
- Los Ríos: 384 tarpaulins distributed to 197 families
- Manabí: 400 tarpaulins distributed to 199 families

Total: 1,000 tarpaulins delivered to 504 families



Mattresses

- Guayas: 124 mattresses distributed to 116 families
- Los Ríos: 351 mattresses distributed to 301 families
- Manabí: 225 mattresses distributed to 224 families

Total: 700 mattresses delivered to 641 families

III. Results and impact

These distributions provided families with essential means to restore safe and dignified living conditions. Toolkits and tarpaulins were used for debris removal, cleaning of channels and streams, and the repair of homes and barns, while also helping to protect crops, water sources, and animals. Mattresses supported the recovery of basic comfort and rest.

Awareness sessions were held for at least one family representative per household, explaining the composition and use of the kits for effective recovery. At the same time, ERC volunteers organized recreational and emotional relief activities for children, creating safe spaces while their families received the humanitarian items and guidance.

This integrated approach ensured that the distributions not only covered immediate material needs but also strengthened psychosocial well-being and community resilience during the recovery phase.

Lessons Learnt

- The close coordination between the ERC and the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR) made it possible to respond quickly during the emergency, even while local procurement processes were underway and tarpaulins were being imported through the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit. The SNGR's pre-positioned stock of different types of shelter kits, distributed with the support of the ERC, ensured initial coverage of urgent needs and allowed gaps in assistance to be identified in a timely manner.
- The auxiliary role of the ERC's provincial branches was fundamental during the supply and distribution period, as their participation in data collection, community sensitization, and health support strengthened the operational response and improved coordination between humanitarian actors and affected communities.
- The operation also highlighted the importance of having strategic stocks pre-positioned at national level. Three of the five items distributed, including tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and jerrycans, were not available in-country, so they had to be imported through the regional logistics system, which extended the overall response timeframe. Having such items pre-positioned in strategic warehouses would allow for faster and more efficient reactions in future emergencies.

Challenges

- The time required for the procurement and distribution of kits, which lasted approximately two months, highlighted the importance of having humanitarian assistance pre-positioned within the National Society. In emergency contexts, delays can mean that the needs of the target population change or even become less relevant, affecting the effectiveness of the response. However, considering the auxiliary role of the ERC, this period also made it possible to identify families who had not been assisted by other actors during the initial phase of the emergency.
- Traditional procurement processes proved inefficient in emergency situations, as the time required can compromise the timeliness of the response. Based on lessons learned from this and other operations, the ERC is developing a unified emergency response procedure that incorporates a specific section on emergency procurement. This framework establishes that acquisitions should be completed within two to five days, depending on the type of goods or services required.
- Challenges were also encountered in data collection from affected families. The process relied heavily on the EVIN platform, administered by the national authority. In several areas, the high volume of information processed in the first days led to system slowdowns and frequent disruptions, which delayed the entry of assessment forms. In addition, the lack of permissions to plan directly from the field further limited the speed of the response.
- Approximately 80 per cent of the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GADs) involved used paper-based forms to collect information. This practice was mainly due to security risks and adverse weather conditions, which could damage electronic devices that in most cases belonged to participants personally. As a result, data entry was often postponed until teams returned to their bases, which in some cases led to underreporting of affected people who had been surveyed but not registered in the online database.



- Local risk management units had a limited number of technical staff in the field, which made it necessary to rely on other institutions to fill the gap in data collection. These additional actors often lacked sufficient training on information entry, which reduced the quality and reliability of the data for decision-making.

- Verification of assisted people during distributions and during data cleaning also presented challenges. Cases of homonymy in small communities, particularly in Manabí and Los Ríos, required direct verification with ERC branches. In addition, for security reasons, some people preferred not to provide exact personal data, as there were reports of threats, which complicated accurate registration.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 239,678

Targeted Persons: 3,200

Assisted Persons: 3,520

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of feasibility and market studies conducted	4	3
Number of families assisted with multipurpose cash	800	880
Number of volunteers trained in cash assistance delivery processes	97	99

Narrative description of achievements

I. Market assessment, feasibility and financial safeguards

A comprehensive market analysis was conducted in Los Ríos, Guayas, and Manabí to assess the profile of the affected population, product availability, security conditions, presence of financial providers, and potential risks. Findings guided the development of a feasibility study, which defined the modality, mechanism, and conditionality of cash transfers. The study also included a technical evaluation of financial service providers and identified institutional and programmatic risks, resulting in clear recommendations for CVA implementation.

To guarantee the security and efficiency of financial flows, the ERC conducted a banking risk assessment, evaluating institutions for their solvency and operational capacity. This step mitigated potential risks of fraud, inefficiencies, or interruptions, safeguarding project resources and strengthening confidence among beneficiaries and financial providers.

People reached through the Shelter, Housing and Settlements component in Esmeraldas did not receive multipurpose cash transfers (MPCT), as stated in the DREF Application. This decision was based on the differentiated needs identified during assessments and the prioritization of in-kind assistance for that province.

II. Beneficiary identification and validation

The collection of detailed demographic, economic, and social data allowed the precise identification of targeted families. A systematic process ensured fair and equitable resource allocation to the most vulnerable households. Additionally, validation against lists from other institutions avoided duplication, maximised coverage, and ensured equitable access to assistance.

III. Distribution of cash transfers

Initially, the CVA plan targeted 800 families; however, due to a favourable exchange rate differential, the ERC technical team proposed expanding coverage to 880 families. This update to the original plan was approved by the IFRC, optimising available resources and enabling additional households to be reached.

Each selected family received a transfer of USD 260 to cover urgent needs. This amount was calculated considering 50 per cent of the



basic food basket and was aligned with the contingency voucher provided by the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) in emergency contexts, in order to establish a standard of care and prevent community tensions related to differential levels of assistance.

The distribution of banking codes was implemented smoothly, ensuring that financial assistance was delivered safely and on time. In total, 880 families (approximately 3,520 people) were reached through multipurpose cash transfers (MPCT).

Deliveries by province were as follows:

- Los Ríos: 400 families
- Guayas: 240 families
- Manabí: 240 families

IV. Post-distribution monitoring (PDM)

A follow-up survey provided key evidence of the impact of CVA assistance. Results showed that 96% of families reported improvements in their household economy (somewhat or significantly), and 94% confirmed that the cash covered their most urgent needs.

The majority of funds were used for food and health expenses, followed by utilities, education, and livelihood investments. A smaller share was used for debt repayment, medical procedures, or family support. Importantly, 96% of respondents confirmed that items were available in local markets, though 58% perceived moderate to high price increases. Families avoided taking on new debts or selling assets, and in some cases were able to save or reinvest in livelihoods.

V. Volunteer participation and capacity building

A total of 99 volunteers from provincial branches in Manabí, Los Ríos, and Guayas were engaged in beneficiary selection, implementation, and follow-up of CVA activities. Volunteers received specialised training on cash transfer programmes, and the ERC promoted exchange opportunities, mobilising volunteers across provinces to strengthen their knowledge in practical CVA activities.

Distribution of volunteer participation included:

- Guayas: 32
 - Los Ríos: 24
 - Manabí: 35
 - Azuay: 1 (internship in Manabí)
 - Carchi: 1 (internship in Manabí)
 - Imbabura: 1 (internship in Manabí)
 - Loja: 2 (internship in Guayas)
 - Pichincha: 2 (internship in Guayas)
 - Santo Domingo: 1 (internship in Manabí)
- Total volunteers engaged: 99

Lessons Learnt

- Volunteer internships proved highly effective in reinforcing theoretical knowledge through practice, preparing volunteers to face diverse situations. Prior training expedited their role in distribution processes, while inter-provincial exchanges allowed them to adapt their skills to new contexts. Deployments were conducted with prior approval from both the sending and receiving branches, ensuring clarity of roles and responsibilities.

- Adaptability in emergency contexts was key to operational success, enabling the ERC to adjust actions according to changing needs on the ground.

- The use of advanced technologies enhanced efficiency and accuracy in aid distribution, particularly through the digitalization of processes.

- Clear and effective communication at all levels of the operation was essential to ensure coordination and success of interventions.

- Continuous evaluation and planning helped anticipate potential problems, supported efficient volunteer performance, and fostered a positive working environment.

- Ongoing training was fundamental to maintaining a motivated and skilled team, capable of responding effectively in crisis situations.



- Separating the staff responsible for CVA distribution from those managing other forms of assistance (such as kits) was identified as a good practice to optimize processes and resources.
- Cash assistance allowed households to avoid adopting harmful coping strategies, such as selling assets or resorting to migration.
- Involving communities throughout the programme cycle (from selection to distribution and monitoring) increased acceptance and strengthened compliance with programme objectives.
- Conducting a detailed and accurate analysis of population needs required time but proved essential to minimize errors and ensure the effectiveness of the intervention.

Challenges

- Some selected communities were located an average of two hours from provincial capitals, creating logistical and time constraints for distribution. These conditions limited efficiency and required additional planning, but the ERC adapted logistics to ensure that families still received assistance.
- Although beneficiary participation was expected during the cash distribution process, unforeseen circumstances often prevented the presence of the primary recipients. To overcome this challenge, distribution teams travelled directly to households to deliver the assistance, ensuring that all entitled families received their transfers.



Budget: CHF 36,934
Targeted Persons: 6,664
Assisted Persons: 9,024
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people receiving MHPSS	1,000	1,677
Number of people receiving health promotion	1,000	2,256
Number of families receiving mosquito nets	1,666	2,079
Number of people trained on vector-borne disease prevention	100	147
Number of people supported in evacuation or rescue	100	153

Narrative description of achievements

I. Prehospital care and rescue

During the first weeks of the emergency, prehospital care and search and rescue teams of the Ecuadorian Red Cross (the ERC) deployed 24 technicians in rotating shifts with 4 ambulances and support points, in addition to 6 aquatic rescue technicians, to assist the population affected or trapped in flood-risk areas.

- Manabí: 1 ambulance, 1 boat, 25 prehospital care cases, 8 rescue actions
- Guayas: 1 ambulance, 1 boat, 93 prehospital care cases, 12 rescue actions
- Los Ríos: 1 ambulance, no boats, 0 rescues reported
- Esmeraldas: 1 ambulance, 1 boat, 35 prehospital care cases, 3 rescue actions



Total: 4 ambulances, 3 boats, 153 prehospital cases, 23 rescue actions

By type of attention:

- 7 road traffic accidents
- 10 poisonings / intoxications
- 20 multiple traumas
- 83 medical emergencies
- 3 gynaecological emergencies
- 30 secondary transports

By sex:

- Men: 53% (81)
- Women: 47% (72)

Prehospital and rescue actions were complementary: evacuations and first aid were jointly executed, resulting in 23 combined cases, mainly trauma (20) and gynaecological emergencies (3). To replenish essential consumables, the ERC procured and distributed disposable medical materials (gauze, masks, latex gloves, tape) to provincial branches. In addition, 48 life jackets were delivered to three branches with rescue boats, ensuring both volunteer safety and protection of evacuated populations. These actions enabled timely life-saving care and stabilisation of patients, while strengthening community trust in the emergency response.

II. Health promotion and vector control

As part of the health promotion strategy, the ERC distributed mosquito nets as a culturally accepted and trusted measure for communities to prevent diseases such as dengue and malaria. Although not a full barrier against mosquito bites, their strong social acceptance reinforced prevention practices and increased community protection.

- Esmeraldas: 434 mosquito nets delivered to 186 families (approx. 744 people)
- Manabí: 2,030 mosquito nets delivered to 710 families (approx. 2,840 people)
- Guayas: 1,134 mosquito nets delivered to 502 families (approx. 2,008 people)
- Los Ríos: 1,402 mosquito nets delivered to 681 families (approx. 2,724 people)

Total: 5,000 mosquito nets delivered to 2,079 families (approx. 8,316 people)

Alongside distributions, the ERC organized community awareness campaigns and fumigation actions to reduce the spread of vector-borne diseases. 2,256 people across 13 cantons participated in sessions on hygiene, sanitation, safe food handling, and vector control. Educational materials were disseminated on waterborne diseases, skin infections, wound care, cross-contamination of food, respiratory infections, mental health impacts, and safe practices. These combined measures strengthened the capacity of communities to prevent mosquito-borne and waterborne diseases, reducing the risk of outbreaks in areas already exposed to flooding.

III. Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)

The ERC implemented MHPSS activities that reached 1,677 people, using recreational, didactic, and artistic methods such as games, dances, safe spaces, stress-management exercises, and creative expression (painting, drawing). Care and self-care strategies for volunteers were also promoted to safeguard their physical and emotional wellbeing, ensuring resilience and sustained performance in high-stress contexts.

The ERC additionally procured and distributed MHPSS kits with educational, recreational, and creative materials to provincial teams, enabling structured psychosocial interventions at community level. These actions offered safe spaces for emotional relief and reinforced coping mechanisms among flood-affected communities, while protecting the wellbeing of volunteers and ensuring continuity in the response.

IV. Capacity-building in health

Four training sessions on vector-borne disease prevention and food safety were delivered to volunteers in Manabí, Los Ríos, Guayas, and Esmeraldas, covering determinants of endemic diseases, best practices in food handling, and outbreak prevention. In Esmeraldas, replication workshops were organised with community leaders.

Total participants: 147 (47 men, 100 women) distributed as follows:

- Esmeraldas - ERC team: 5 participants (1 man, 4 women)



- Esmeraldas – community replication: 108 participants (30 men, 78 women)
- Manabí: 15 participants (6 men, 9 women)
- Guayas: 10 participants (6 men, 4 women)
- Los Ríos: 9 participants (4 men, 5 women)

This process ensured that technical knowledge on disease prevention and safe food handling was not only retained by volunteers but also transferred to community members, creating a multiplier effect that increased resilience at local level.

Lessons Learnt

- Continuous training and preparation of personnel proved essential to maintain the quality of prehospital care, support in evacuation, and aquatic rescue during the first hours of an emergency, while ensuring that teams were equipped with both protective gear and the necessary response materials.
- Adapting edu-communication materials and products to the sociocultural characteristics of each community was key to ensuring their acceptance and effectiveness during awareness activities. The integration of mental health services into humanitarian operations also emerged as a priority, enabling attention to the emotional wellbeing of affected populations.
- Adequate materials for recreational and therapeutic activities should be carefully designed to respond to the specific needs of the population, ensuring that interventions in mental health and psychosocial support are contextually relevant and impactful.
- The distribution of mosquito nets facilitated the access of technical teams to remote communities, as these items are strongly associated with preparedness and self-care by the population, which in turn reinforced a broader culture of self-protection and community empowerment.

Challenges

- The lack of technical resources and logistical limitations in remote areas made it difficult to ensure a rapid response. Constraints related to access, accommodation, food, and the acquisition of materials for the deployment of specialized equipment delayed the capacity to act immediately in certain locations.
- Guaranteeing the correct use of mosquito nets by the population was a recurring challenge. While their distribution is fundamental for the prevention of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, Zika, Chikungunya, and malaria, their impact depends directly on whether families install and use them appropriately in their daily routines. Although most families were familiar with their purpose, some cases were identified where mosquito nets were not installed correctly or were repurposed for other uses, such as protecting crops or covering animals. This reduced their effectiveness as a health prevention measure. Factors such as insufficient information, cultural barriers, inadequate housing structures (e.g., low ceilings or lack of hanging points), or the perception that mosquitoes are not a threat during certain seasons contributed to this issue. Addressing this challenge requires community education and awareness strategies, practical demonstrations, and clear information about health risks, though such follow-up is often difficult to sustain during emergency contexts.
- Social stigma surrounding mental health limited participation in psychosocial support activities. For some community members, these services were perceived as being intended only for people with a “lack of character,” while for others, livelihood recovery was considered more urgent during the emergency. These perceptions reduced the visibility and acceptance of mental health interventions, highlighting the need to strengthen sensitization and advocacy on the importance of emotional wellbeing as part of humanitarian response.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 44,810

Targeted Persons: 10,000

Assisted Persons: 16,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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Number of families receiving sodium hypochlorite	2,500	4,000
Number of families receiving Jerrycans (2 per family)	2,500	2,570
Staff trained in WASH	25	44
Number of litres of safe water produced per day	500	500

Narrative description of achievements

I. Distribution of jerrycans

The ERC procured 5,000 jerrycans through the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit for safe water collection and storage. These were distributed to 2,570 families in affected communities, with an average of two jerrycans per household. In some cases, families with larger size or greater storage needs received additional units to ensure sufficient safe water capacity.

Distribution by province:

- Esmeraldas: 480 jerrycans, 235 families
- Guayas: 1,134 jerrycans, 502 families
- Los Ríos: 1,176 jerrycans, 817 families
- Manabí: 2,210 jerrycans, 1,016 families

Total distributed: 5,000 jerrycans to 2,570 families

II. Production and distribution of sodium hypochlorite

The ERC ensured the production and distribution of sodium hypochlorite for household and community-level water treatment. This included awareness campaigns on its safe use for drinking water disinfection. Approximately 4,000 litres of sodium hypochlorite were produced and distributed, at an estimated 1 litre per family, according to demand.

The distribution by province was:

- Guayas: ≈242 families
- Esmeraldas: ≈357 families
- Los Ríos: ≈463 families
- Manabí: ≈2,938 families
- Total: ≈4,000 litres distributed to 4,000 families

- To strengthen this process, four new chlorinators were acquired and delivered to provincial branches in Chone and Tosagua (Manabí), Babahoyo (Los Ríos), and Muisne (Esmeraldas), complementing the older equipment available in provincial headquarters.

III. Installation of a water treatment plant

A new water treatment plant was installed in Chone, Manabí, equipped with technology for purification and safe water production.

- The process included design, assembly, commissioning, and training of local staff for its operation and maintenance.
- During its deployment, the plant produced an average of 500 litres of water, distributed to approximately 666 families, with each household receiving an average of 12 litres depending on need and delivery frequency.

IV. Hygiene promotion and community awareness

Hygiene promotion campaigns were conducted jointly with health promotion teams, focusing on the importance of safe water and hygiene practices to prevent waterborne diseases.

- These sessions were held in coordination with community leaders, achieving broad participation and community awareness.
- The integration of WASH messaging with health and protection activities reinforced behavioural change and safe practices at household level.

These combined interventions played a decisive role in reducing health risks during the floods, when water sources were contaminated, and communities faced severe disruptions in their access to safe water. By ensuring household-level storage, providing disinfection solutions, and installing treatment capacity, the ERC safeguarded the immediate health of thousands of affected families.



V. Technical training

A technical refresher workshop on WASH was organized for 44 participants from provincial and cantonal branches.

- Participants included staff and volunteers from Junín in Manabí (15) and from Nobol, Milagro, Durán, Bolívar, Salitre, Daule, Playas, El Empalme, and Guayaquil in Guayas (29).
- The training covered key concepts of WASH, safe water and waterborne diseases, sanitation, excreta control, vector control, and hygiene promotion.

Lessons Learnt

- The timely distribution of jerrycans and sodium hypochlorite was crucial to ensure immediate access to safe water. However, it was learned that stronger logistical planning and closer coordination with local communities can further optimize distribution, ensuring faster delivery of supplies to the most affected areas.
- While the distribution of sodium hypochlorite was effective, there is a need to improve training on its safe and proper use. Increasing community participation in these sessions could minimize misuse and ensure more effective household water treatment.
- The installation of the water treatment plant proved to be an effective short- and long-term solution. Nevertheless, continuous training of local technical staff is essential to guarantee the sustainability of the system, especially in remote areas where external technical support may be limited.
- Awareness campaigns demonstrated that actively involving communities, particularly local leaders, facilitates the adoption of hygiene practices. However, it is crucial to develop more interactive educational materials tailored to the needs and literacy levels of the communities to ensure better information retention.
- Technical refresher workshops on WASH highlighted the importance of staying updated on best practices and technological advances in water management. It was also learned that increasing the frequency of these workshops and creating spaces for knowledge exchange between communities and professionals can promote more effective implementation of these practices.

Challenges

- Despite the efforts made, distributing jerrycans and other supplies to hard-to-reach communities represented a significant logistical challenge. Delays caused by adverse weather conditions and limited infrastructure highlighted the need for stronger logistical planning and alternative delivery mechanisms to ensure timely access in these areas.
- Ensuring the financial sustainability of the water treatment plant remains a challenge. A long-term economic plan involving both the community and local authorities is required to guarantee the plant's proper functioning without relying exclusively on external assistance.
- Although initial awareness campaigns were successful, maintaining long-term community participation proved difficult. Local customs and resistance to behavioural change in some areas limited the continued adoption of recommended hygiene practices.
- Guaranteeing that local personnel have the technical competencies to operate and maintain the treatment plant and other WASH systems is essential but challenging. Regular training and structured follow-up programmes are needed to ensure that technical staff maintain updated skills.
- One of the major challenges was the availability and allocation of funds for the ongoing implementation of WASH initiatives. As needs increased, competition for financial resources also grew, requiring a continuous search for new funding sources to ensure programme sustainability.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 3,195

Targeted Persons: 100,000

Assisted Persons: 551,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers trained on the PGI approach	50	78
Number of people indirectly reached by dissemination of key messages with PGI approach	100,000	552,000

Narrative description of achievements

I. Key messages and promotion through social media

The ERC developed and disseminated culturally adapted messages on PGI through Facebook, Twitter/X, and Instagram. Three posts were promoted between 17 June and 16 July 2024, focusing on emergency backpack preparedness, child risk prevention, and humanitarian assistance. These were designed to reach people between 18 and 60 years old across different devices.

Social media campaign results:

- Post 1 – Emergency backpack campaign: 220,442 impressions; 18,767 engagements
- Post 2 – Child risk prevention campaign: 193,982 impressions; 17,489 engagements
- Post 3 – Humanitarian assistance and risk prevention: 168,047 impressions; 19,692 engagements

Total: 582,471 impressions and 55,948 engagements. Thus, the campaign achieved an estimated 55,948 unique people reached, using interactions as a proxy for effective digital reach.

Posts:

<https://www.facebook.com/cruzrojaecuadorianacre/videos/371160109308831>
<https://x.com/cruzrojaecuador/status/1801947773983732096>
<https://x.com/cruzrojaecuador/status/1802506449832345681>

II. Key messages through radio broadcasting

In parallel, a 30-day radio campaign was conducted to broadcast protection and awareness key messages tailored to local audiences. Although primarily targeted at Esmeraldas, Los Ríos, Guayas, and Manabí, the broadcasts were also received in neighbouring provinces, expanding the impact of the intervention beyond the direct operation areas.

The expected reach corresponds to the total population of each province, while penetration refers to the estimated number of people who actually listened to and recalled the radio messages.

Distribution by province:

- Esmeraldas: reach 553,900 | penetration 34,563
- Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas: reach 462,469 | penetration 28,858
- Los Ríos: reach 898,652 | penetration 105,142
- El Oro: reach 714,592 | penetration 83,607
- Guayas: reach 462,969 | penetration 54,167
- Loja: reach 485,421 | penetration 23,809
- Azuay: reach 801,609 | penetration 93,788
- Bolívar: reach 199,078 | penetration 23,292
- Manabí: reach 1,592,840 | penetration 186,362

Total:

- Combined potential audience (reach): 6,171,530 people
- Total penetration reach: 633,588 people

The radio campaign therefore covered an estimated potential audience of over 6.17 million people across nine provinces, achieving an effective penetration of approximately 633,600 people who listened to and retained the PGI key messages during the broadcasting



period.

III. Capacity building on PGI and PSEA

Two webinars were implemented under the title “Rights-Based Approach for the Ecuadorian Red Cross and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) in Humanitarian Action.” A total of 78 participants were trained, including 67 volunteers and 11 staff members (54 women and 24 men). The sessions provided practical tools to strengthen the understanding of rights-based approaches and the implications of sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian contexts.

Participation came from 18 of the 24 provincial branches, demonstrating broad territorial coverage even beyond the DREF intervention areas. The breakdown was as follows:

- Sucumbíos: 1
- Manabí: 4
- Bolívar: 1
- Zamora Chinchipe: 4
- Guayas: 6
- Santo Domingo: 1
- Santa Elena: 1
- Orellana: 1
- Galápagos: 1
- Esmeraldas: 2
- Napo: 1
- Pichincha: 1
- Azuay: 7
- Pastaza: 2
- Tungurahua: 1
- Chimborazo: 2
- Cotopaxi: 5
- El Oro: 26
- National Headquarters: 11
- Total: 78

These webinars provided an accessible platform for volunteers and staff from across the country, enhancing institutional knowledge on PGI and PSEA and ensuring that future responses integrate inclusive and protective practices more systematically.

IV. Combined communication reach

By combining the estimated digital reach from social media interactions (55,948 people) with the 633,588 people reached through radio broadcasting, and applying a 20 per cent overlap adjustment between both audiences, the overall communication strategy is estimated to have reached approximately 551,000 unique people across the country.

This figure reflects the extensive dissemination and recall of PGI key messages in nine provinces, demonstrating the effectiveness of integrating traditional and digital communication channels to promote awareness, inclusion, and protection at the community level.

Lessons Learnt

- Adapting messages to the cultural and linguistic particularities of each community is key to increasing their effectiveness and ensuring that the PGI approach is understood and applied by the population.
- Using multiple dissemination channels (digital and community-based) significantly broadens the reach and effectiveness of messages, ensuring that they reach the most vulnerable groups.
- Real-time interaction and feedback during virtual sessions enrich the learning process, allowing content to be adapted to participants' needs and improving understanding of the PGI approach.

Challenges

- Reaching the most remote communities proved challenging, as limited access to technology and communication channels restricted the dissemination of PGI messages, reducing their effectiveness in areas with low connectivity.



- Sustaining active participation during extended virtual sessions was difficult, particularly in provinces with unstable internet connections or technological limitations, which affected the continuity of learning and interaction on PGI and PSEA topics.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 3,195

Targeted Persons: 15,000

Assisted Persons: 11,200

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people directly reached through the implementation of feedback mechanisms	200	704
Number of people indirectly reached with communication strategy with CEA approach	15,000	11,200

Narrative description of achievements

I. Strengthening staff capacity

The ERC strengthened its internal capacity on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) by updating staff knowledge and skills, improving their ability to interact and communicate effectively and to promote open dialogue adapted to community needs. As part of this process, 19 people were trained in a Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop facilitated by the IFRC. Participants included 11 members from provincial branches mobilized to support affected areas (Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos, Azuay, El Oro, Imbabura, Napo, Pastaza, Pichincha, and Santa Elena) and 8 from National Headquarters.

The training focused on the use of evidence-based data to strengthen community feedback mechanisms, covering tools for data collection, analysis, tabulation, and translation into concrete action plans. This approach enables the closure of the feedback loop, improves the quality of interventions, and ensures more relevant responses.

II. Establishing community feedback channels

Two community feedback channels were established: physical suggestion boxes and QR codes. These mechanisms facilitated the collection of community concerns, comments, and suggestions, allowing real-time adjustments to interventions.

- A total of 704 satisfaction surveys were conducted, including a dedicated feedback section. Respondents were asked about the quality of products or services received, the relevance of information provided, and respectful treatment by ERC staff.
- Results showed that 97.3% of respondents were satisfied with the activities.
- Feedback included 79.52% positive comments, 16.12% information requests, and 4.36% suggestions.
- Among the most common requests was clarification on criteria for accessing Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), which was promptly addressed.
- One recorded comment noted: "There were rumors about favoritism in the selection of beneficiaries, although later it was clarified that this was not the case," highlighting the importance of keeping communication channels open and transparent.

III. Communication and community preparedness

The ERC produced and disseminated a video with key messages on preparedness for floods, landslides, and earthquakes, developed with a CEA approach. The video was shared through the official social media accounts of the provincial branches in Esmeraldas, Guayas, Manabí, and Los Ríos.

- Reach: Twitter/X 6,960, Facebook 3,813, Instagram 5,228.
- The impact was measured using engagement metrics such as views, reactions, and shares, which were monitored by the institutional



communications team.

- An approximate total reach of 11,200 people is being considered for the dissemination of the video, applying a 30% adjustment factor to account for possible duplication across social media platforms.

Lessons Learnt

- Regularly updating staff on the CEA approach reinforces their ability to communicate effectively, leading to a better understanding of community needs and fostering stronger trust-based relationships.

- Actively listening to communities improves mutual trust and ensures that interventions are more relevant and better adapted to people's actual needs.

- Disseminating clear and accessible messages enhances communities' capacity to respond to emergencies, reducing risks and potential losses.

Challenges

- Ensuring continuous staff training on the CEA approach proved challenging in some provinces, particularly in remote areas where limited access to capacity-building opportunities restricted the participation of volunteers.

- Maintaining community feedback channels active and accessible was difficult in rural areas or places with low connectivity, where communities had fewer opportunities to share their concerns and suggestions in real time.

- Reaching the most isolated communities or those with low literacy levels limited the effectiveness of written messages, creating barriers to ensuring that all households received and understood the information provided.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 6,358

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of monitoring visits made during the operation	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

A monitoring visit was carried out by the Programs and Operations Coordinator of the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for the Andean Countries to support the closure process of the operation and to participate in the Lessons Learned Workshop. This accompaniment reinforced the quality assurance of the operation and ensured that the experiences gathered were integrated into the institutional learning process.

Lessons Learnt

The lessons learned were systematically incorporated within each of the operational components, providing a cross-cutting perspective that strengthened the overall accountability and relevance of the response.

Challenges

The security context limited the possibility of conducting more frequent monitoring visits. Nevertheless, continuous communication between the Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) and the IFRC was maintained throughout the operation to resolve queries and receive technical



support, ensuring operational oversight despite mobility constraints.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 64,427

Targeted Persons: 0

Assisted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers and staff with security and identification equipment	240	240
Lessons learned workshop	1	1

Narrative description of achievements

I. Strengthening volunteer safety and visibility

The ERC distributed personal protection equipment and uniforms, which significantly improved the visibility and safety of volunteers deployed in the response. This investment increased the confidence of staff in the field and contributed to safer and more efficient operations. Building on the 2023 DREF for evaluation and response, which had provided similar equipment to provincial headquarters, the 2024 operation complemented these capacities by extending the delivery to additional branches that played an active role in the emergency.

- Manabí (Chone, Puerto López, Tosagua): 95 caps, 95 t-shirts, 125 vests, 30 boots, 16 raincoats
- Guayas (Playas, Balzar): 95 caps, 95 t-shirts, 125 vests, 30 boots, 16 raincoats
- Los Ríos (Babahoyo, Montalvo): 20 caps, 20 t-shirts, 40 vests, 10 boots, 5 raincoats
- Esmeraldas (Muisne): 30 caps, 30 t-shirts, 60 vests, 10 boots, 11 raincoats
- Total delivered: 240 caps, 240 t-shirts, 350 vests, 80 boots, and 48 raincoats across four provinces and eight cantons.

II. Technical reinforcement in the field

To strengthen operational capacity, the ERC hired one coordinator and one technical officer based in two of the intervention provinces, with planned visits and direct support to the other provinces. This arrangement improved the efficiency of the response and ensured close technical accompaniment to provincial branches, contributing directly to the fulfilment of operational objectives.

III. Monitoring and adaptive management

A system of continuous monitoring was implemented, which allowed the project team to adapt activities in real time. This approach improved transparency and strengthened the effectiveness of the operation by ensuring that resources and interventions were aligned with evolving needs.

IV. Institutional learning and knowledge sharing

A lessons learned workshop was organized in Quito with the participation of 30 representatives, including 18 from the four provinces, one from the National Headquarters, and the Programmes and Operations Coordinator of the IFRC's CCD for the Andean Countries. The workshop provided a structured space to reflect on experiences, identify good practices, and discuss challenges across key areas of the response, including humanitarian distributions, cash and voucher assistance, mental health and psychosocial support, health promotion, water and sanitation, protection and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability.

The workshop not only optimized decision-making during the operation but also generated actionable recommendations that will guide the ERC in designing and delivering stronger interventions in the future.



Lessons Learnt

I. Volunteer protection and visibility

The identification and safety of personnel through uniforms and protective equipment improved both confidence and security in the field, reinforcing the importance of investing in volunteer protection as a cornerstone for effective operations.

II. Technical expertise in the field

Having specialized technical staff is essential to guarantee the quality and efficiency of projects. The incorporation of a coordinator and a technical officer in this operation proved that dedicated expertise strengthens operational performance and provides closer support to branches.

III. Continuous monitoring and adaptive management

A system of continuous monitoring allows activities to be adjusted and improved in real time. This approach not only increases effectiveness but also reinforces accountability and transparency throughout the operation.

IV. Institutional learning and local ownership

The lessons learned workshop emphasized the importance of planning and coordination with local actors. Key recommendations identified during the event included:

- Socializing projects in advance, prior to implementation.
- Securing timely approval to confirm activities on schedule.
- Building consensus and dialogue at local level with all actors involved.
- Incorporating the priorities and needs of local actors into project formulation.

Challenges

- The timely distribution of protective equipment in remote areas was complicated by high transportation costs during the emergency, as vehicle access was delayed due to road blockages.
- Because the uniforms and equipment required time to be manufactured, they were delivered later as replacements to provincial branches, renewing the items that had been immediately used by personnel during the first phase of the response.



Financial Report

DREF Operation

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

MDREC026 - Ecuador - Floods

Operating Timeframe: 08 mar 2024 to 31 ago 2024

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2024/3-2025/6	Operation	MDREC026
Budget Timeframe	2024/3-2024/8	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 23/Jul/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	486.886
DREF Response Pillar	486.886
Expenditure	-471.326
Closing Balance	15.560

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items	82.900	103.719	-20.819
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	143.890	232.586	-88.696
PO04 - Health	34.680		34.680
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	42.075	55.135	-13.060
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion	3.000	3.411	-411
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	110.876	99	110.778
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability	3.000	3.368	-368
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	420.421	398.318	22.103
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships			0
EA02 - Secretariat Services	5.970	3.013	2.957
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	60.495	69.996	-9.501
Enabling Approaches Total	66.465	73.009	-6.544
Grand Total	486.886	471.326	15.560

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

Please explain variances (if any)

A total of CHF 486,886 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 471,326. The unspent balance of CHF 15,560 will be returned to the DREF.

The most notable variances between budgeted and actual expenditures included favourable exchange rates, which allowed the purchase of more items than originally planned. While the initial budget covered 500 mattresses, a total of 700 were procured after verifying the needs of the affected population. Similarly, the procurement process for toolkits resulted in lower unit costs than budgeted, enabling the acquisition of 50 additional kits beyond the original target. In addition, the favourable exchange rate also made it possible to expand the



cash transfer programme, increasing coverage from the initially planned 800 households to a total of 880 households reached.

Financial Note: While the total expenditure in the financial report is accurate, the breakdown by planned operations and enabling approaches may contain approximate figures due to recent updates in IFRC's ERP system.



Contact Information

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[Click here for reference](#)

