

Ecuador | Floods and Environmental Contamination



Relief Items distribution in Guayas, Ecuador. 27 March 2025. Source: Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Appeal No: MDREC027	To be assisted: 176,200 people	Appeal launched: 23/03/2025
Glide No: AC-2025-000037-ECU FL-2025-000026-ECU	DREF allocated: CHF 1,000,000 through two allocations	Disaster Categorisation: Orange
Operation Start date: 10/03/2025	Operation End date: 31/03/2026	

IFRC Secretariat Funding requirement: CHF 4 million
Federation-wide funding requirement: CHF 4.5 million¹

¹ The Federation-wide funding requirement encompasses all financial support to be directed to the Ecuadorian Red Cross in response to the emergency. It includes the Ecuadorian Red Cross' domestic fundraising requests and the fundraising appeals of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies (CHF 0.5 million), as well as the funding requirements of the IFRC secretariat (CHF 4 million). This comprehensive approach ensures that all available resources are mobilized to address the urgent humanitarian needs of the affected communities.

TIMELINE



Water treatment camp managed by the WASH team of the Ecuadorian Red Cross Esmeraldas, Ecuador. 20 March 2025.

January 2025: A prolonged rainy season triggers widespread floods and landslides, affecting large parts of the country.

25 February 2025: Through Resolution No. SNGR-050-2025, the National Secretariat of Risk Management (SNGR) declares a regional state of emergency for 60 days in the provinces of Guayas, Los Ríos, Manabí, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Santa Elena, Loja, and Azuay.

10 March 2025: CHF 497,000 is allocated from the IFRC's Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) to reach 19,400 people.

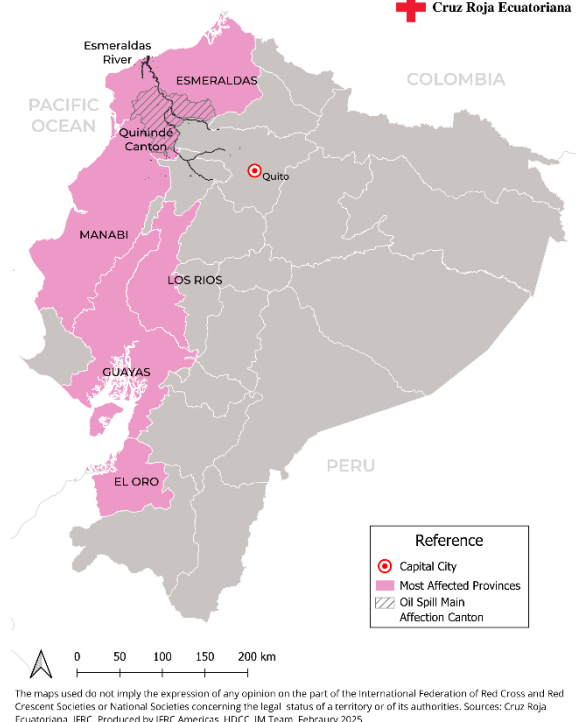
13 March 2025: A landslide causes the rupture of a major oil pipeline in Esmeraldas province, resulting in an oil spill that affects surrounding communities, rivers, and ecosystems.

18 March 2025: The IFRC Regional Office for the Americas deploys a WASH Coordinator to assess the needs in Esmeraldas following the oil spill.

24 March 2025: The IFRC launches a 4 million Emergency Appeal on behalf of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, including a second DREF allocation of CHF 502,985 to complete a CHF 1,000,000 DREF loan for the operation.

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

ECUADOR | EMERGENCY APPEAL | 2025
Floods and environmental contamination



Since January 2025, Ecuador has been experiencing a prolonged rainy season that has triggered widespread floods and landslides, affecting large parts of the country. The provinces of Manabí, Guayas, El Oro, Los Ríos, and Esmeraldas have reported the most severe impacts. As of 6 April, national authorities reported 136,573 people affected and 41,990 houses damaged and 252 destroyed (SNGR Ecuador Rains on Ecuador Sitrep No. 86, 6 April 2025).

On 25 February, through Resolution No. SNGR-050-2025, the National Secretariat of Risk Management (SNGR) declared a regional state of emergency for 60 days in the provinces of Guayas, Los Ríos, Manabí, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Santa Elena, Loja, and Azuay.

The crisis escalated on 13 March, when a landslide caused the rupture of a major oil pipeline in Esmeraldas province, resulting in an oil spill that has affected surrounding communities, rivers, and ecosystems (OCHA Flash Update No. 1, 20 March 2025). Esmeraldas is one of the provinces already affected by the ongoing heavy rains and flooding. The spill reached the Caple, Viche, and Esmeraldas rivers – primary sources of drinking water and irrigation – and flowed into the ocean, contaminating ecosystems and

leaving approximately 300,000 people at risk of unsafe water consumption (Oficio Nro. MAATE-VAG-2025-0084-O Ministerio del Ambiente, Agua y Transición Ecológica, 15 March 2025).

Government reports and international media confirm the severe impact of the oil spill on the livelihoods of the affected communities. Over 12,000 people have been directly affected by the loss of water access, soil contamination, and the destruction of farming plots used for cacao and oil palm cultivation, which has caused serious ecological harm to the Esmeraldas River Estuary Mangrove Wildlife Refuge and surrounding natural reserves. (SNGR Oil Spill SitRep 18, 2 April 2025). EP PETROECUADOR reported that containment dams and barriers were set up in the Viche area, identifying that 25,116 barrels were spilled over an 80 km stretch, and that a total of 4,400 barrels of oily residue (a mixture of water and hydrocarbons) were recovered (SNGR, 25/03/2025).

Following a formal request from the government, a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) conducted a rapid needs assessment in 37 communities across 17 parishes in the cantons of Esmeraldas, Rioverde, Quinindé, and Atacames. The assessment identified urgent needs in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), food security, health, and livelihoods. At the government's request, a team from the Joint Environment Unit (JEU) began assessing riverbeds affected by sediment and flow changes. They are monitoring oil slicks at sea using aerial and satellite tools, and collecting water samples from various intake zones, in coordination with the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Severity of the humanitarian conditions

1. **Impact on accessibility, availability, quality, use, and awareness of goods and services.** Nationwide, 60 health facilities have been reported as affected, including 26 in Esmeraldas alone. In El Oro, reports of disruptions in potable water services across communities have been reported, further intensifying health risks. In Manabí, flooding from overflowing rivers (Carrizal, Mosca, Ayampe, Chico, and others) has left communities affected and households exposed to contaminated water. These conditions are highly conducive to the spread of vector- and waterborne diseases.

The spill has also severely disrupted coastal livelihoods – over 900 artisanal fishers have been identified as affected. Strong hydrocarbon odours along the riverbanks have impaired respiratory health and made fishing activities unsafe. Pisciculture has also been affected, with fish farmers reporting contamination of production ponds.

In other provinces, heavy rains and flooding have caused widespread damage to livelihoods and food production systems. In Manabí, reports indicate the loss of at least 800 hectares of crops and nearly 5,000 small livestock, including poultry and cattle. These losses have disrupted commercial farming – one of the main sources of income for rural households. In Los Ríos, more than 2,000 hectares of rice and cacao have been partially or completely lost, affecting over 450 producers. These cumulative impacts have significantly reduced household income and worsened food insecurity.

2. Impact on physical and mental well-being

In Esmeraldas, the compounded impact of flooding and the oil spill has generated a public health and environmental crisis with wide-reaching consequences. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), as of 2 April in Esmeraldas, the combined effects of flooding and the oil spill have led to a significant deterioration in health conditions, such as respiratory and gastrointestinal illnesses, increased stress, and limited access to essential medical care. Reported impacts include psychological distress and constrained access to services due to shortages of staff, medicines, and essential supplies – particularly those related to sexual and reproductive health. Many people have not been reached by mobile health campaigns, and mental health services remain largely unavailable.

The disruption of water sources, contamination of rivers, and damage to health infrastructure have elevated health risks, especially for

vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women, and older adults. River contamination has affected entire communities, significantly limiting access to safe water. According to official reports, nearly 300,000 people have been affected by the spill (Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition, 15 March 2025). Health facilities have reported cases of pharyngitis, rhinitis, headaches, and stomach disorders associated with hydrocarbon exposure.

3. Risks and vulnerabilities

Overlapping crises: The combination of two emergencies – severe floods and a major oil spill – has created a severe crisis in several provinces, particularly Esmeraldas. This overlap is increasing vulnerabilities, overloading local response capacities and coordination efforts.

As of the latest update, two rivers have overflowed, while 16 others are reported to have rising water levels. This poses a continuous threat to communities in flood-prone areas and may lead to additional evacuations, and damage to homes and infrastructure. In April 2025, rainfall is expected to continue across much of the country, with frequent and intense precipitation events likely to prolong the impacts already observed in vulnerable areas. Rainfall will persist until mid-May.

The ongoing emergency, combined with localised violence and environmental challenges, has increased protection risks for priority groups, while gaps remain in ensuring specialised support for these vulnerable population. In Esmeraldas, the crisis is unfolding in a context of heightened social tension. In this environment, the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) increases, particularly in shelters and remote communities where protection pathways are not always active or are unknown.

CAPACITIES AND RESPONSE

1. National Society response capacity

1.1 National Society capacity and ongoing response

The Ecuadorian Red Cross carries out its work through four key programmatic areas: disaster risk management, health and community development, promotion of the Fundamental Principles and Values of the Movement, and youth. It currently has 829 staff members, 7,721 volunteers, and 24 provincial branches. Its national headquarters are based in Quito, with an operational presence throughout the country, supported by local branches and community-based volunteer brigades. In addition, it supplies 75 per cent of the blood components required for transfusion therapies nationwide.

In terms of response capacity, the National Society has made significant progress in strengthening its institutional preparedness for effective emergency and disaster response through the Programmatic Partnership with DG ECHO (PPP), with support from the IFRC and National Societies including the Spanish, Italian, and German Red Cross.

In recent years, thanks to the PPP and other initiatives, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has successfully pre-positioned relief stocks within its network of strategically located warehouses in Imbabura, Tungurahua, Pichincha, and Azuay. In parallel, it has strengthened its response capacity through increased human resources training and by ensuring the availability of materials, equipment, and supplies. The National Society has also established emergency response procedures and protocols, which were tested during the most recent National Response Teams Exercise (ENER), held in February 2025 with the participation of over 300 of its members. Additionally, the capacity built over the years to implement WASH interventions during emergencies further strengthens its operational readiness.

As of 3 April 2025, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has implemented response actions to address the emergency caused by floods and the oil spill, including health care, water and sanitation, psychosocial support, distribution of relief items, and restoring family links. The operation initially began with support from the DREF and was later scaled up into an Emergency Appeal (EA) to expand the response and address growing needs.

SECTOR		ACTIONS / ITEMS DISTRIBUTED
	Total number of people assisted	31,173 people
	Initial needs assessment	27,790 individuals registered
	Mental health and psychosocial support	408 people
	Medical consultations	158 people
	First response vehicle	150 people
	Community Health	6,849 people reached with health promotion messages - Mosquito nets: 75 - Goggles: 48 - Face masks: 1,000
	Restoring family links	25 connectivity services 2,052 people reached with awareness messages 1 referral



Water, sanitation, and hygiene

- 1,049,917 litres of water distributed
- 2,838 litres of chlorine distributed
- Jerrycans: 53
- Buckets: 187



Total kits distributed

- Hygiene kits: 103
- Kitchen kits: 185
- Food kits: 210
- Cleaning kits: 404
- Shelter tool kits: 817



Other items distributed

- Mattresses: 25
- Blankets: 499
- Tarpaulins: 944

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has received support from AECID, German Cooperation, and Coca-Cola, who have contributed bilaterally with relief items and water.

1.2 Capacity and response at the national level

Ecuador has a national system in place to respond to emergencies such as floods and oil spills, led by the National Secretariat for Risk Management (SNGR). This entity coordinates with key ministries, local governments, and public institutions to manage risk and ensure an organised response. For floods, the SNGR works with the Ministry of Transport and Public Works (MTO), Ministry of Public Health, and local authorities to provide assistance, repair infrastructure, and reduce health risks. In the case of oil spills, the Ministry of the Environment (MAATE) and Petroecuador lead response and remediation efforts, supported by the Undersecretariat for Ports and Maritime and River Transport through the National Contingency Plan for Hydrocarbons.

According to official situation reports, the government has implemented several measures in response to the 2025 emergencies. Following intense rainfall, a state of emergency was declared in several provinces. As a result, Emergency Operations Committees (COEs) were activated at the national and local levels. The government delivered food, hygiene kits, and safe water to affected populations, opened temporary shelters, deployed health teams to prevent disease outbreaks, and the MTO worked to restore road access, while the SNGR and national meteorological service enhanced flood monitoring systems.

In March 2025, an oil spill in Esmeraldas prompted the activation of Petroecuador's contingency plan. Containment barriers were deployed, and cleanup operations began immediately. The government provided drinking water, food, and health services to nearby communities, while MAATE assessed the environmental impact and launched remediation efforts in affected coastal ecosystems.

2. International capacity and response

2.1 Red Cross Red Crescent Movement capacity and response

IFRC membership

Based in Lima, the IFRC Andean Countries Cluster Delegation (CCD) provides strategic support to Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru through close coordination with their respective National Societies. This framework ensures ongoing communication with all levels of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, enabling comprehensive support in planning, implementation, monitoring, and other key operational areas.

At present, the Ecuadorian Red Cross collaborates with four Participating National Societies. Three of them – the Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and German Red Cross – have in-country delegations that strengthen the National Society's capacity in critical areas such as emergency health, WASH, shelter, livelihoods, and disaster preparedness. Additionally, the Italian Red Cross provides close coordination and technical support from its regional office, contributing to initiatives in livelihoods, disaster preparedness, and other strategic areas.

As part of this response, the IFRC has mobilised staff from its Americas Regional Office, including the Regional Operations Manager, Regional WASH Coordinator, and a Security Officer. Through the surge mechanism, a WASH

Coordinator from Canadian Red Cross and staff from the Spanish Red Cross WASH ERU have been deployed, along with WASH officers and water treatment equipment (M15) from the Honduran Red Cross WASH Hub.

ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a key partner in emergency response within the framework of the Ecuadorian Red Cross National Preparedness and Response Plan, which is activated when the Red Cross Movement's coordination mechanism is triggered. Ongoing communication is maintained with the ICRC technical team to facilitate information exchange and guidance, in line with the 2025 Cooperation Agreement. This agreement aims to strengthen institutional capacity, improve emergency and crisis response, and reinforce the operational partnership.

The agreement also supports protection-related actions, promotes respect for healthcare, enables safer access, and encourages the application of international humanitarian law. Additionally, the ICRC maintains regular engagement and close coordination with the Ecuadorian Red Cross on Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities.

2.2 International Humanitarian Stakeholder capacity and response

In response to the spill of over 25,000 barrels of oil in Esmeraldas, OCHA activated the UNDAC team, which led a rapid assessment across 37 communities in Esmeraldas, Rioverde, Quinindé, and Atacames. The mission was supported by organisations including UNICEF, UNHCR, FAO, ADRA, and Caritas. UNICEF conducted water quality testing, while ADRA and Caritas provided medical and psychosocial assistance. ECHO, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), and the Joint Environment Unit (JEU) contributed to environmental monitoring. In Rioverde, one of the hardest-hit cantons, UNHCR also supported the strengthening of local coordination mechanisms. The Ecuadorian Red Cross and IFRC personnel deployed in the field are also actively participating in these efforts, in close coordination with local authorities and humanitarian actors, particularly in Esmeraldas, where they actively engage in the local humanitarian team alongside the United Nations system (OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA), as well as key partners such as Caritas, HIAS, Fondo Ecuatoriano Populorum Progressio, GRTM, RET, FUDELA, and the Norwegian Refugee Council.

The response included food assistance, the distribution of safe drinking water, and hygiene kits, with a focus on rural communities. These efforts are complemented by the actions of the Humanitarian Country Team, under the leadership of the UN Resident Coordinator.

Outside the province of Esmeraldas, Catholic and Evangelical churches have opened temporary shelters in El Oro, Los Ríos, and Manabí for people affected by heavy rains. Several international organisations have also launched humanitarian actions: ADRA distributed hygiene kits in Santa Ana (Manabí); World Vision activated response teams and provided aid in Manabí, Los Ríos, and Guayas; and Fundación Ayuda en Acción intervened in Muisne (Esmeraldas), delivering kits and repairing school infrastructure.

3. Gaps in the response

This section provides information on unmet needs and response gaps identified in Esmeraldas and other flood-affected regions of Ecuador. The narrative is based on rapid needs assessments and situation reports carried out by multiple actors, including the Secretariat for Risk Management, OCHA, the Ecuadorian Red Cross, and other humanitarian organisations. The analysis highlights emerging vulnerabilities, potential health and protection risks, and limitations in coping capacities.

Shelter

Flooding and oil spill events have significantly affected housing conditions in Esmeraldas and other provinces. According to government data, more than 40,000 homes have been affected with over 250 destroyed. The cumulative impact of floodwaters, landslides, and oil contamination has left families living in unsafe conditions. Temporary shelter options have been established in some areas, but gaps remain in terms of coverage, protection, and access to basic services such as water, sanitation, and hygiene. The most urgent needs include the provision of bedding items such as mattresses, blankets, and sheets; debris removal; and the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure.

Initial support is required in the form of essential supplies for temporary shelter solutions, such as tools and tarpaulins, followed by more sustainable alternatives that ensure access to safe and dignified housing. Additionally, households that lost basic items due to flooding will need support with essential household goods to facilitate recovery and restore minimum living conditions.

Livelihoods

Flooding and the recent oil spill have severely impacted livelihoods in several regions of Ecuador, compromising food security and household income. As of 6 April 2025, the ongoing heavy rains have significantly affected the agricultural sector, with 177.91 hectares of crops damaged and 214.11 hectares completely lost. The agriculture and livestock sectors have sustained widespread disruption.

In Esmeraldas, the oil spill has severely affected the livelihoods of coastal and riverside communities, particularly in sectors such as fishing, agriculture, livestock, tourism, and local trade. An estimated 113,000 people – including 37,000 women and 44,000 children and adolescents, have lost their income as a result of the spill. Soil toxicity and the lack of clean water for irrigation have increased food prices and worsened food insecurity. With limited income, many families have turned to low-paying survival strategies, while essential tools and equipment have been damaged, hindering recovery efforts. In addition to the urgent need to prevent further deterioration, the impact of the oil spill on livelihoods – especially in the agriculture and fishing sectors – has a medium to long-term effect, due to the contamination of soils and rivers.

Urgent action is needed to prevent further deterioration of living conditions. Given the limited information, detailed livelihood profiling and labour market analysis, especially in Esmeraldas, are necessary. Based on these findings, interventions may include food kit distributions, multi-purpose cash transfer programmes, and targeted support to restore and protect sustainable livelihoods, accompanied by training and capacity building.

Health

Although a detailed assessment of the health impacts of the oil spill has not yet been conducted, there are reports of respiratory issues, headaches, exposure to toxic gases, emotional distress, and stress-related behaviours. In Esmeraldas, the combined impact of flooding and the oil spill has disrupted blood donation services. During climate-related emergencies, personal safety becomes a priority for the population, which reduces participation in voluntary blood donation. In addition, mobility restrictions and safety concerns have limited the Ecuadorian Red Cross's ability to carry out mobile blood collection campaigns, placing additional pressure on the blood system and highlighting the urgent need to strengthen services and ensure continuity during crises. One critical indicator is the sharp decline in voluntary donations – from 323 in the first quarter of 2023 to just 57 in the same period of 2024 – mainly due to access constraints and the temporary ineligibility of potential donors facing health issues. Recent heavy rains have significantly affected the health system in various provinces, with at least four health centres having reported damage to infrastructure and equipment, limiting local response capacity. The combination of flooding, limited access to clean water, precarious shelter conditions, restricted healthcare access, and loss of livelihoods increases the risk of communicable diseases, especially waterborne and vector-borne diseases, malnutrition, and mental health conditions such as anxiety, stress, and depression.

This scenario requires both immediate medical care and medium- to long-term planning. Urgent needs include care for individuals exposed to contaminated water and toxic fumes, mental health and psychosocial support, epidemiological surveillance, and community health promotion with a focus on epidemic control, nutrition, mental health, and sexual and reproductive health. Given the lack of reliable data, a sectoral health assessment is critical to understand the impacts of prolonged exposure to crude oil and pollutants, while additional measures are needed to increase voluntary blood donations in Esmeraldas to meet medical needs.

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

There is an urgent need to ensure access to safe water in line with Sphere Standards. In Esmeraldas, according to OCHA's rapid needs assessment, 63 per cent of people surveyed have restricted or limited access to water, especially in remote rural communities not reached by water trucks, with families having had to rely on alternatives like purchasing water. Although service has been restored, several areas still lack access to safe water.

In addition, as a result of the floods, families in the 14 provinces included in this Emergency Appeals are in urgent need of hygiene kits, cleaning kits, proper information on hygiene and safe water practices, as well as repairs to damaged water systems.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)

The context of violence, inequality, and environmental crisis in the country has significantly increased protection risks for priority groups, including women, children, adolescents, pregnant women, older adults, persons with disabilities, Indigenous communities, and individuals affected by forced displacement or human mobility. In Esmeraldas, the crisis is unfolding in a setting of high social tensions, where the risk of gender-based violence (GBV) is particularly heightened in shelters, remote communities, and areas where protection pathways are inactive, unknown, or inaccessible. Communication disruptions have hindered family contact, especially for children, older persons, and persons with disabilities who may be separated or isolated.

While UNFPA is contributing to the provision of sexual and reproductive health services in Esmeraldas, there are persistent gaps in the provision of specialised care, particularly comprehensive care for survivors of sexual violence. Existing referral systems remain weak, particularly for GBV survivors and individuals at risk of exploitation or abuse.

There is an urgent need to strengthen protection mechanisms and safe referral pathways from humanitarian spaces, and to improve coordination between institutional and community actors to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) in the context of the current crisis.

Finally, disruptions in communication have hindered contact between family members, especially affecting children, older adults, and persons with disabilities who may be separated or isolated.

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)

The areas affected by recent floods and the oil spill are regularly exposed to climate-related threats, highlighting the need to enhance community resilience through disaster risk reduction measures, including local emergency preparedness, capacity building, and the promotion of sustainable livelihoods that enable communities to anticipate and adapt to future extreme events.

OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (CRE) is currently facing a number of operational challenges during deployments through its Provincial Branches, particularly regarding mobility. The available vehicle fleet at the local level is inadequate to meet operational demands, creating significant obstacles in the transportation of both personnel and humanitarian supplies. To address these limitations, coordination with key local actors and the contracting of private transport services are required to ensure the continuity of operations.

Despite the high level of trust the Ecuadorian Red Cross holds among both communities and institutions, the current security situation in the country poses a significant risk to humanitarian operations. Volunteers and staff remain on high alert, especially in high-risk provinces such as Esmeraldas, Guayas, Manabí, Los Ríos, and El Oro, where there have been reports of assaults, detentions, theft, extortion, health-related incidents, and traffic accidents. In this context, it is essential to strengthen security and risk mitigation measures, ensure adherence to the Fundamental Principles, and promote humanitarian coordination and access with relevant actors.

In addition, the National Decentralised Risk Management System (SNDGR), responsible for implementing the Organic Law on Risk Management and its regulations – may present coordination challenges, particularly in relation to needs assessments, the distribution of relief items, and the importation of humanitarian goods.

Finally, the ongoing electoral context may also affect the implementation of activities at the local level, depending on evolving political dynamics and the level of alignment among key stakeholders.

FEDERATION-WIDE APPROACH

The Emergency Appeal is part of a **Federation-wide approach**, based on the response priorities of the Operating National Society and in consultation with all IFRC network members contributing to the response. The approach, reflected in this Operational Strategy, will ensure linkages between all response activities (including bilateral activities and activities funded domestically) and will assist in leveraging the capacities of all members of the IFRC network in the country, to maximise the collective humanitarian impact.

The Federation-wide funding requirement for this Emergency Appeal comprises all support and funding to be channelled to the Operating National Society in response to the emergency event. This includes the Operating National Society's domestic fundraising ask, the fundraising ask of supporting Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, and the funding ask of the IFRC secretariat.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Vision

Through this Emergency Appeal, the Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to provide humanitarian assistance to 176,200 people affected by flooding and environmental contamination. The response will focus on key sectors including Shelter, Livelihoods, Health, WASH, and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR).

A strong emphasis will be placed on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), ensuring that all actions are safe, inclusive, and people-centred.

Anticipated climate-related risks and adjustments in the operation

According to the March 2025 report from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral conditions is expected to occur between April and May 2025. During this transitional phase, La Niña-related impacts, such as heavier rainfall in certain regions of Ecuador, may begin to ease. However, climate variability will persist, and the onset of a neutral phase could lead to less predictable weather patterns, increasing the risk of localised extreme events such as heavy rainfall, short-term droughts, and sudden temperature changes. In addition, forecasts for the 2025 Atlantic hurricane season indicate above-average activity, with 13 to 18 named storms, of which seven to ten may become hurricanes, including three to five major hurricanes. While Ecuador does not lie in the direct path of Atlantic hurricanes, indirect impacts, such as heavy rains and storm surges, may affect coastal regions.

To mitigate the risks associated with extreme weather events, the following preparedness measures are being considered:

- **At the community level:** Implementation of early warning systems, community contingency planning, and strengthened local inter-agency coordination to ensure an effective emergency response. As an early action, the integration of climate-smart practices or a climate change lens into planned activities should be prioritised, in order to strengthen the resilience of communities and their livelihoods.
- **At the National Society level** (Ecuadorian Red Cross): Continuous risk and threat monitoring; ensuring that response teams are equipped with communication tools and personal protective equipment; volunteer training on safety and protection measures; established evacuation routes and safe zones; and the regular updating and dissemination of contingency plans for climate-related hazards.

Targeting

1. People to be assisted

This emergency operation aims to reach a total of 176,200 people affected by the combined impact of flooding and the oil spill, across the provinces of El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Los Ríos, Loja, Pichincha, Santo Domingo, Azuay, Chimborazo, Bolívar, Cotopaxi, and Imbabura. Under the integrated assistance sector, 1,500 families will receive multi-purpose cash assistance, while 2,500 families will benefit from shelter support. In the Health and WASH sectors, 48,000 people will receive medical services and hygiene promotion activities, and 127,200 people will benefit from the distribution of safe water and water treatment interventions. In addition, 8,000 individuals will be supported through protection and prevention activities, including PGI and CEA, ensuring a safe, inclusive, and participatory response.

The following section provides a breakdown of the target population by sector, disaggregated by sex and age:

TARGETED POPULATION

SECTOR	People	Female			Male		
		>18	<18	TOTAL	>18	<18	TOTAL
Shelter	8,000	2,873	1,231	4,104	2,727	1,169	3,896
Livelihoods	1,600	575	246	821	545	234	779
Multipurpose cash	4,800	1,724	739	2,463	1,636	701	2,337
Health	48,000	17,237	7,387	24,624	16,363	7,013	23,376
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	127,000	45,606	19,545	65,151	43,294	18,555	61,849
CEA and PGI	8,000	2,873	1,231	4,104	2,727	1,169	3,896
DRR climate/recovery	2,200	790	339	1,129	750	321	1,071
Environmental Sustainability	1,300	467	200	667	443	190	633

The figures presented under each sector represent the planned number of individuals to be assisted through sector-specific interventions. These estimates are based on an average household size of 3.2 persons per family. These figures are not cumulative across sectors, as households and individuals may access multiple types of services as part of an integrated response. As such, totals should not be aggregated to avoid double counting. This approach ensures that programming reflects the multifaceted needs of affected populations – such as simultaneous support in health, shelter, and WASH – in line with sectoral standards and inter-agency coordination practices.

Overall, the response will prioritise families with limited economic resources, single-parent households, families with pregnant women, older adults, persons with disabilities, individuals with chronic illnesses, returned migrants, as well as Indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian communities, LGBTI+ individuals, and others at heightened risk of protection issues. In addition to these general criteria, sector-specific prioritisation will be based on the following:

- **Shelter:** Families whose homes were fully or partially destroyed, sustained damage due to flooding, and/or lost essential household items.
- **Livelihoods:** Families that have experienced partial or total loss of their primary income-generating activity.
- **Multi-Purpose Cash:** Families whose homes were fully or partially destroyed and/or have experienced partial or total loss of their primary income-generating activity.
- **Health:** Individuals who have sustained injuries, those with infectious or non-communicable diseases, and people in need of mental health support.
- Health promotion activities will prioritise communities affected by floods and landslides, with limited access to health services.
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** Families without access to safe drinking water.

2. Considerations for protection, gender, and inclusion and community engagement and accountability

The planning and implementation of this emergency operation is grounded in a rights-based approach, prioritising a humanitarian response that is dignified, equitable, and culturally appropriate.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross will apply the principles of PGI across all sectors of the response, ensuring safety, dignity, and equitable access to humanitarian assistance for all individuals. Special attention will be given to identifying and addressing the specific risks faced by women, girls, boys, older adults, and persons with disabilities. Measures will be implemented to prevent all forms of violence, abuse, or discrimination, and personnel and volunteers will receive training on codes of conduct, PSEA, and gender-sensitive approaches.

Participant selection will be based on vulnerability criteria, with priority given to female- or elderly-headed households, families with members who have disabilities or chronic illnesses, and those without access to other sources of support.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross will promote inclusive processes of dialogue, consultation, and communication with affected communities from the outset of the operation. Accessible feedback mechanisms will be in place – including community meetings, local volunteer networks, toll-free hotlines, and suggestion boxes – to ensure that people are heard, responses are adapted, and interventions are shaped based on the needs expressed by the communities. CEA will be applied as a cross-cutting approach to enhance accountability and ensure that the response is informed by the needs and preferences of affected populations. Beyond its role as a support function, CEA will be positioned as a critical enabler of effective crisis response. Building and maintaining community trust will be key to ensuring the relevance, acceptance, and safe delivery of services, particularly in fragile or insecure environments.

PLANNED OPERATIONS

INTEGRATED ASSISTANCE

 Shelter, Housing, and Settlements	Female > 18 years: 2,873	Female < 18 years: 1,231	CHF 212,000
	Male > 18 years: 2,727	Male < 18 years: 1,169	Total Target: 8,000 people
Objective:	Provide emergency and transitional shelter support to vulnerable families affected by flooding and environmental contamination.		
Priority Actions:	1. Initial assessment, selection, and registration of families to be assisted. 2. Distribution of debris removal tools to 1,000 families (3,200 people). 3. Distribution of shelter toolkits to 1,500 families (4,800 people). 4. Distribution of tarpaulins to 1,500 families (4,800 people). 5. Distribution of blankets to 2,000 people (6,400 people). 6. Distribution of kitchen kits to 500 families (1,600 people). 7. Educational sessions for families on the proper use of distributed materials, with an emphasis on emergency shelter. 8. Post-distribution monitoring and surveying.		

 Livelihoods	Female > 18 years: 575	Female < 18 years: 246	CHF 490,000
	Male > 18 years: 545	Male < 18 years: 234	Total Target: 1,600 people

Objective:	Support livelihood recovery efforts for vulnerable families affected by flooding and environmental contamination.
Priority Actions:	1. Livelihoods needs assessment in affected areas. 2. Labour market assessment in Esmeraldas. 3. Selection and registration of families to be assisted. 4. Distribution of food kits to 1,000 families (3,200 people). 5. Implementation of four climate-smart community micro-projects to protect livelihoods. 6. Cash transfers to 500 families (1,600 people) for livelihood restoration and strengthening. 7. Training for 500 families (1,600 people) receiving cash assistance on topics such as business risk management, business modelling, and sustainable agricultural practices. 8. Post-distribution monitoring and surveys.

 Multi-purpose Cash	Female > 18 years: 1,724	Female < 18 years: 739	CHF 372,000
	Male > 18 years: 1,636	Male < 18 years: 701	Total target: 4,800 people
Objective:	Provide multi-purpose cash transfers to families directly affected by flooding and environmental contamination.		
Priority Actions:	1. Market assessments in affected areas (Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, El Oro, Santa Elena, and Los Ríos). 2. Feasibility study in affected areas to determine unmet needs, transfer value, and additional costs beyond the transfer amount. 3. Selection and registration of families to be assisted. 4. Community and household sensitisation on selection criteria and the purpose of the cash transfers. 5. Guidance for families on safe access to cash assistance. 6. Multi-purpose cash transfers to 1,500 families (4,800 people) (Esmeraldas, Manabí, Guayas, El Oro, Santa Elena, and Los Ríos). 7. Implementation of a pilot study using RedRose and the AccessRC digital self-registration platform. 8. Post-distribution monitoring and surveys.		

HEALTH AND CARE INCLUDING WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH)

 Health and Care <i>(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support/Community Health/Medical Services)</i>	Female > 18 years: 17,237	Female < 18 years: 7,387	CHF 342,000
	Male > 18 years: 16,363	Male < 18 years: 7,013	Total target: 48,000 people
Objective:	Reduce immediate health risks for people affected by flooding and environmental contamination.		
Priority Actions:	Health needs assessment with a focus on Esmeraldas: 1. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)		

- a. Design and reproduction of mental health and psychosocial support materials.
- b. Crisis support for individuals affected by flooding and environmental contamination.
- c. Psychosocial support for affected individuals in shelters and community spaces.
- d. Emotional support and stress management for responders including the integration of virtual reality-based sensory immersion techniques developed by the Ecuadorian Red Cross to enhance emotional recognition and stress management among emergency responders.
- e. Procurement of virtual reality kits for emotional support interventions.

2. Community Health

- a. Design and reproduction of health promotion and disease prevention materials (nutrition, prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases).
- b. Procurement and distribution of community health toolkits with information and materials on epidemic control.
- c. Organisation of community committees.
- d. Training for community committees on disease prevention and control including implementation of community-based surveillance.
- e. Distribution of vector (*Aedes aegypti*) breeding site identification and elimination kits to 1,200 families (3,840 people).
- f. Distribution of 10,776 mosquito nets.
- g. Implementation of community clean-up campaigns to eliminate vector (*Aedes aegypti*) breeding sites.
- h. Distribution of community clean-up kits for vector control to prevent dengue fever transmission.
- i. Procurement of equipment for chemical dengue control (foggers, personal protective equipment, deltamethrin) according to MoH Guidelines.
- j. Fogging campaigns for dengue outbreak control in coordination with the Ecuadorian Ministry of Health.
- k. Post-distribution monitoring and surveys.

3. Medical Services

- a. Pre-hospital care and medical transport for people living in areas affected by flooding or environmental contamination.
- b. Provision of general medical care to populations in areas with limited access to health services, through mobile units staffed by a doctor, nurse, volunteers, and a driver.
- c. Procurement of medical supplies, equipment, and medicines for health units (including vital signs monitors, folding stretchers, oxygen cylinders) for Ecuadorian Red Cross Mobile Health Units.
- d. Communication campaign to promote voluntary blood donations.
- e. Procurement of equipment for blood donation centres.
- f. Organisation of voluntary blood donation drives.

 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Female > 18 years: 45,606	Female < 18 years: 19,545	CHF 1,231,000
	Male > 18 years: 43,294	Male < 18 years: 18,555	Total target: 127,000 people
Objective:	Reduce health risks and improve access to safe water in areas affected by flooding and environmental contamination.		
Priority Actions:	1. Selection and registration of families to be assisted. 2. Design and production of educational materials on hygiene, safe water consumption, and basic sanitation. 3. Educational sessions on hygiene, safe water practices, and basic sanitation. 4. Distribution of hygiene kits to 2,000 families (6,400 people). 5. Distribution of cleaning kits to 2,000 families (6,400 people). 6. Distribution of safe drinking water to 20,000 families (64,000 people) in Esmeraldas. a. Deployment of three Ecuadorian Red Cross water treatment plants to Esmeraldas, and subsequently to Guayas, Manabí, and Los Ríos. b. Deployment of WASH ERU M15 personnel. c. Deployment of M15 water equipment from the Honduran Red Cross WASH Hub. d. Installation of five water distribution points. e. Distribution of jerrycans to 20,000 families. f. Procurement and installation of solar panels as a renewable energy source to power the water system, as part of the green response strategy. 7. Household water disinfection: a. Distribution of water filters to 500 families (1,600 people). b. Procurement of nine chlorine production units. c. Maintenance of three chlorine production units. d. Procurement of inputs and materials for chlorine production. e. Distribution of chlorine to 10,000 families. f. Distribution of jerrycans to 10,000 families. 8. Maintenance and rehabilitation of water systems in Los Olivos–Río Verde, La Unión–Atacames, and Tachina–Esmeraldas. 9. Training and support for local water committees in three cantons of Esmeraldas. 10. Procurement of sanitation kits for nine Ecuadorian Red Cross health units.		

PROTECTION AND PREVENTION

(PROTECTION, GENDER, AND INCLUSION (PGI), COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA), MIGRATION, RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION, AND RECOVERY, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY, EDUCATION)

	Female > 18 years: 2,873	Female < 18 years: 1,231	CHF 8,000
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 Protection, Gender, and Inclusion	Male > 18 years: 2,727	Male < 18 years: 1,169	Total target: 8,000 people
Objective:	Ensure the systematic integration of gender, age, disability, and diversity considerations across all aspects of the response operation. This includes applying inclusive protection policies and safeguarding measures that prioritise the safety, dignity, and equitable access to services. Ensure that basic protection mitigation and response options (referrals and specialised health or PSS options) are fully embedded.		
Priority Actions:	1. Mapping of organisations within protection referral networks. 2. Development, design, and reproduction of guidelines for safe referral pathways. 3. Participation in safe local referral networks. 4. Implementation of a community communication campaign on PSEA and reporting mechanisms. 5. Needs assessment for RFL. 6. Connectivity services for RFL. 7. Work with each sector to ensure specific adaptations for women-headed households, persons with disabilities (using Washington Group Questions), indigenous populations, Afro-Ecuadorian communities, LGBTIQ+ individuals, youth at risk, and GBV survivors. 8. Menstrual hygiene kit distribution (pilot study) to 200 women. 9. Procure MHM materials and develop sex-specific distribution with protection messages for women and adolescent girls. 10. Monitor sectors using Minimum Standards for Protection gender and inclusion. 11. Conduct Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis for the operation and develop mitigation measures. 12. Ensure inter-agency coordination to promote the PGI approach through the participation of the Ecuadorian Red Cross PGI focal point in Working Group 4 on Shelter and Humanitarian Assistance.		

 Community Engagement and Accountability	Female > 18 years: 2,873	Female < 18 years: 1,231	CHF 10,000
	Male > 18 years: 2,727	Male < 18 years: 1,169	Total target: 8,000 people
Objective:	Promote community engagement and accountability, ensuring a response driven by local priorities, transparent communication, and continuous feedback.		
Priority Actions:	Establish community feedback mechanisms including: 1. Regular meetings with families and community leaders in targeted communities to gather feedback and share information on response measures.		

	2. Conduct regular satisfaction surveys and perception assessments. 3. Installation of information kiosks. 4. Establishment of online feedback mechanisms. 5. Design and production of materials on community engagement and feedback (including a complaints and feedback guide).
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 Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation, and Recovery	Female > 18 years: 790	Female < 18 years: 339	CHF 184,000
	Male > 18 years: 750	Male < 18 years: 321	Total target: 2,200 people
Objective:	Strengthen community preparedness and capacities to respond more effectively to future disasters, while simultaneously reinforcing the National Society's capacity throughout the operation to ensure an effective response and the continuity of interventions beyond the immediate emergency phase.		
Priority Actions:	1. Disaster risk reduction in 14 communities: a. Conduct community risk assessments using the AVCA methodology with climate/environmental focus. b. Develop and share Community Disaster Risk Reduction Action Plans. c. Design and production of awareness materials on risk management (family emergency plans, emergency go-bags, self-protection). d. Community awareness campaigns on disaster risk management, including information on family emergency plans, go-bags, and self-protection. e. Training of community committees on early warning systems, basic first aid, and evacuation. f. Provision of equipment for community committees (first aid kits, health backpacks, stretchers, vests). g. Installation of community early warning system equipment (visual/auditory alarms, emergency signage, risk maps). h. Community drills to activate early warning systems. 2. National Society disaster risk management capacity strengthening: a. National workshop on climate smart livelihoods and multi-purpose cash. b. National workshop on food security and nutrition in emergencies. c. National workshop on community-based epidemiological surveillance and health promotion. d. National workshop on care and self-care for responders (CAI). e. National workshop on water, sanitation, and hygiene in emergencies. f. Local WASH workshops. g. Local workshops on AVCA and the Community Resilience Roadmap for volunteers.		

	h. Local workshops on climate change introduction and climate-smart livelihoods. i. National workshop on the Fundamental Principles, Auxiliary Role, and Key Messages for effective humanitarian diplomacy (volunteers). j. National workshop on Minimum Standards for PGI in emergencies. k. National workshop on Operational Security in emergency response operations for staff and volunteers. l. Workshop on hazardous materials emergency response. m. Procurement of triage kits (colour-coded cloths, wristbands, triage cards, etc.). n. Procurement of training mannequins.
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 Environmental Sustainability	Female > 18 years: 467	Female < 18 years: 200	CHF 13,000
	Male > 18 years: 443	Male < 18 years: 190	Total target: 1,300 people
Objective:	Contribute to the operation's environmental sustainability by minimising and mitigating any potential harm to the local environment caused by humanitarian interventions.		
Priority Actions:	1. Climate risk analysis in 14 affected communities. 2. Develop and disseminate a community climate change adaptation plan. 3. Updating and reproduction of educational materials on climate change. 4. Design and production of the Ecuadorian Red Cross Green Response Manual.		

Enabling approaches

 National Society Strengthening	Female > 18: 515	Female < 18: 0	CHF 651,000
	Male > 18: 485	Male < 18: 0	Total target: 1,000 people
Objective:	Ensure that the National Society is capable of delivering an effective response, based on a clear mandate, community and authority acceptance, an adequate operational structure, financial resources, and robust systems for the safe and efficient management of volunteers and staff.		
Priority Actions:	1. Human Resources: Ensure a high quality and decentralised response by recruiting key staff for the operation. 2. Mobility and Vehicles: The response operation foresees the purchase of one vehicle and the rental of additional units to ensure the safe movement of field personnel. Preventive and corrective maintenance of vehicles used during the response will also be carried out. To enhance the efficiency of operational management, a vehicle and personnel movement management		

plan will be implemented as part of the overall response strategy.

3. **Technology and Equipment:** The acquisition of essential technological tools is planned to support operational functionality and information collection, this includes laptops and data collection kits. **The purchase of this equipment is aligned with the Ecuadorian Red Cross's Information and Communication Technology Strategy.**
4. **Communications:** An integrated communication strategy will be implemented to enhance institutional communication, visibility of the operation, transparency with communities, and promotion of behavioural change. This strategy will ensure contextualised, participatory, and consistent communication, both internally and externally, throughout the operation and will include multi-channel campaigns (traditional media, social media, RFL communication, and voluntary blood donation), awareness materials linked to the operations, and a national emergency communication workshop. The strategy also includes the procurement of basic equipment such as cameras, mobile phones, tripods, microphones, and other tools needed by focal points and technical communication teams.
5. **Logistics and Supply Chain:** The operation will strengthen logistics and supply chain management, including transportation and warehousing. The National Society's network of strategic warehouses will be strengthened through infrastructure improvements, installation of shelving, and maintenance of forklifts to ensure more efficient inventory management and faster response capacity.
6. **Telecommunications:** The telecommunications system will be reinforced through the payment of rental fees for antenna locations used by the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the acquisition of portable radios. These actions will maintain connectivity between national and field teams, particularly in areas with limited coverage.
7. **Security:** The operation includes the development and implementation of context-specific operational security procedures, with a particular focus on high-risk areas such as Esmeraldas, in coordination with the IFRC field team. These measures aim to ensure staff and volunteer safety during deployment in complex environments. As part of this effort, personal protective equipment will be provided – including rubber boots and waterproof gear – alongside field safety materials and staff ID cards to facilitate identification and operational mobility.
8. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** A monitoring and evaluation system will be implemented to ensure the effective tracking of objectives. This includes a monitoring plan with key indicators, field visits for direct verification of activities, and collection of both qualitative and quantitative data. Evaluation sessions, including formal lessons learned workshops, will be conducted to identify best practices and improvement opportunities, contributing to institutional strengthening and enhanced future responses.

	9. Volunteering: Volunteers are a cornerstone of the National Society's humanitarian response. This operation will ensure the necessary conditions for volunteers to carry out their activities safely, with dignity and effectiveness. This includes per diem support, provision of appropriate uniforms, and access to insurance throughout the operation to safeguard their well-being during deployments. Measures will also be taken to ensure their safety and protection, and volunteers will have access to mental health and psychosocial support to address the emotional impact of working in crisis contexts. The operation will prioritise creating a supportive environment in which volunteer teams can carry out their duties with motivation, care, and continuous accompaniment. 10. Digital Resource Management: The operation includes the payment of a license to use a virtual repository for bibliographic resources, as well as secure storage for operational verification documents.
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 Coordination and Partnerships	Female > 18: 0	Female < 18: 0	CHF 5,000
	Male > 18: 0	Male < 18: 0	Total target: 0
Objective:	Strengthen coordination among International Federation members and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), promoting technical and operational complementarity within the Movement, while enabling a collaborative and efficient approach with all relevant humanitarian actors.		
Priority Actions:	1. Membership Coordination: a. Consolidate and harmonise both multilateral and bilateral support to the Ecuadorian Red Cross through a coordinated Federation-wide approach. b. Promote joint planning, monitoring, and reporting processes, with the Ecuadorian Red Cross in the lead and the IFRC providing strategic support. c. Hold regular technical and operational coordination meetings with in-country Participating National Societies, as well as those providing remote support. d. Facilitate regular information exchange among IFRC members on technical needs, operational priorities, and relevant contextual updates. e. Promote strategic coordination spaces and dedicated sessions focused on the emergency operation. f. Encourage transparency and accountability at all levels of coordination. Coordination with External Actors: a. Actively participate in coordination mechanisms under the National Decentralised Risk Management System by engaging in Emergency Operations Committees (COEs) at national, provincial, and cantonal levels. b. Participate in Technical Working Groups (MTTs) at all levels of governance.		

	c. Maintain continuous coordination with technical-scientific institutions, such as the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI). Movement Coordination: a. Coordinate response actions with the ICRC and IFRC, in line with the guidelines established in Seville 2.0. b. Coordinate with the ICRC in implementing Restoring Family Links (RFL) services, as required by the operation.
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 IFRC Secretariat Services	Female > 18: 0	Female < 18: 0	CHF 482,000
	Male > 18: 0	Male < 18: 0	Total target:
Objective:	Strengthen the operations management capacities of the IFRC to provide support to the National Society for the implementation of the actions programmed as part of the Emergency Appeal.		
Priority Actions:	1. Operational Support: a. Provide close technical support to implement the emergency response by deploying key technical personnel. This includes initially deploying an Operations Coordinator from the IFRC Regional Office for the Americas, followed by surge deployments, and ultimately through local recruitment. b. Help maintain a strategic focus and ensure timely and effective implementation of the operation. c. Support the National Society in coordinating with key Movement and non-Movement stakeholders. d. Assist the Ecuadorian Red Cross in its decision-making processes, particularly when addressing challenges throughout the operation, by facilitating timely and context-appropriate solutions. e. Support the Ecuadorian Red Cross in adhering to IFRC guidelines, procedures, and policies. 2. Logistics and Supply Chain: a. Assess the supply chain to support effective planning for procurement, warehousing, and the transport of relief items from IFRC regional warehouses. b. Develop a logistics plan to streamline the dispatch of relief items, in line with IFRC procedures and standards. c. Coordinate the procurement and international shipment of essential items such as shelter kits and essential household items. d. Activate a Mobilisation Table to coordinate in-kind contributions from partners and donors, with a strong focus on tracking and documentation. e. Provide technical support to the Ecuadorian Red Cross on IFRC procurement procedures ensuring that procurement is carried out according to principles of efficiency, transparency, and accountability, with guarantees of quality and traceability.		

- f. Ensure that all distributed items mobilised from regional warehouses are properly labelled and identified.
- g. Maintain real-time, up-to-date reporting on procurement processes and stock movements from regional warehouses.

3. Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting (PMER):

- a. Jointly develop a monitoring plan with the Ecuadorian Red Cross based on key indicators to track operational progress.
- b. Conduct regular field visits to observe activity implementation and validate reported information.
- c. Support the drafting of Operations Updates and the final report, ensuring quality and timely delivery.
- d. Assist the Ecuadorian Red Cross in planning and conducting a lessons learned workshop to identify best practices and areas for improvement.
- e. Conduct a final evaluation of the emergency operation.

4. Communications:

- a. Design a communications plan specific to the operation, with key messages aligned to the context and humanitarian objectives.
- b. Support the Ecuadorian Red Cross in the development of communication materials to increase visibility and promote accountability.
- c. Disseminate messages through media outlets to encourage positive behaviour and enhance public understanding of the humanitarian response and Fundamental Principles.
- d. Contribute to strengthening the communications capacity of the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

5. Information Management (IM):

- a. Support the Ecuadorian Red Cross throughout the data management cycle – collection, processing, and analysis – to ensure timely and evidence-based decision-making.
- b. Develop visual products such as maps, dashboards, and infographics to inform and guide operational decision-making.
- c. Keep the emergency page on GO updated to ensure access to essential documents and operational reports.
- d. Strengthen local information management capacity to ensure autonomy and continuity in data production throughout the operation.
- e. Ensure the ongoing availability of IM products during the operation.

6. Human Resources and Surge Deployment:

- a. Coordinate the timely deployment of specialised personnel through rapid response mechanisms, including an Operations Manager, WASH Coordinator, PHiE Coordinator, Security Coordinator, IM Coordinator, and Logistics Coordinator.
- b. Facilitate the deployment of the WASH ERU M15 and the rapid response team from the Honduran Red Cross WASH Hub.

- c. Promote measures to safeguard the physical and emotional well-being of deployed personnel, including rest spaces, psychosocial support, and technical mentoring.
- d. Accelerate deployment procedures to ensure a rapid response to evolving needs.

7. Resource Mobilisation:

- a. Develop and implement a resource mobilisation strategy to strengthen partnerships both within and beyond the Movement.
- b. Facilitate information sharing with donors, ensuring transparency regarding commitments, contributions, and funding gaps.
- c. Support the Ecuadorian Red Cross in mobilising local resources.

8. Security:

- a. Conduct area-specific risk assessments, particularly in Esmeraldas, and define context-appropriate mitigation measures.
- b. Update and disseminate Minimum Security Requirements to all personnel involved in the operation.
- c. Develop security plans for IFRC staff, including standardised procedures applicable at all times.
- d. Ensure all surge and IFRC personnel have completed the "Stay Safe 2.0" courses prior to deployment.
- e. Encourage National Society staff and volunteers to complete available security training through the IFRC learning platform.
- f. Strengthen the security structure with specialised support from the IFRC, including a security surge focused on Esmeraldas, to safeguard deployed personnel.
- g. Ensure that field teams have adequate communication means, including satellite phones for areas with limited coverage.
- h. Contribute to strengthening the Ecuadorian Red Cross's institutional security capacity.

Risk management

A comprehensive and detailed risk register has been developed jointly with the Head of Delegation for the Cluster, Cluster Operations colleagues, and the Risk Management Coordinator for the Americas. This register includes key information such as risk owners and residual risk levels following the implementation of mitigation measures. The register will be reviewed and updated regularly to reflect changes in the operational context. In addition, a risk management plan is currently being developed to strengthen the integration and effective application of the IFRC's risk management policy within the operations.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
1. Extreme weather events including prolonged rainfall and landslides	High	High	• Constant monitoring of climatic conditions through official warning systems. • Contingency plans updated and shared. • Flexibility in planning activities according to forecasts.

2.	Limited accessibility to rural communities	Medium	Medium	• Coordination with local authorities.
3.	Delays in the purchase and distribution of relief items	Medium	High	• Coordinate with the Regional Logistics Unit to ship relief items from the regional warehouse in Panama. • Continue advocacy efforts with authorities to expedite the entry of relief items into the country. • Develop a procurement plan that is updated periodically.
4.	Limited or reduced participation of communities in activities	Low	High	• Initiate community activities with a briefing on the scope, objectives, and duration of the humanitarian response. • Implement feedback and accountability mechanisms. • Facilitate spaces from the outset of the response where communities can contribute their views and decisions on what actions to take and how they will be implemented.
5.	Low volunteer participation during protracted operations	Medium	High	• Ensure safety, health, and welfare conditions for volunteers, including insurance, mental health care and psychosocial support. • Acknowledge and recognise the contribution of volunteers. • Maintain open channels of communication with volunteers.
6.	Ongoing needs assessments reveal a greater impact than initially estimated	Medium	Medium	• Update the operation to meet the new needs of the population. • Maintain constant coordination with humanitarian actors at the national level to optimise the response and avoid duplication of efforts.
7.	Increase in waterborne and vector-borne diseases following the floods	High	High	• Reinforce key self-care and disease prevention messages to the community and volunteers. • Develop and share health protocols with all staff involved in the response. • Ensure access to safe water and hygiene supplies for all staff involved in the response. • Coordinate with the Ministry of Health and local stakeholders on epidemic control measures.
8.	Physical and emotional exhaustion of staff and volunteers	Medium	Medium	• Ensure mental health and psychosocial support for volunteers and staff involved in the response.
9.	A polarised environment affects perceptions of humanitarian assistance	High	High	• Constant monitoring of the political context and security conditions. • Maintain continuous communication with local and national actors, promoting the Fundamental Principles and the Humanitarian Mandate at all times.

			Implement communication campaigns on the Fundamental Principles and the actions of the Ecuadorian Red Cross.
10. Insecure conditions limit humanitarian access and the safety of Ecuadorian Red Cross and IFRC personnel	High	High	- Maintain constant monitoring of the situation and context. - Update security protocols and adapt them to the context where response actions are being implemented. - Develop and communicate a clear relocation plan. - Ensure that all volunteers participating in the response are aware of the security protocols.
11. Limited resources to implement response actions	High	High	- Develop a resource mobilisation strategy to be applied by the Ecuadorian Red Cross and IFRC, including traditional and non-traditional donors. - Ensure the response actions of the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the humanitarian situation in the affected areas are visible in the media. - Analyse and determine the most cost-effective activities to meet the urgent needs of the population and prioritise them according to the availability of resources.
11. Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	Medium	High	- Raise awareness in communities. - Dissemination of the Ecuadorian Red Cross PGI policy to all staff and volunteers involved in the response. - Establishment of SEA reporting channels. - Update and renewal of Code of Conduct signatures.

Quality and accountability

Intervention areas	
Integrated assistance	
	Shelter and basic household items
Indicators	
# of families provided with essential household items	
# of families provided with temporary emergency shelter solutions	
# of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on safe shelter	
	Livelihoods
Indicators	
# of families reached with CVA assistance to recover and/or strengthen their livelihoods	
# of people who received technical assistance/training to recover and/or strengthen their livelihoods	
# of communities with livelihoods microprojects implemented	
	Multi-purpose Cash
Indicators	

# of people reached with multipurpose cash assistance to cover basic needs	
# of people trained to effectively manage funds	
# of volunteers and staff trained in CVA	
Health & Care including Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)	
 Health and Care <i>(Mental Health and Psychosocial Support / Community Health / Medical Services)</i>	
Indicators	
Mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)	# of people reached with MHPSS services
	# of volunteers and staff trained in MHPSS
Emergency health services	# of health consultations given through Ecuadorian Red Cross medical services
Community health	# of families reached with food kits
	# of people reached by health promotion/awareness activities
	# of families reached with mosquito nets
 Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	
Indicators	
# of people reached by WASH vector control activities	
# of volunteers and staff trained in WASH	
# of families reached with hygiene supplies	
# of families reached with cleaning supplies	
# of families reached with chlorine	
# of families reached with jerrycans	
Average number of litres of safe water distributed per person per day	
# of people provided with an improved drinking water source (constructed or rehabilitated)	
# of people reached by Ecuadorian Red Cross WASH promotion/awareness activities	
Protection and Prevention (Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), Migration, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Environmental Sustainability, Education)	
 Protection, Gender, and Inclusion	
Indicators	
# of people reached by protection, gender, and inclusion services	
# of referral pathways established or updated for the response	
# of staff and volunteers trained on implementing PGI Minimum Standards	
# of people reached with RFL services	
 Community Engagement and Accountability	
Indicators	
# of community consultation meetings	
# of satisfaction surveys completed	
% of surveyed people reporting that they receive useful and actionable information through different trusted channels (broken down into digital and non-digital channels)	
% of affected people surveyed report that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner	
# of staff, volunteers, and leadership trained on CEA	
 Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation, and Recovery	

Indicators	
# of communities with EVCA developed in collaboration with the National Society	
# of communities with EVCA with disaster support teams established	
# of communities that received response gear and equipment	
# of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on DRR	
# of established CEWS established	
	Environmental Sustainability
Indicators	
# of green activities developed to promote environmental sustainability	
Enabling approaches	
	National Society Strengthening
Indicators	
# of volunteers involved in the response operation that have been trained in security	
# of volunteers and staff who received MHPSS	
# of insured volunteers	
Lessons Learned Workshop conducted	
# of volunteers provided with equipment for protection, safety, and support appropriate to the emergency	
	Coordination and Partnerships
Indicators	
Membership coordination meetings organised and updates are provided to Membership partners (Yes/No)	
	Secretariat Services
Indicators	
Joint coordination tools and mechanisms are in use within the Membership's response (Yes/No)	
# of surge missions or deployments carried out	
# of people deployed as part of the WASH ERU/WASH Hub	

FUNDING REQUIREMENT

Federation-wide funding requirement*

Federation-wide Funding Requirement including the National Society's domestic target, IFRC Secretariat and the Participating National Society's funding requirement CHF 4.5 million	IFRC Secretariat Funding Requirement in support of the Federation-wide funding ask CHF 4 million
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**For more information on Federation-wide funding requirement, refer to section: Federation-wide Approach*

Breakdown of the IFRC secretariat funding requirement



OPERATING STRATEGY

MDREC027 - Ecuador

Floods and Environmental Contamination

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Planned Operations	2,862,000
Shelter and Basic Household Items	212,000
Livelihoods	490,000
Multi-purpose Cash	372,000
Health	342,000
Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	1,231,000
Protection, Gender, and Inclusion	8,000
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation, and Recovery	184,000
Community Engagement and Accountability	10,000
Environmental Sustainability	13,000
Enabling Approaches	1,138,000
Coordination and Partnerships	5,000
Secretariat Services	482,000
National Society Strengthening	651,000
TOTAL FUNDING REQUIREMENTS	4,000,000

all amounts in Swiss francs (CHF)

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Reference



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