

EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL ANNUAL REPORT

Costa Rica | Volcanic Ash

April 2025



Monitoring and follow-up carried out by technical teams of the Costa Rican Red Cross in response to increased volcanic activity at Poás Volcano. April 2024. Source: CRRC

EAP No: EAP2022CR01	Period covered by this annual report: 21/06/2022 to 31/12/2024
EAP approved: 21/06/2022	EAP timeframe: 5 Years

Annual budget (year 1 to 3): 240,036 CHF
Total EAP Budget: 383,103 CHF

SUMMARY OF THE EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL



Volcanic activity at Poás Volcano, located in Costa Rica's Central Mountain Range. April 2024. Source: Swissinfo.

The IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) has allocated a total of CHF 383,103 to support anticipatory actions aimed at reducing the impact of volcanic ash in Costa Rica. This allocation is divided into: CHF 254,568 annual readiness activities and prepositioning of supplies, and CHF 128,535 for early actions that will be triggered when specific conditions are met.

Over the first three-year implementation period, the budget is distributed as follows:

- **Year 1:** CHF 81,386 for readiness activities and CHF 114,118 for prepositioning supplies.
- **Year 2:** CHF 7,266 for readiness.
- **Year 3:** CHF 7,266 for readiness.

The early actions to be carried out have been pre-agreed with the National Society and are outlined in the Early Action Protocol summary: <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=552529>.

In compliance with the new guidelines established by the IFRC for Early Action Protocols (EAPs), this annual report exceptionally consolidates information covering the 2022–2024 period. This approach responds to the fact that annual reports were not published in previous years. Therefore, this report summarizes the readiness and prepositioning activities done in years 1, 2 and 3, covering the period **21/06/2022 to 31/12/2024**.

In the **Livelihoods and Basic Needs** sector, 450 humanitarian cards were pre-positioned in 2022. Between 2023 and 2024, technical and institutional preparedness was strengthened through community censuses, coordination with local authorities, validation of the cash delivery mechanism, and the development of a feasibility study endorsed by the IFRC. In the **Health** sector, communication campaign services were contracted, and 20,000 units of personal protective equipment (PPE) were procured for populations exposed to volcanic ash. In **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**, 5-gallon water containers and household cleaning kits (brooms) were acquired and are also planned for pre-positioning in strategic warehouses. Regarding **National Society Strengthening**, multiple monitoring visits, technical meetings, and coordination efforts were carried out with branches located in high-risk volcanic areas, in addition to PPE pre-positioning for National Society personnel.

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL PROGRESS BY AREA OF FOCUS

 Livelihoods and basic needs	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	1,150	0
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	0	0

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

2022 – Pre-positioning

In 2022 October, the procurement of 450 humanitarian cards for the Cash Transfer Program (CTP) was completed through Purchase Order No. OC0037363, issued on 8 September. These cards were pre-positioned and are currently held in custody by the National Society for immediate use in the event of the Early Action Protocol (EAP) activation.

2023 – Technical and Community Preparedness

Throughout 2023, various institutional and community-based preparedness actions were carried out to ensure readiness in the event of EAP activation. These efforts focused on coordination, community engagement, and technical validation of the cash delivery mechanism:

Inter-institutional coordination:

- 25 April: Meeting with the National Bank of Costa Rica to discuss procedures for the activation and use of humanitarian cards.
- 3 May: Follow-up session where a new technical modality for card loading and control was presented, using a platform operated by the Costa Rican Red Cross.

Community preparedness and awareness:

- 6 June: Community session in Dos Ríos de Upala focused on volcanic risk and an introduction to the EAP. The Community Emergency Plan was reviewed and updated, and evacuation drills were conducted.
- 13 June: Activities in Curubandé, Liberia, including a review of the Community Emergency Plan and sessions on preparedness for volcanic emergencies.

Operational coordination and monitoring:

- 12 June: Meeting with the communications company contracted to implement public information campaigns, which would be launched upon activation of Trigger 1.
- 13 June: Field visit with the National Risk Directorate's operations team to assess and monitor the area around Rincón de la Vieja volcano.

During this period, the staff member in charge of the EAP within the National Society was replaced, prompting a transition process that was supported by IFRC to ensure operational continuity.

2024 – Advanced Readiness and Feasibility Study

In 2024, community preparedness and EAP readiness actions were intensified, with a focus on population census activities, community engagement, and technical validation of the cash transfer component:

Community engagement and census activities:

- August–September: Meetings with local development associations and population census activities were carried out in high-risk communities including El Castillo (San Carlos), San Gerardo (Cartago), Poásito (Alajuela), Dos Ríos (Upala), Los Ángeles, Las Lilas, and Berlín (Guanacaste), among others.
- 3 October: Meeting with community focal points from Buenos Aires, Gavilán, and Aguas Calientes.
- 26 October: Community meeting and vulnerability analysis with the communities of Dos Ríos, Gavilán, Buenos Aires, and Agroindustrial Sur.

During the year, the National Society made significant progress on the Feasibility Study for the Cash Transfer Program, which was technically validated by IFRC.

During the first half of 2024, the staff member responsible for the EAP was once again replaced. However, by the second half of the year, the team was stabilized, ensuring continuity of the process.



CHF preposition budget:

36,065

CHF readiness budget:

4,107

CHF preposition actual:

8,575

CHF readiness actual:

62.00

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

During 2022, key actions were carried out in the phases of preparedness and pre-positioning, aimed at strengthening operational and logistical readiness in anticipation of a potential activation of the Volcanic Ash Early Action Protocol (EAP). The main advances are detailed below:

Institutional preparedness

The procurement process was completed for contracting communication campaign services targeted at the population, with the aim of promoting self-protection measures and preparedness for volcanic emergencies. This procurement was carried out in accordance with the Goods and Services Request SBS DI-DINAGER 2022-31-UP.

Pre-positioning of supplies

Procurement processes were implemented for personal protective equipment intended for populations that could be affected in the event of a volcanic emergency, in accordance with the following requests:

- Through Purchase Orders SBS DI-DINAGER 2022-40-UP and SBS DI-DINAGER 2022-41-UP, a total of 20,000 units of protective equipment were procured. This included KN-95 masks (boxes of 20 units), safety goggles, disposable respirators, and face shields, intended to protect populations potentially exposed to volcanic ash.

The procurement process experienced delays due to the time required for validation procedures by the IFRC.



CHF preposition budget:

53,537

CHF readiness budget:

0

CHF preposition actual:

0

CHF readiness actual:

0

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

In 2022, progress was made in strengthening response capacity through the procurement of key supplies for pre-positioning in high-risk areas, as detailed below:

- The purchase of 5-gallon water containers was completed in accordance with Goods and Services Request SBS DI-DINAGER 2022-42-UP.
- In addition, the procurement of household cleaning materials (brooms) was finalized under Goods and Services Request SBS DI-DINAGER 2022-43-UP.

The physical pre-positioning of these supplies is scheduled to be completed in early 2025, in strategically located warehouses near the Irazú, Turrialba, and Poás volcanoes.

STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION

 Effective, credible and accountable IFRC	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	0	0
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	32,530	5,048

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

During the reporting period, funding was allocated to partially cover the salaries of the Finance Officer and the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) Officer. Both have provided technical support and strategic guidance in the review, implementation, and reporting of the Early Action Protocol (EAP), ensuring compliance with established operational and financial standards.

Additionally, the budget contributed to covering financial and communication expenses, as well as costs related to field monitoring visits. Travel expenses were also funded for participation in regional Anticipatory Action workshops, which have strengthened institutional capacities and facilitated the exchange of best practices at the regional level with other National Societies.

 Strengthening National Society	CHF preposition budget:	CHF preposition actual:
	29,229	7,881
	CHF readiness budget:	CHF readiness actual:
	0	0

Narrative description of plan vs achievements

2022 – Institutional and Territorial Preparedness

In 2022, key actions were carried out to strengthen coordination between the National Society and regional branches located in volcanic risk areas:

Three monitoring visits and three coordination meetings were conducted with institutional coordinators at regional and local levels. The visits targeted the following branches:

- Liberia and Upala, covering the Rincón de la Vieja Volcano.
- Tierra Blanca, covering the areas around the Irazú and Turrialba Volcanoes.
- Peñas Blancas and Fortuna, responsible for the Arenal Volcano.
- San Pedro de Poás, covering the Poás Volcano.

Ongoing communication was maintained with regional and local coordinators to coordinate with communities and schedule community meetings during the second week of November.

Coordination was also carried out with the institutional procurement unit, allowing the engineering department responsible for infrastructure to evaluate and implement improvements in supply storage warehouses in strategic locations.

2023 – Capacity Building and Local Engagement

In 2023, efforts focused on community awareness and strengthening coordination with local and municipal stakeholders:

- 11 January: An awareness session was held with operational staff from the Liberia branch in Guanacaste on anticipatory action, activation mechanisms, and community coordination.
- 12 January: An informational meeting was held with the Vice Mayor of Upala to present the scope of the Volcanic Ash EAP and explore coordination mechanisms in the event of activation around the Rincón de la Vieja Volcano.
- 12 January: A session was conducted with representatives of the branches from the Northern Region of the Costa Rican Red Cross, aimed at updating community response mechanisms and local planning under the EAP.

2024 – Operational Consolidation and Pre-positioning of Supplies

In 2024, priority was given to logistical monitoring, institutional coordination, and the pre-positioning of supplies in strategic zones:

- 28 August: Monitoring visit to the San Pedro de Poás warehouse, covering the Poás Volcano area.
- 29 August: Monitoring visit to the Cartago warehouse, which serves the Irazú and Turrialba Volcanoes.
- A regional session was held for committees working in the Irazú Volcano area, including a presentation of the EAP and technical discussion on volcanic emergency preparedness.
- 20 September: Meeting with the liaison officer from the National Emergency Commission (CNE) in Guanacaste to explain the project, identify target communities, and establish contact with local emergency committees.
- 3 October: Monitoring visit to the Liberia warehouse in Guanacaste, which supports the Rincón de la Vieja Volcano area.

A virtual follow-up meeting was held with regional coordinators from the four intervention areas, to review project status and align implementation strategies.

Pre-positioning of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

- 14 December: PPE pre-positioned for National Society personnel at the Cartago warehouse.
- 20 December: PPE pre-positioned in La Fortuna de San Carlos, covering the Arenal Volcano area.
- 23 December: PPE pre-positioned at the San Pedro de Poás warehouse, serving the Poás Volcano area.

CHALLENGES, LESSONS LEARNED, PROPOSED AJUSTMENTS

- National scientific and technical institutions lacked consolidated databases on the community-level impacts of volcanic ash, which limited the ability to guide interventions based on reliable and timely evidence.
- The involvement of community leaders and local organizations facilitated access to updated information, enhanced community mobilization, and strengthened the legitimacy of actions carried out in the field.
- The purchase and delivery of masks were delayed due to the time required for IFRC validation procedures. This directly impacted the planned timeline for the pre-positioning of essential protective supplies.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A total of CHF 383,103 was allocated from DREF for the implementation of this Early Action Protocol. During the reporting period (Years 1 to 3), a total of CHF 236,992 has been spent.

Out of the remaining balance of CHF 146,181, the following is considered in the approved budget:

- CHF 7,266 reserved for readiness activities in Year 4
- CHF 7,266 reserved for readiness activities in Year 5
- CHF 128,535 reserved for early actions, to be implemented only if the trigger is met

See financial report below.

Contact information

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

In the Costa Rican Red Cross

- **Deputy Manager of Operations:** Jim Batres Rodriguez, jim.batres@cuzroja.or.cr
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In the IFRC

- **IFRC Country Cluster Support Team:** Diana Oviedo, Programs and Operations Coordinator, diana.oviedo@ifrc.org
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Reference



Click here for:

- [EAP Summary and budget](#)

FBAF Early Actions

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/6-2024/12	Operation	PCR040
Budget Timeframe	2022/6-2028/12	Budget	APPROVED

Prepared on 21/Abr/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRCR022 - Costa Rica - Volcanic Ash (EAP2022CR01) / EAP2022CR01

Early Actions Timeframe: 21 jun 2022 to 30 jun 2027

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	383.103
DREF Anticipatory Pillar	383.103
Expenditure	-236.922
Closing Balance	146.181

II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction			0
AOF2 - Shelter			0
AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs	172.321	15.195	157.126
AOF4 - Health	42.783	50.796	-8.013
AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene	57.017	59.062	-2.044
AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion			0
AOF7 - Migration			0
Area of focus Total	272.121	125.053	147.069
SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies	76.336	85.072	-8.736
SFI2 - Effective international disaster management		10.477	-10.477
SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners			0
SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC	34.645	16.320	18.325
Strategy for implementation Total	110.982	111.869	-888
Grand Total	383.103	236.922	146.181

FBAF Early Actions

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Selected Parameters		
Reporting Timeframe	2022/6-2024/12	Operation PCR040
Budget Timeframe	2022/6-2028/12	Budget APPROVED

Prepared on 21/Abr/2025

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRCR022 - Costa Rica - Volcanic Ash (EAP2022CR01) / EAP2022CR01

Early Actions Timeframe: 21 jun 2022 to 30 jun 2027

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Personnel	9.417	9.417	0
International Staff	360	360	0
National Staff	9.057	9.057	0
Workshops & Training	11.911	8.451	3.460
Workshops & Training	11.911	8.451	3.460
General Expenditure	11.202	10.238	965
Travel	4.811	3.935	876
Communications	123	123	0
Financial Charges	928	840	88
Shared Office and Services Costs	5.340	5.340	0
Contributions & Transfers	327.190	194.356	132.834
Cash Transfers National Societies	327.190	194.356	132.834
Indirect Costs	23.382	14.460	8.922
Programme & Services Support Recover	23.382	14.460	8.922
Grand Total	383.103	236.922	146.181