

## Ecuador | Floods and Environmental Contamination

|                                                                                                                                          |                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Emergency appeal №:</b> MDREC027<br><b>Emergency appeal launched:</b> 23/03/2025<br><b>Operational Strategy published:</b> 07/04/2025 | <b>Glide №:</b><br><b>AC-2025-000037-ECU</b><br><b>FL-2025-000026-ECU</b> |
| <b>Operation update #1</b><br><b>Date of issue:</b> 25/04/2025                                                                           | <b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b><br>From 01/03/2025 to 16/04/2025 |
| <b>Operation timeframe:</b> 12 months<br>(10/03/2025 – 31/03/2026)                                                                       | <b>Number of people being assisted:</b> 176,200                           |
| <b>Funding requirements (CHF):</b><br>CHF 4 million through the IFRC Emergency Appeal<br>CHF 4.5 million Federation-wide                 | <b>DREF amount initially allocated:</b><br>CHF 1,000,000                  |

To date, this Emergency Appeal, which seeks 4,000,000 Swiss francs, is funded at 11 percent. Additional funding contributions are needed to ensure that the Ecuadorian Red Cross can continue providing assistance to people in vulnerable conditions, who are increasingly affected by the ongoing heavy rains in the coastal region and the environmental contamination in Esmeraldas, which exacerbates the existing vulnerability factors in the province.



A volunteer from the Ecuadorian Red Cross assists a family affected by the floods while they transport a tool kit to repair their home. The situation in the area is critical, and with heavy rains forecasted in the coming weeks, humanitarian support remains essential. Source: ERC.

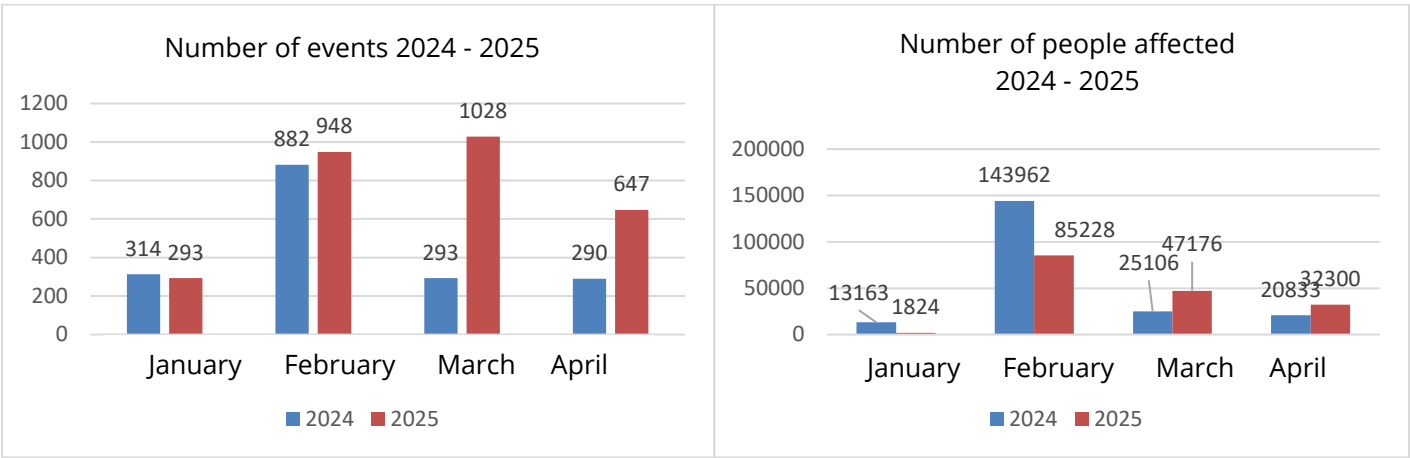
# A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

## Description of the crisis

### Rain Emergency Situation

Due to the heavy rains recorded in Ecuador since 14 February 2025, the National Risk Management Secretariat (SNGR) issued differentiated alerts across the country: Red for El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Manabí, Los Ríos, and Santa Elena; Orange for Azuay, Bolívar, Chimborazo, Cotopaxi, Loja, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas; and Yellow for the remaining 12 provinces. With the intensification of flooding, on 25 February, a regional state of emergency was declared in Guayas, Los Ríos, Manabí, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Santa Elena, Loja, and Azuay for a 60-day period.

Between April 1 and 16, 2025, an additional 572 rain-related adverse events were recorded, bringing the total to 2,831 for the year. Compared to 2024, this represents an increase of 1,137 events, the majority of which are floods caused by heavy rains and overflowing bodies of water.



Source: National Risk Management Secretariat (SNGR)

Taking into account that data collection exceeded the capacity of local municipal governments, the total number of affected individuals in February was lower compared to 2024.

The most impacted provinces were Manabí, Los Ríos, Guayas, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Santa Elena, and Loja. In April alone, 33,688 people were affected. In total, 163,283 people have been reported as affected, including 35,659 displaced, 52,382 homes damaged, 689 homes destroyed, and 125.6 km of roads compromised.

### Situation in Esmeraldas

On 13 March 2025, landslides caused by rain led to the rupture of a pipeline in the Trans-Ecuadorian Oil Pipeline System (SOTE), resulting in the spill of 25,116.95 barrels of crude oil. This contaminated the Caple estuary, the Viche River, and the Esmeraldas River, affecting at least 82 kilometers. The Provincial Emergency Operations Committee (COE) declared a disaster on 26 March due to the magnitude of the incident.

A total of 31,795.81 m³ of oily waste has been recovered. The San Mateo water treatment plant is operating with restrictions, while the Ecuadorian Red Cross and other entities are supplying potable water to areas without network

access. In Cube Parish (Quinindé), the piped water supply remains completely unavailable. Adverse weather conditions and the collapse of three containment dikes on March 25 have complicated oil spill response efforts.

As of 16 April, 17,906 people and 7,263 families have been affected, mainly in the cantons of Esmeraldas, Quinindé, Rioverde, Atacames, and Muisne. There are 355 reported displaced individuals. The damages include contamination of three rivers and nine beaches, damage to eight tourist establishments, and partial or total loss of 312 hectares of agricultural land. In addition, 378 animals have been affected, with 39 reported dead. The canton of Esmeraldas accounts for the highest number of affected people (8,067), mainly due to the lack of potable water. The Provincial COE and the cantonal COEs of Esmeraldas, Quinindé, Rioverde, and Atacames remain active.

## Summary of response

### Overview of the Host National Society and Ongoing Response

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (CRE) 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, 7,721 volunteers, and 24 provincial branches. Its national headquarters is based in Quito, with operational presence throughout the country via local branches and community committees. Additionally, it supplies 75% of the blood components required for transfusion therapies nationwide.

CRE has strengthened its institutional preparedness for emergencies and disasters through the Programmatic Partnership with DG ECHO (PPP), with support from the IFRC and the National Societies of Spain, Italy, and Germany. As a result of this initiative, it has pre-positioned humanitarian aid supplies in strategic warehouses in Imbabura, Tungurahua, Pichincha, and Azuay, and has enhanced operational capacity through staff training and the availability of equipment and supplies. Response protocols have also been established and tested during the National Response Teams Exercise (ENER) held in February 2025, with over 300 participants. Its ability to implement WASH interventions in emergencies further reinforces its operational readiness.

As of 16 April, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has deployed a comprehensive humanitarian response, assisting more than 22,628 people with direct aid, including the distribution of 3,277 kits containing kitchen items, food, hygiene, cleaning supplies, and tools, in addition to 4,106 items such as blankets, face masks, water gallons, and mosquito nets. Nearly 1.5 million litres of water have been treated and more than 3,757 litres of chlorine distributed across several affected provinces.

Psychosocial and medical care has been a fundamental pillar, with 547 psychosocial support interventions, 158 medical consultations, and 181 pre-hospital care services provided. The strategy also included the sensitization of over 50,581 people on preventive measures, the restoration of family links, and the delivery of health messages to 7,788 families. A total of 842 humanitarian professionals and 311 vehicles, including ambulances and boats, were mobilized nationwide. In addition to the IFRC, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has delivered aid with support from partners such as AECID, Coca-Cola, and the Programmatic Partnership (PPP), which includes the German Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, and Norwegian Red Cross. It has also mobilized resources from its headquarters and Provincial Branches in the affected areas.

During this emergency, humanitarian aid was provided in all provinces included in the operational strategy, which will be detailed in the following sections. This response has been funded not only through the Emergency Appeal but also with the support of national and international partners. The Ecuadorian Red Cross works closely with the National Risk Management Secretariat (SNGR) in conducting Initial Needs Assessments (EVIN) and maintains constant coordination with its provincial and cantonal branches, as well as with national and local authorities, in line with its auxiliary role. This includes active participation in all relevant technical working groups.

## National and Local Authorities

To address the emergency, the National Decentralized Risk Management System (SNDGR) activated 6 provincial Emergency Operations Centers (COEs), 48 cantonal COEs, and 10 parish commissions. Nine cantons declared local emergencies, and Nangaritza (Zamora Chinchipe) declared a state of disaster. To date, eight temporary shelters have been activated in El Oro, Manabí, Los Ríos, Santa Elena, and Pichincha, to assist 262 displaced individuals. Key impacts include disruptions to potable water supply, outbreaks of respiratory, digestive, and skin diseases, loss of crops and livestock, power and connectivity interruptions, blocked roads, and temporary suspension of in-person educational activities.

## Needs analysis

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is actively engaged in initial emergency assessments in its auxiliary humanitarian role, with a strong community presence throughout the country. For detailed information on sector-specific needs to operationalize your contribution, contact details are provided at the end of this document.

### Livelihoods and Basic Needs

Between January and April 2025, heavy rains in Ecuador led to the loss of over 31,300 hectares of crops (9,416.22 ha affected and 21,969.19 ha lost), as well as the death of approximately 63,242 animals (SNGR, SitRep No. 96, 16/04/2025). Economic losses in the agricultural sector exceed USD 14.4 million, with Manabí, Guayas, Los Ríos, El Oro, and Esmeraldas being the most impacted provinces (SNGR, Infographic No. 94, 14/04/2025). This situation worsens an already precarious labour context, where only 3 out of 10 people have full employment and 58% work in the informal sector. In Esmeraldas, the spill of 25,116.95 barrels of crude oil contaminated 3 rivers, 9 beaches, and 312.01 hectares of agricultural land, affecting 17,906 people (SNGR, SitRep No. 29, 16/04/2025).

The artisanal fishing sector, with over 4,400 people between Esmeraldas and Rioverde, has suffered major losses due to contamination of fishing areas and equipment. The tourism sector has also been affected, with 8 establishments impacted and the closure of key beaches such as Las Palmas. Competent authorities — including the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), Ministry of Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE), Ministry of Tourism (MINTUR), and SNGR — continue to monitor and coordinate with local governments to mitigate impacts and carry out damage assessments.

Although specific needs assessments are still ongoing, it is estimated that coastal and riverside communities in Esmeraldas affected by the oil spill are facing near-total loss of income, especially in fishing, farming, and shellfish collection. In the other provinces, there is a need for economic support, productive inputs, environmental cleanup, and recovery measures for crops, employment, and market access. Identified needs include economic reactivation, technical assistance, supply distribution, productive recovery, and access to food. Assessments remain in progress.

### Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA)

The Ecuadorian Red Cross continues to monitor the context to identify possible adjustments in targets or unmet needs, and to evaluate its involvement based on emerging priorities in each emergency sector. At present, the level of loss and limited access to functional markets indicates the need for CVA implementation, although assessments are still ongoing.

In the meantime, the government has activated its social protection system to deliver one-time contingency cash transfers to 1,636 families in Manabí and Imbabura, with a broader target planned (SNGR, SitRep No. 96, 16/04/2025). Additional support mechanisms have been established through executive decrees, including electricity bill discounts in eight provinces of the Sierra and Coast affected by the floods. The government has also issued initial cash compensation of USD 470 for families impacted by the oil pipeline rupture and is preparing further grants to support economic recovery for entrepreneurs and small-scale agricultural producers.

## Health

- **Emergency Assessments:** As part of the Emergency Appeal, a critical gap has been identified in emergency data collection capacity. The use of EVIN must be reinforced in the health sector. Despite the national coverage of the Ministry of Public Health (MSP), coordination issues between central and local levels persist. In response, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (CRE), in its auxiliary role, is working with national and local health teams on a specific tool for community health analysis that includes clinical, mental health, sexual and reproductive health, and food security variables.
- **Disease Increase:** The MSP reports an increase in vector-borne (dengue, leishmaniasis), respiratory, dermatological, and waterborne diseases (hepatitis A, food poisoning), requiring urgent prevention, control, and treatment measures. CRE plans to deploy mobile health units to priority areas.
- **Nutrition:** Chronic child malnutrition is particularly severe in children under five, due to its long-term health impacts. Dehydration, weight loss, and reduced nutrient absorption can worsen acute and chronic malnutrition. CRE is working with MSP to gather data to define targeted nutritional needs.
- **Community-Based Surveillance:** There is a need to further strengthen Community-Based Surveillance, emphasizing local participation in reporting health events and accountability — especially through safe, culturally appropriate spaces with the active involvement of youth, women leaders, and indigenous groups.
- **Mental Health:** It is estimated that 3–4% of the population will develop severe mental health conditions, while 15–20% will experience moderate conditions such as mild depression or anxiety (WHO, 2024). One in five people affected may develop a mental disorder linked to the emergency. In Esmeraldas, where environmental crises are recurrent, the demand for psychosocial support is persistent. Nationally, the MSP has 556 outpatient services, 70 intensive outpatient units, 112 hospital-based mental health units, and only 10 CETAD centres — reflecting limited coverage (MSP, 2024). After the environmental contamination emergency, 87% of respondents reported increased stress and depression; 76% do not have access to mental health services (OCHA, 2025).

## Pre-Hospital Care

Access to health services may be restricted by road blockages, damaged infrastructure, and limited capacity in local facilities (SNGR, SitRep No. 96, 16/04/2025). This context requires that personnel be properly equipped to provide both basic and advanced life support in the field, including the need for pre-hospital care — justifying the purchase of supplies, medical equipment, and materials. In the context of the oil spill and heavy rains, pre-hospital response teams activated via ECU 911 have provided immediate care to affected communities (SNGR, SitRep No. 29, 16/04/2025). The first response phase included scene safety verification, initial triage, coordination of additional resources, and support in rescue and evacuation. Given the characteristics of the event, it is essential to train staff in emergencies involving hazardous materials, specifically oil spills, and in providing on-site clinical care in areas where definitive treatment is not immediately available.

## WASH

There is an urgent need to provide access to safe water in accordance with Sphere Standards. In Esmeraldas, according to OCHA's rapid needs assessment, 63% of surveyed individuals have restricted or limited access to water, particularly in remote rural communities where water trucks do not reach, forcing families to rely on alternative or commercial water sources. While service has been restored in some areas, many still lack access to water. Additionally, as a result of the floods, families across the 14 provinces covered by this Emergency Appeal urgently need hygiene kits, cleaning kits, and appropriate information on hygiene practices (handwashing, menstrual hygiene, etc.), safe water consumption and storage measures, and repairs to damaged water systems.

## Protection, Gender, and Inclusion

The combination of the internal security crisis and structural inequalities has increased protection risks for priority groups recognized by the Ecuadorian state, including children, adolescents, pregnant women, older adults, people with disabilities, indigenous communities, survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), and people in human mobility (SNGR, SitRep No. 96, 16/04/2025). In Esmeraldas, these risks are exacerbated by high levels of violence, poverty, and

social tension. The risk of GBV is particularly high in shelters and communities where services are inactive or inaccessible.

Despite UNFPA support for sexual and reproductive health services, significant gaps persist in specialized care, particularly for survivors of sexual violence. Referral systems remain weak in responding to GBV cases and situations of exploitation or abuse. There is an urgent need to strengthen safe protection pathways from humanitarian spaces and to improve coordination between institutional and community actors to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). Natural disasters have also disrupted communication in several territories, hindering contact between families and displaced communities. Integrating a PGI approach ensures that every individual, regardless of gender, age, or disability, has equitable access to WASH services without exclusion.

### **Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)**

The shortage of supplies may limit the effectiveness of these initiatives. CEA is essential in WASH as it involves communities in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of activities. Listening to and addressing the specific needs of affected populations allows for the adaptation of solutions to improve their relevance and sustainability, considering the local context. Ongoing communication with communities aims to ensure transparency, prevent the creation of false expectations, and guarantee that all actions genuinely respond to needs identified by the communities themselves. In this framework, information points have been established where people can access information about humanitarian assistance and leave their questions, suggestions, complaints, feedback, or rumours. This feedback is key to adjusting interventions in real time and building community trust, aligning with each operational sector. Coordination with public, private, and humanitarian institutions is also essential to strengthen local response systems and avoid duplication of efforts.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

Environmental considerations must be integrated into response planning to address existing contamination while ensuring that implemented solutions do not cause further environmental harm. This approach promotes long-term community resilience. The Ecuadorian Red Cross remains committed to ensuring that affected communities not only recover but also become more resilient in the face of future emergencies.

## **Operational risk assessment**

No changes are currently expected that would affect the operational risk since the publication of the operational strategy. During the reporting period, the team has continued implementing various mitigation actions in response to the risks identified in the strategy, including:

- Ongoing monitoring of the national situation and weather conditions through the Ecuadorian Red Cross Information Room, in coordination with national and local authorities.
- Psychosocial support for volunteers, providing spaces for emotional well-being during the emergency response.
- Active collaboration with national authorities and decentralized governments through all relevant technical working groups, including joint needs assessments.
- The IFRC has deployed personnel in areas such as security and communications and is currently implementing a fundraising strategy.
- Additionally, it has supported the procurement of supplies in coordination with the Ecuadorian Red Cross to ensure timely delivery and operational readiness.

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

### Update on the strategy

There are no major changes to the operational strategy. However, it is important to highlight the increase in rainfall and its adverse effects across the country, with the greatest impact on the coastal provinces. As a result, the geographic focus of the priority response may shift — although it will remain within the 14 affected provinces.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL REPORT

### STRATEGIC SECTORS OF INTERVENTION

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                           |                      |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
|  <b>Shelter, Housing and Settlements</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                           | Female > 18<br>1,309 | Female < 18<br>561 |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                           | Male > 18<br>1,236   | Male < 18:<br>539  |
| <b>Objective:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Communities in disaster and crisis affected areas restore and strengthen their safety, wellbeing and longer-term recovery through shelter and settlement solutions</i> |                      |                    |
| <b>Key Indicators</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Indicators</b>                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Actual</b>        | <b>Objective</b>   |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | # of families provided with essential household items                                                                                                                     | 139*                 | 500                |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | # of families provided with temporary emergency shelter solutions                                                                                                         | 1,000                | 1,500              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | # of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on safe shelter                                                                                              | n/a**                | TBD                |
| <p>The operational focus of the Emergency Appeal is on Guayas, Esmeraldas, Los Ríos, and El Oro, where the current budget has enabled the <b>confirmed delivery of supplies to 1,000 families</b> — primarily toolkits, along with plastic tarpaulins, blankets, <b>and *139 kitchen kits</b>. All assistance has been and continues to be distributed using pre-positioned stock. These supplies are being replenished with the support of the IFRC through the logistics hub at the IFRC regional office in Panama. <b>**</b>The community training and support process is still under documentation and verification.</p> <p>The Ecuadorian Red Cross has provided shelter-related humanitarian assistance to over 1,200 families as part of its national response, including toolkits, plastic tarpaulins, blankets, and mattresses across nine provinces, with the support of many partners such as the ones from the PPP and IFRC.</p> |                                                                                                                                                                           |                      |                    |
| <b>Livelihoods</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                           | Female > 18<br>0     | Female < 18<br>0   |



Male > 18  
0

Male < 18:  
0

**Objective:** *Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods*

| Key Indicators | Indicators                                                                                            | Actual | Objective |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------|
|                | # of families reached with CVA assistance to recover and/or strengthen their livelihoods              | 0      | 1,600     |
|                | # of people who received technical assistance/training to recover and/or strengthen their livelihoods | 0      | 1,600     |
|                | # of communities with livelihoods microprojects implemented                                           | 0      | 4         |
|                | # of families reached with food kits                                                                  | 0      | 1,000     |

Although current funding remains limited, the Provincial Branches of the Ecuadorian Red Cross have begun conducting needs assessments, market impact analyses, and mapping the availability of financial service providers. Additionally, a mapping of volunteer agronomists has been completed, with a list compiled by each Provincial Branch to assess availability for supporting diagnostics and the implementation of future livelihood activities.



## Multi-purpose Cash

Female > 18  
0

Female < 18  
0

Male > 18  
0

Male < 18:  
0

**Objective:** *Households are provided with unconditional/multipurpose cash grants to address their basic needs*

| Key indicators: | Indicator                                                                  | Actual | Target |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
|                 | # of people reached with multipurpose cash assistance to cover basic needs | 0      | 4,800  |
|                 | # of people trained to effectively manage funds                            | 0      | 1,500  |
|                 | # of volunteers and staff trained in CVA                                   | 0      | TBD    |

At present, funding is only available to provide a one-time cash transfer to a target of 530 families, to be coordinated with other actors. Additional funds are needed for training and capacity-building activities. In the coming weeks, efforts will focus on working with Provincial Branches to gather information on market conditions and the presence of financial service providers.

## Health & Care

Female > 18  
74

Female < 18  
32



(Mental Health and psychosocial support / Community Health / Medical Services)

Male > 18  
69

Male < 18:  
30

**Objective:** *Strengthening holistic individual and community health of the population impacted through community level interventions and health system strengthening*

| Key indicators: | Indicator                                                                     | Actual            | Target |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
|                 | # of people reached with MHPSS services                                       | 47*               | TBD    |
|                 | # of volunteers and staff trained in MHPSS                                    | Not yet available | TBD    |
|                 | # of health consultations given through Ecuadorian Red Cross medical services | 158               | TBD    |
|                 | # of people reached by health promotion/awareness activities                  | n/a               | 10,776 |
|                 | # of families reached with mosquito nets                                      | n/a               | 3,592  |

Since the beginning of the operational deployment, and with the technical support of public health specialists, a joint strategy has been developed with the Ministry of Public Health (MSP) for territorial-level health needs assessments. This initiative aims to address one of the most significant information gaps identified in the current response. On 15 April 2025, the proposal was officially presented to the MSP, receiving a favourable response and institutional interest. A pilot is scheduled from April 21 to 23 in Santo Domingo, with participation from technical teams of both MSP and the Ecuadorian Red Cross to evaluate and adjust the joint implementation of the strategy.

In parallel, the procurement process for key supplies has begun, including mosquito breeding site elimination kits and community cleaning kits, with the goal of having these resources available as soon as possible to support planned interventions in priority areas.

In the area of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), accompaniment has been provided to humanitarian personnel for field activities targeting both communities and responders. The procurement of supplies to strengthen the SMAPS response is also underway. Additionally, a reporting and monitoring system using Kobo is being implemented to track actions taken. The next two operational updates will provide more detailed and disaggregated data through this mechanism.

Although no new health services have been delivered yet, emergency health services were provided in March, focused on pre-hospital care using supplies from previous projects, which are expected to be replenished once additional funds become available through the appeal.

| Date       | Province | Canton | Women | Men |
|------------|----------|--------|-------|-----|
| 04/03/2025 | El Oro   | Piñas  | 6     | 4   |
| 05/03/2025 | El Oro   | Piñas  | 9     | 7   |
| 06/03/2025 | El Oro   | Piñas  | 16    | 10  |
| 07/03/2025 | El Oro   | Piñas  | 20    | 3   |
| 09/03/2025 | Guayas   | Playas | 42    | 41  |

Psychosocial support continues to be provided to affected individuals, with a primary focus on emotional decompression activities for Ecuadorian Red Cross (CRE) volunteers involved in community interventions as part of the emergency response. The table below details the number of sessions conducted between 1 March and 7 April. Future updates will include both the number of volunteers who received support, and the number of affected individuals assisted, to consolidate this data and better estimate the overall target.

| Provincial Branch | Support to carers | People Reached |
|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| El Oro            | 123               | 0              |
| Esmeraldas        | 97                | 0              |
| Guayas            | 164               | 0              |
| Santa Elena       | 35                | <b>47*</b>     |
| Grand Total       | 419               | <b>47*</b>     |



## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Female > 18  
3,566

Female < 18  
1,530

Male > 18  
3,367

Male < 18:  
1,470

### Objective:

*Ensure safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and adequate hygiene awareness of the communities during relief and recovery phases of the Emergency Operation, through community and organizational interventions*

### Key Indicators

| Indicator                                                                                  | Actual            | Target |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--------|
| # of people reached by WASH vector control activities                                      | n/a               | 2,160  |
| # of volunteers and staff trained in WASH                                                  | 19                | 50     |
| # of families reached with hygiene supplies                                                | n/a*              | 6,400  |
| # of families reached with cleaning supplies                                               | n/a*              | 6,400  |
| # of families reached with chlorine                                                        | 2,536             | 17,000 |
| # of families reached with jerrycans                                                       | 588               | 27,500 |
| Average number of litres of safe water distributed*                                        | Approx 1.5M total | TBD    |
| # of people provided with an improved drinking water source (constructed or rehabilitated) | 0                 | 8,000  |
| # of people reached by Ecuadorian Red Cross WASH promotion/awareness activities            | 1,730             | 20,000 |

### **Household Water Treatment**

In addition, sodium hypochlorite has been distributed to over 2,500 families. This product is essential for disinfecting water, food, and surfaces, helping to promote health and prevent disease. \*Although disaggregated and detailed data on the chlorine and cleaning kits is currently limited, improving information management between headquarters and provincial technical lines remains a priority for the Ecuadorian Red Cross and will be reflected in upcoming reports.

Another important element of the intervention has been the distribution of 588 jerrycans to families. These containers ensure safe and efficient water storage and facilitate daily use and transport. The average volume of water distributed per person per day has been closely monitored to ensure that basic needs are met. This effort has been essential in improving the quality of life in affected communities.

### **Hygiene Promotion**

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has carried out hygiene promotion and awareness activities related to WASH practices. These efforts have reached 541 families, providing information on the importance of adopting hygiene habits and promoting responsible sanitation, from household cleanliness to community-wide practices. Community participation in these activities has been a positive indicator of the interventions' impact.

### **Safe Water Distribution**

During the emergency, the Ecuadorian Red Cross intensified its efforts to improve water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) conditions in multiple communities nationwide. A key component of this response has been the production and distribution of safe water through the deployment of water treatment units with capacities of 3,000 and 5,000 litres per hour. These efforts have resulted in the delivery of approximately 1.5 million litres of potable water to families in Piñas (El Oro) and Esmeraldas, in coordination with institutional partners.

### **Community Water System Rehabilitation**

Technical evaluations were conducted at four potable water treatment plants located in the parishes of Montalvo, Los Olivos, La Unión de Atacames, and Tabiazo, in Esmeraldas Province. The assessments included diagnostics of the plants' functional status across their intake, treatment, storage, and distribution phases, as well as physicochemical and bacteriological water analyses. The aim was to identify structural and operational failures that may compromise water quality and continuity of service, and to prioritize urgent rehabilitation needs. This intervention aims to reach approximately 8,000 people by ensuring access to safe water in the affected communities. Currently, there are no funds allocated within the appeal to carry out these actions, and the Ecuadorian Red Cross is actively seeking external funding due to the urgent health and humanitarian needs.

### **Emergency Response Unit M15**

To meet the urgent need for safe water in Esmeraldas and balance response capacity across other provinces, an M15 Emergency Response Unit (ERU) was deployed, with the capacity to supply water to 15,000 people per day. This was a joint effort led by the Central America WASH Hub, hosted by the Honduran Red Cross with support from the German Red Cross and technical assistance and resources from the Spanish Red Cross. The operation began under challenging conditions due to the fragile security situation in Esmeraldas, compounded by national elections and severely damaged water infrastructure caused by the oil spill. A treatment plant previously installed by the Ecuadorian Red Cross at the thermoelectric plant had a capacity of 80,000 litres per day, but these units are insufficient to meet the growing water needs in Esmeraldas and other affected provinces. Additionally, 19 CRE volunteers were trained in WASH management as part of this effort.



**Above:** ERU and Provincial Board team, composed of Ecuadorian Red Cross staff and volunteers, members of the WASH Hub Centroamérica (Honduran Red Cross and German Red Cross) and delegates from the Spanish Red Cross set up the M15 equipment on the Catholic University Campus in mid-April. Source: ERC.

Contacts were established with the Catholic University in Esmeraldas to relocate the M15 unit to an area with access to the Río Tigre, located on university property. This solution allows continued water production while other treatment units are mobilized to provinces severely affected by new flooding. Technical issues at the thermoelectric plant were resolved, and progress has been made on plans to install community water tanks.

The M15 is now fully operational on the site provided by the University, with all three treatment lines active and a daily production capacity of over 75,000 litres of treated water. Local training activities are underway, alongside a structured transition plan aimed at full handover and ownership of the process to the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

This response is the result of strong cooperation between the Ecuadorian Red Cross—as the national WASH lead—and the WASH Hub in Honduras (Honduran and German Red Cross), the Spanish Red Cross, and the IFRC, which has supported coordination and facilitation efforts.



## Community Engagement and Accountability

| Objective     |                                                                                                                       | Communities in high-risk zones receive relevant, timely information |        |
|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Key Indicator | Indicator                                                                                                             | Actual                                                              | Target |
|               | # of community consultation meetings                                                                                  | n/a                                                                 | 42     |
|               | # of satisfaction surveys completed                                                                                   | To be collected                                                     | 1      |
|               | % of surveyed people reporting that they receive useful and actionable information through different trusted channels | To be collected                                                     | 50%    |

|                                                                                                                                             |                 |       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|-------|
| % of affected people surveyed report that humanitarian assistance is delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner | To be collected | 85%   |
| # of staff, volunteers, and leadership trained on CEA                                                                                       | 9               | 60    |
| # of people reached with messages about the auxiliary role of the ERC and the humanitarian assistance it delivers                           | 0               | 8,000 |

As part of the effort to strengthen community engagement and accountability mechanisms, procurement processes have begun for the installation of information kiosks in target communities. These spaces will facilitate access to relevant information about the operation and allow for the ongoing collection of community feedback.

In parallel, the Provincial Branches of the Ecuadorian Red Cross are carrying out concrete actions in their respective areas, such as regular meetings with families and community leaders, with the aim of continuously evaluating emergency response activities, ensuring their relevance, and adapting the response to the actual needs of affected individuals. Quantification and detailed reporting of these actions will be possible in upcoming updates once verification documents are received.

Regarding indicator-specific activities, it is important to clarify that the target of 42 community meetings is based on holding three meetings per province across the 14 provinces, which are still being scheduled. Additionally, the CEA component includes a macro satisfaction survey that will be implemented at different times and locations and is expected to be launched as soon as possible.

In terms of CEA updates, the CRE focal point is already providing technical support to several provinces, which will continue throughout the operation and be replicated at the cantonal level by trained personnel. Currently, those trained include: 1 in El Oro, 2 in Manabí, 1 in Esmeraldas, 2 in Los Ríos, and 2 in Imbabura.

|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                    |                    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|  <b>Protection, gender and inclusion</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Female > 18<br>840 | Female < 18<br>361 |
|                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Male > 18<br>794   | Male < 18:<br>346  |
| <b>Objective:</b>                                                                                                           | <i>Communities identify the needs of the most at risk and particularly disadvantaged and marginalized groups, due to inequality, discrimination and other non-respect of their human rights and address their distinct needs</i> |                    |                    |
| <b>Key indicators:</b>                                                                                                      | <b>Indicator</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Actual</b>      | <b>Target</b>      |
|                                                                                                                             | <i># of staff and volunteers trained on implementing PGI Minimum Standards</i>                                                                                                                                                   | 0                  | 30                 |
|                                                                                                                             | <i># of people reached by protection, gender, and inclusion services</i>                                                                                                                                                         | n/a                | TBD                |

|  |                                                                       |       |     |
|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----|
|  | <i># of referral pathways established or updated for the response</i> | n/a   | TBD |
|  | <i># of people reached with RFL services</i>                          | 2.341 | 600 |

## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

The matrix for collecting or updating mappings of access to services and rights for priority groups is currently up to date. A toolkit is in development, focused on safe referrals, including registration forms, systematization tools, and other instruments designed to support the guidelines currently being drafted. An online training on safe referral and response mechanisms is planned in connection with the above actions and is expected to take place in the second half of 2025.

## Restoring Family Links (RFL)

Given the current situation in which several provinces have been affected by floods and landslides, temporary disruptions to connectivity have occurred in various communities. This has led to displacement and the temporary separation of families evacuated to shelters or hosted by other households. In response, the Ecuadorian Red Cross (CRE) has activated Restoring Family Links (RFL) activities to help maintain family connections. Services implemented include:

- Connectivity services (phone calls, internet access, phone charging)
- Referral to other local actors
- Community awareness on preventive measures
- Dissemination of the national RFL hotline.

Connectivity services were activated in Guayas, Chimborazo, and El Oro, with notable implementation in temporary shelters, such as for those affected by the bridge collapse in Daule (Guayas). Demand for these services has increased directly in response to the expansion of affected areas.

Community awareness activities were conducted in El Oro, Guayas, Manabí, Santo Domingo, and Santa Elena. These sessions, led by trained staff from the Provincial Branches, provide individual guidance on the use of prevention cards and the RFL TAG. These tools promote practices to prevent family separation, such as memorizing phone numbers and knowing how to access the national RFL hotline.

At the national level, CRE has informed the Global Family Links Network—which includes National Societies and the ICRC—of these efforts, to support coordination in case of search requests or specific RFL actions.

|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                  |               |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|  <b>Environmental Sustainability</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                  | Female > 18:  | Female < 18:  |
|                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                  | Male > 18:    | Male < 18:    |
| <b>Objective:</b>                                                                                                       | <i>Contribute to the operation's environmental sustainability by minimising and mitigating any potential harm to the local environment caused by humanitarian interventions.</i> |               |               |
| <b>Key indicators:</b>                                                                                                  | <b>Indicator</b>                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Target</b> |
|                                                                                                                         | <i># of communities with EVCA developed in collaboration with the National Society</i>                                                                                           | n/a           | 14            |
|                                                                                                                         | <i># of communities with EVCA with disaster support teams established</i>                                                                                                        | n/a           | 14            |

|                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                     |     |       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-------|
|                                                                                                                                                 | # of communities that received response gear and equipment          | n/a | 14    |
|                                                                                                                                                 | # of people who attended training/awareness raising sessions on DRR | n/a | 2,200 |
|                                                                                                                                                 | # of established CEWS established                                   | n/a | 14    |
| For now, funding limitations restrict DRR and resilience activities to an exchange platform, which will be developed during the recovery phase. |                                                                     |     |       |

|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |               |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | <b>Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Recovery</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Female > 18:  | Female < 18:  |
|                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Male > 18:    | Male < 18:    |
| <b>Objective:</b>                                                                 | 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 |               |               |
| <b>Key indicators:</b>                                                            | <b>Indicator</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Target</b> |
|                                                                                   | # of green activities developed to promote environmental sustainability                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | n/a           | 14            |
| Activities are planned for the recovery phase and subject to fund availability.   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |               |               |

## Enabling approaches

|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |               |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
|  | <b>National Society Strengthening</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |               |               |
|                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |               |               |
| <b>Objective:</b>                                                                   | 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. |               |               |
| <b>Key indicators:</b>                                                              | <b>Indicator</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Target</b> |
|                                                                                     | # of volunteers involved in the response operation that have been trained in security                                                                                                                                                                                                    | n/a           | TBD           |
|                                                                                     | # of volunteers and staff who received MHPSS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | n/a*          | 200           |
|                                                                                     | # of insured volunteers                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | n/a**         | n/a           |

- Volunteering: Each sectoral component outlines progress on planned trainings, ID card issuance, and uniform procurement for volunteers. More detailed information will be included in future reports.

\*The number of volunteers and staff reached through MHPSS is still being disaggregated from the total number of sessions.

| Provincial Branch | Support to carers |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| El Oro            | 123               |
| Esmeraldas        | 97                |
| Guayas            | 164               |
| Santa Elena       | 35                |
| Grand Total       | 419               |

\*\*The Emergency Appeal covers the full annual insurance policy for active volunteers involved in the operation. All accident or illness-related costs for volunteers are fully covered. The final number reached will depend on operational activations by the end of the appeal.

- Human Resources: The Emergency Appeal includes essential positions, which are currently in the recruitment process. However, additional personnel will be needed if funding increases to expand operational activities.
- Mobility and Vehicles: So far, only basic mobilization costs have been covered. The rental of vehicles for water distribution requires special procurement procedures, with support from the IFRC Regional Office in Panama to facilitate the process.
- Technology and Equipment: There are currently insufficient funds for this component. Partners are encouraged to support the development of the Ecuadorian Red Cross Information Room, which is key for operational readiness, information management, and accountability.
- Communications: Priority has been given to essential costs, but additional funding is needed, particularly for equipment acquisition.
- Logistics and Supply Chain: Essential costs are being prioritized, although additional funding will be required if the operation scales up.
- Telecommunications: No funds have been allocated to this component at present.
- Security: Provision of personal protective equipment is planned for staff and volunteers involved in the response.
- Monitoring and Evaluation: Currently, no funds have been allocated to this component.
- Digital Resource Management: No funds have been allocated to this component at this time.



## Coordination and Partnerships

### 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.*

### Indicator

### Actual

### Target

|                        |                                                                                                            |     |     |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| <b>Key indicators:</b> | <i>Membership coordination meetings organised and updates are provided to Membership partners (Yes/No)</i> | Yes | Yes |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|

Regular meetings, primarily informal, are being held with all partners involved in the response. Communication is coordinated through the IFRC Americas Regional Office (ARO) in Panama, the IFRC headquarters in Geneva, and the Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) in Lima. Situation reports have started to be produced, and meetings with donors have been held, along with formal coordination meetings currently under development.

Efforts are also underway to comply with the requirements of the new Emergency Response Framework (ERF), including the established coordination mechanisms. While it has not yet been necessary to escalate any issues to higher levels, an activation plan for these mechanisms is being developed in case strategic problem-solving becomes necessary.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross continues to participate in the technical working group related to Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA). A meeting is scheduled for 21 April to update organizational interventions, among other topics.



## Secretariat Services

|                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |               |               |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Objective:</b>      | <i>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.</i> |               |               |
| <b>Key indicators:</b> | <b>Indicator</b>                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Target</b> |
|                        | <i>Joint coordination tools and mechanisms are in use within the Membership's response (Yes/No)</i>                                                                                             | Yes*          | Yes           |
|                        | <i># of surge missions or deployments carried out</i>                                                                                                                                           | 8             | 8             |
|                        | <i># of people deployed as part of the WASH ERU/WASH Hub</i>                                                                                                                                    | 5             | 6             |

| Profile                                                  | Duty Station   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Manager, Operations, Evolving Crises and Disasters (ARO) | Quito (Roving) |
| Operations Manager                                       | Quito (Roving) |
| Public Health in Emergencies Coordinator                 | Quito (Roving) |
| Public Health in Emergencies Developing Coordinator      |                |
| ERU Team Lead – M15                                      | Esmeraldas     |
| Lab Technician – M15                                     | Esmeraldas     |
| Hygiene Promotion Technician – M15                       | Esmeraldas     |
| WASH Coordinator                                         | Esmeraldas     |
| Security Senior Officer                                  | Esmeraldas     |
| Senior Communications Officer                            | Esmeraldas     |

The \*Movement meeting hosted by the National Society also informed the rest of partners in-country on the situation at launch of the operation. In parallel, close support was provided to develop on the development of the Emergency Appeal, operational strategy, budgets, and the first operations update. In addition:

- Coordination has begun for financial reporting training, and active coordination is ongoing in logistics, security, and information management.

- The shipment of supplies purchased through the Panama logistics hub is expected to arrive in Guayaquil at the end of the month.
- Deployment of extended technical capacity has been coordinated throughout the operation.

## **Health**

Close collaboration continues with the health team on the development of an integrated pilot tool for health emergency needs assessments. The tool was presented to the Ministry of Health, and a support plan was established for its field pilot. At least one week is planned for implementation and systematization, to facilitate replication in other affected areas.

## **WASH**

- The M15 Emergency Response Unit (ERU) is operational and producing water in Esmeraldas, with a target of supporting 15,000 people. The ERU team continues to work jointly with the local Provincial Board.
- A transition plan is being developed for the M15 ERU, including staffing profiles, handover processes, and local training. The goal is to transfer full operation to the Ecuadorian Red Cross as soon as possible, as already supported by the WASH Centre.
- Informal training is underway, and the first formal training session for volunteers from the Provincial Branch on plant and equipment management and installation took place today.

## **Communications**

- The communications mission completed one week of work in Quito and Esmeraldas, collecting photos, videos, testimonials, and preparing key messages. Initial publications are already available on the Federation's digital platforms and traditional media.
- The IFRC media platform now contains high-resolution photos available to partners and the media, and the gallery will continue to be updated.

## **Security**

- The security mission updated the main documents within the Minimum-Security Requirements (MSR) package applicable in Ecuador, enabling secure operations for Secretariat staff in at-risk areas according to internal regulations.
- On-site security assessments were completed to ensure duty of care for deployed personnel.

Strong coordination was established with the Central America WASH Hub in Honduras and the Honduran Red Cross, with additional technical support from the German Red Cross. In response to the environmental contamination in Esmeraldas, an M15 Emergency Response Unit was requested from the WASH Hub, as described in the WASH section. A transition plan is also being developed to progressively localize WASH services, leveraging the technical capacity of the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Remote support opportunities are also being explored for planning, monitoring, and reporting, with participation anticipated from the IFRC Office in Lima. In terms of funding, the SPRM team has facilitated engagement with potential donors. Personnel from the Regional Office were deployed early in the emergency to support communications and security. The logistics team at the IFRC Regional Office in Panama continues to provide support with procurement processes, restocking, maritime transport to Guayaquil, and distribution to warehouses. Additional support is also being provided for specialized procurement processes. The cluster finance team provides ongoing assistance for financial reporting and budget tracking.

## Contact information

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

### **At the Ecuador National Society:**

- Secretary General: Juan Carlos Vizcarra; email: [jvizcarra@cruzroja.org.ec](mailto:jvizcarra@cruzroja.org.ec), phone: +593 988586734
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### **For In-Kind donations and Mobilisation table support:**

- Regional Head, Global Supply Chain: Jose Fernando Giraldo; email: [fernando.giraldo@ifrc.org](mailto:fernando.giraldo@ifrc.org)
- Regional Logistics Manager: Stephany Murillo; email: [stephany.murillo@ifrc.org](mailto:stephany.murillo@ifrc.org)

### **Reference documents**



Click here for:

- [Previous Appeals and updates](#)
- [Operational Strategy](#)

## How we work

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