



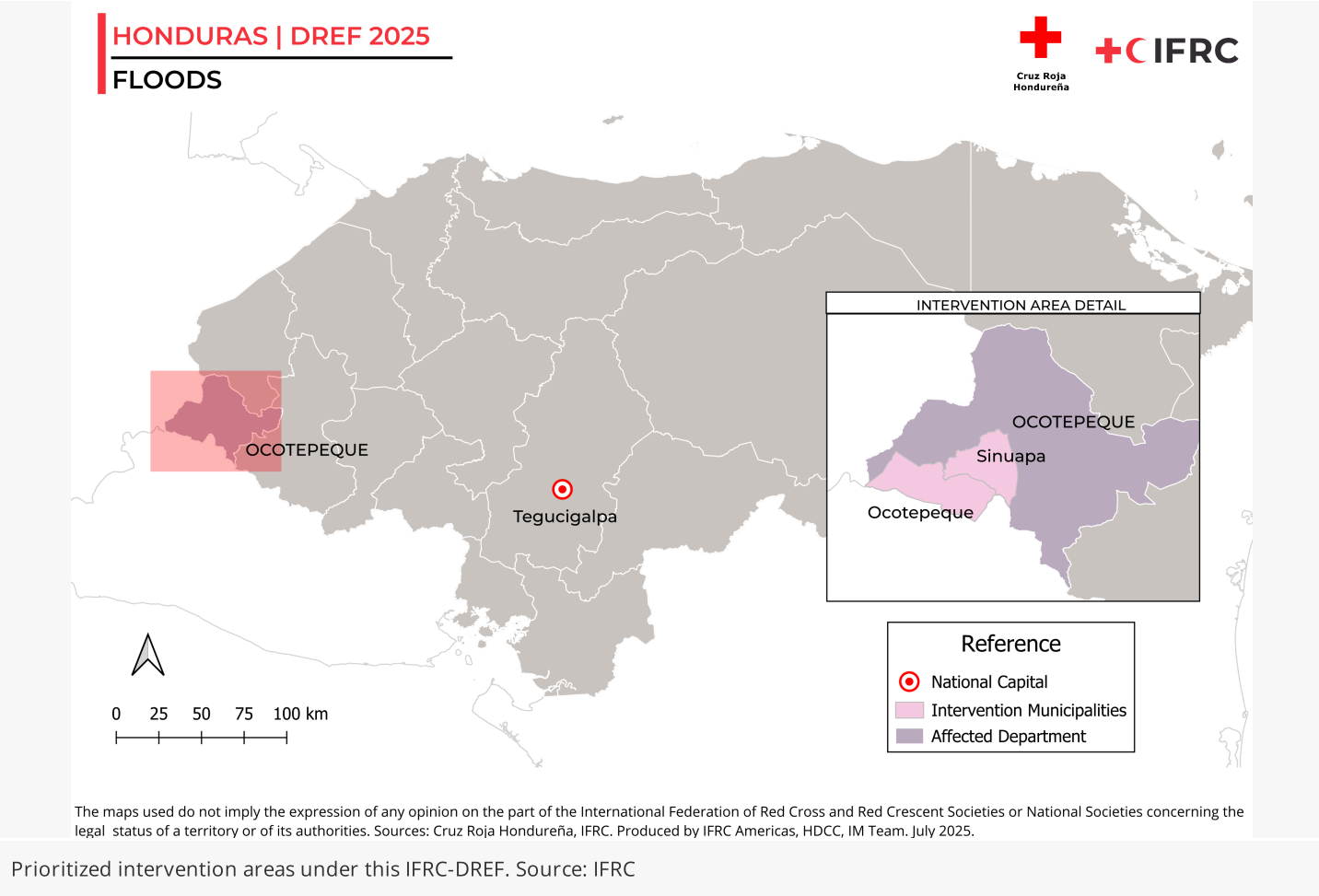
Rain-related impacts in Ocotepeque. June 2025. Source: La Prensa

Appeal: MDRHN026	Country: Honduras	Hazard: Flood	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 240,357	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 25,000 people	People Targeted: 5,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 07-07-2025	Operation Timeframe: 3 months	Operation End Date: 31-10-2025	DREF Published: 10-07-2025
Targeted Regions: Ocotepeque			

Description of the Event

Date of event

25-06-2025



What happened, where and when?

On 17 June, 2025, the department of Ocotepeque began experiencing heavy rainfall caused by the interaction of a surface trough with Tropical Wave Erick, a hydrometeorological event that entered the country that same day. This combination triggered flooding, landslides, and the collapse of road, sanitation, and water catchment infrastructure, particularly affecting the municipalities of Sinuapa, Ocotepeque, Dolores Merendón, and Fraternidad.

In response to the evolving situation, on 18 June, 2025, the State Secretariat for Risk and National Contingency Management (COPECO) issued an official bulletin declaring a Red Alert for the department of Ocotepeque and the banks of the Ulúa River in the municipality of El Progreso, department of Yoro (1). This measure was taken due to the intensification of rainfall associated with the system and the sudden rise in the Ulúa River’s water level, which caused levee breaches and flooding in vulnerable agricultural areas, including banana fields such as La Duarte, Campo Amapa, Naranjo Chico, Miraflores, Las Cuchillas, and San Isidro.

Additionally, a Yellow Alert was declared for the departments of Copán, Lempira, Intibucá, La Paz, Valle, and Choluteca, as well as low-lying areas in Cortés, Atlántida, and Colón. The rest of the western, central, and northern regions of the country were placed under Green Alert.

The weather event was characterized by widespread rainfall, showers of varying intensity, and strong wind gusts, which increased the risk of flooding, landslides, sinkholes, and damage to critical infrastructure, especially in highly vulnerable areas.

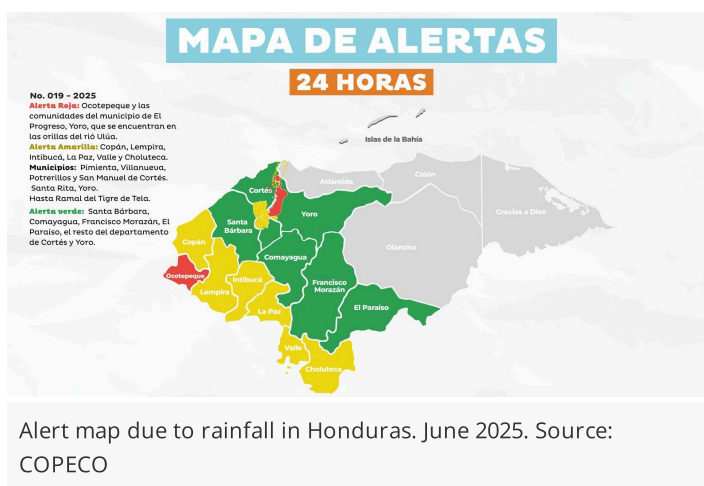
This phenomenon, multi-municipal and progressive in nature, caused cumulative impacts on infrastructure and living conditions, including isolated communities, disruption of basic services, and increased sanitary risk.



In this context, on 25 June, 2025, the Municipality of Ocotepeque formally requested support from the Honduran Red Cross in response to the significant damage in several communities, particularly to water supply systems. The request included priority actions such as the provision of safe water, distribution of water purification filters and hygiene kits, as well as the design and implementation of hygiene awareness campaigns, to prevent disease outbreaks due to deteriorating sanitation conditions.



M15 water treatment plant. June 2025. Source: HRC



Alert map due to rainfall in Honduras. June 2025. Source: COPECO

Scope and Scale

The hydrometeorological event triggered by the interaction between Tropical Wave Erick and a surface trough caused a large-scale emergency in the department of Ocotepeque, with progressive and multi-municipal impacts. Beginning on 17 June, 2025, intense and sustained rainfall led to extensive damage to critical infrastructure, livelihoods, and essential services, severely affecting health, protection, and food security conditions across the affected population.

According to official reports from the State Secretariat for Risk and National Contingency Management (COPECO), the municipalities most affected include Sinuapa, Ocotepeque, Dolores Merendón, Fraternidad, and Concepción. Among the most critical impacts was the total collapse of the "La Laborcita" dam —a key structure for potable water supply— cutting off access for more than 25,000 people. Additionally, the destruction of pipelines and water intake structures in Pomola and Cacalhuapa left entire communities exposed to immediate health risks.

In Dolores Merendón and Fraternidad, the destruction of road networks left several communities completely isolated, delaying the humanitarian response. Over 150 manzanas of staple crops (corn, beans, and coffee) were destroyed, directly affecting the livelihoods of subsistence farming households and day laborers. These losses have exacerbated food insecurity, particularly in rural households with limited coping capacity.

In the urban area of Ocotepeque, the overflow of rivers caused flooding of over 100 homes, damaging personal belongings, contaminating household water storage, and forcing evacuations. Public buildings such as health posts and educational centers reported minor to moderate damage, mainly due to water infiltration, affecting the continuity of services.

The crisis disproportionately affects specific age groups. Children and adolescents make up a significant portion of the displaced population and are particularly vulnerable to unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, poor nutrition, and psychological distress. Elderly individuals and those with chronic illnesses have had limited access to medical care. Pregnant and lactating women face additional barriers in accessing dignified shelter conditions, health services, and personal hygiene items.

Reports from local authorities and the Honduran Red Cross indicate that at least three rural schools and one health center temporarily suspended operations due to access limitations and minor structural damage. Although these facilities were not severely damaged, their closure has interrupted access to basic services for hundreds of families.

The deteriorating water and sanitation conditions have created a heightened risk of outbreaks of gastrointestinal, skin, and vector-borne diseases such as dengue, due to prolonged exposure to contaminated runoff, poor hygiene, and increased mosquito breeding.

The emergency has also led to temporary displacement, with over 40 people sheltered in official facilities, and many more in informal settings without consistent access to basic services.

While COPECO estimates that more than 25,000 people were affected by the water system failures, initial field assessments by the Honduran Red Cross identified at least 5,000 individuals —approximately 20% of the total— with urgent humanitarian needs in water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH), food security, and other essential services due to critical vulnerability and exposure.

Source Name	Source Link
1. COPECO – Raises Ocotepeque to Red Alert	https://x.com/copecogob/status/1935408032231633223

Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:

-

Lessons learned:

Based on its experience in previous flood response operations, the Honduran Red Cross has identified several key lessons to enhance its preparedness and response capacities. Among them is the importance of strengthening inter-institutional coordination mechanisms at both local and national levels, particularly in high-vulnerability areas, to enable more timely, efficient, and complementary responses.

Another important lesson has been the systematic integration of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approaches throughout all phases of the emergency cycle. This has enabled the development of more relevant and culturally appropriate responses, tailored to the specific needs of the most vulnerable groups. The value of establishing pre-existing alliances with community actors, local governments, and media has also been recognized, as it facilitates the dissemination of key messages and the early mobilization of human and material resources.

In the sectors of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and health, the importance of immediate intervention has been confirmed to prevent outbreaks of waterborne diseases and other conditions related to prolonged exposure to contaminated environments. The rapid provision of safe water, water filters, hygiene kits, and disinfection supplies, as well as the installation of temporary sanitation solutions, have proven effective in reducing health risks. Similarly, the early activation of community health teams, the promotion of hygiene practices, and the provision of psychosocial support to affected individuals have been essential to mitigate the physical and emotional impacts of emergencies.

Furthermore, the pre-positioning of logistical capacities, the availability of updated contingency plans, and clearly defined distribution routes have proven essential to ensure a rapid and effective response.

Did you complete the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis in previous operations, what was risk level?	Yes
What was the risk level for Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis?:	<p>Yes, in previous operations, the Child Safeguarding Risk Analysis was completed in accordance with IFRC-DREF standard procedures and the institutional protection protocols of the Honduran Red Cross. The most recent analysis was conducted in November 2024, at the onset of the IFRC-DREF operation for floods in the department of Colón (MDRHN024). The identified risk level was low, due to the limited direct interaction with children in the affected communities and temporary shelters.</p> <p>Nevertheless, mitigation measures were implemented, including training for staff and volunteers on child protection principles, the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment</p>



(PSEA) policy and commitment form, the dissemination of safe reporting pathways, and monitoring compliance with the Minimum Standards for Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI). These actions will be reinforced during the implementation of this IFRC-DREF operation.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

23-06-2025

Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	<p>As part of the initial emergency response deployment, the Honduran Red Cross conducted a technical assessment of the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector in the department of Ocotepeque, specifically in the municipalities of Ocotepeque, Sinuapa, Dolores Merendón, Fraternidad, and Concepción. This assessment was carried out by a multisectoral team from 23 to 25 June 2025, in coordination with municipal authorities, Municipal Emergency Committees (CODEM), and technical staff from local water units.</p> <p>The assessment involved direct observation in affected communities, interviews with community leaders and local technicians, and inspection of water catchment and distribution structures. It also identified precarious sanitation conditions in both communities and shelters, including collapsed latrines, accumulation of solid waste, and increased public health risks. Families began storing water in unsafe conditions, significantly heightening the risk of waterborne diseases and vector-borne outbreaks.</p>
Protection, Gender And Inclusion	<p>During the multisectoral assessment led by the teams for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), rapid needs and damage assessment (EDAN), and Protection, the Honduran Red Cross systematically integrated the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) approach to ensure an evaluation that could effectively capture the needs of vulnerable population groups. Disaggregated data by age and gender were collected in shelters, identifying specific risks for women, girls, adolescents, older adults, and LGBTIQ+ individuals. Exposure to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in non-segregated spaces was also observed.</p> <p>This process made it possible to identify differentiated needs in areas such as health, hygiene, emotional protection, and dignified shelter. It also highlighted access barriers for persons with disabilities and the lack of specific data on indigenous communities—an important visibility gap. The analysis led to concrete recommendations, including the establishment of safe spaces with minimum privacy standards, community-based feedback and protection reporting mechanisms, prioritized support for individuals with specific needs, and awareness-raising activities on protection, mental health, and dignified coexistence in emergency settings.</p>
Community Engagement And Accountability	<p>As part of its initial assessment actions, the Honduran Red Cross has actively promoted open dialogue with community leaders and local governance structures (patronatos), which has enabled the identification and validation of priority needs. These interactions have also helped to identify direct and trust-based communication channels between response teams and affected populations, laying the groundwork for a more participatory, transparent, and context-sensitive humanitarian response.</p>
Coordination	<p>The Honduran Red Cross has played an active role in inter-institutional coordination mechanisms at both the local and national levels, strengthening its collaboration with key stakeholders within the country's disaster risk management system. From the early days of the emergency, the National Society has maintained close coordination with the Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO), the national authority for Risk Management, participating in technical and operational forums to jointly plan humanitarian actions.</p> <p>Additionally, the National Society supported the coordination and activation of the</p>



	<p>Strategic Monitoring Centers (CEM), which have facilitated the tracking of the hydrometeorological event and informed decision-making based on real-time data.</p> <p>At the regional level, the National Society has been part of COPECO's Regional Emergency Operations Center (COER), contributing technical and logistical information to guide the distribution of aid and the prioritization of critical areas. At the municipal level, it has worked closely with the Municipal Emergency Committee (CODEM) of Ocotepeque to identify the most affected areas—particularly in the WASH sector—which has allowed for the prioritization of communities for the distribution of water filters and other essential water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions.</p>
National Society Readiness	<p>As part of its national disaster preparedness strategy, the Honduran Red Cross has demonstrated strong and operational capacity to respond promptly to the emergency caused by the floods in Ocotepeque. Thanks to the strategic pre-positioning of humanitarian supplies in its Central Warehouse, the National Society rapidly activated its logistical and technical response capabilities during the initial days of the emergency. Among the resources mobilized were 850 family hygiene kits, tailored to different age groups and specific needs, which are currently being distributed in some of the affected communities.</p> <p>In addition, a specialized Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) technical team composed of nine trained personnel was deployed. Supplies such as thermal foggers and chemicals for vector control were also activated. Complementary actions included the deployment of educational materials with key hygiene promotion messages, a water tanker truck for the distribution of safe water, and an M15 water purification plant with the capacity to produce up to 15,000 liters of safe drinking water per day.</p> <p>These actions have been carried out in coordination with the National Society's rapid assessment and response teams and reflect the positive impact of previous investments made under the National Preparedness and Response Plan. This immediate deployment capacity has enabled an effective intervention while the formal response operation under the current IFRC-DREF is being launched.</p>
Assessment	<p>The Honduran Red Cross activated its operational capacity in the western region of the country by deploying a multisectoral technical team to the department of Ocotepeque on 23 June 2025. The mission of this team was to carry out rapid damage and needs assessments (EDAN), as well as sector-specific analyses in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health, livelihoods, shelter, and protection.</p> <p>The intervention was carried out in close coordination with municipal and departmental authorities, including the Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO), the municipalities of Sinuapa, Ocotepeque, Dolores Merendón, and Fraternidad, as well as the Municipal and Local Emergency Committees (CODEM and CODEL). The actions focused on severely affected and hard-to-reach communities, prioritizing those with reported infrastructure collapse, disruption of essential services, and population displacement, with the aim of generating technical evidence to guide a more effective and context-specific humanitarian response.</p>
Activation Of Contingency Plans	<p>Given the magnitude of the impacts caused by Tropical Wave Erick in the department of Ocotepeque, the Honduran Red Cross activated its National Response Plan, in line with its humanitarian mandate and in accordance with its operational procedures for hydrometeorological emergencies. This activation enabled the immediate deployment of human, technical, and logistical resources, as well as the mobilization of its structures at the local, departmental, and national levels to ensure a timely and coordinated response.</p> <p>In close coordination with the authorities of the National Risk Management System (SINAGER), the National Society began implementing first response actions, focusing on rapid damage and needs assessments, the distribution of essential humanitarian supplies, and the establishment of coordination mechanisms with key actors on the ground.</p>

	<p>The activated plan outlines strategic lines of action in needs assessment, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), community health, protection, community engagement and accountability (CEA), and psychosocial support. It also integrates key approaches such as Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) and the use of standardized technical tools from the IFRC, ensuring a response aligned with international standards and adapted to the local context.</p>
National Society EOC	<p>As part of its institutional response process, the Honduran Red Cross activated its National Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on 18 June 2025, with the purpose of monitoring the evolution of the hydrometeorological event in real time, coordinating operational actions, and enabling timely and evidence-based decision-making. From the EOC, a permanent monitoring system was implemented, covering weather conditions, official alerts, community reports, and damage and needs assessments.</p> <p>This center has facilitated smooth and strategic communication with the National Society departmental and municipal branches, Rapid Response Teams (ERES), the National Risk Management System (SINAGER), and other key humanitarian actors, enabling effective coordination of efforts on the ground. In addition, the EOC has operated as the central hub for the consolidation and analysis of technical information, efficient resource allocation, logistical planning, and the progressive activation of prioritized response sectors, in alignment with the strategic lines of the National Response Plan and the standards of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The Honduran Red Cross maintains ongoing communication with the IFRC through the Central America Country Cluster Delegation team. Since the earliest hours of the emergency, this team has provided key technical support, which has been essential for the development of this IFRC-DREF proposal.</p> <p>In addition, the National Society will continue this collaboration throughout the implementation of the operation, ensuring effective monitoring through regular meetings to assess progress, adjust strategies, and ensure the achievement of the established objectives.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The Honduran Red Cross has not planned any joint actions under this IFRC-DREF operation with the Participating National Societies (PNSs) present in the country, which include the American, Swiss, Spanish, Norwegian, Italian, German, and Canadian Red Cross Societies.</p>

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>The Honduran Red Cross has not planned any joint actions under this IFRC-DREF operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), despite its presence in the country.</p>

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>In response to the emergency triggered by Tropical Wave Erick, the national authorities of Honduras activated a series of risk management mechanisms to coordinate an inter-institutional response. From the early hours of the event, the National Risk Management System (SINAGER) was activated to coordinate response actions among various government institutions and humanitarian actors. As part of this activation, both the</p>



	<p>National Emergency Operations Center (COE) and Regional COEs were put into operation to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and real-time monitoring of the situation.</p> <p>An extraordinary meeting of SINAGER was also convened, led by the governing body—the Permanent Commission for Contingencies (COPECO)—to update the national outlook and strengthen coordination in the affected departments. COPECO also officially extended the Red Alert for the department of Ocotepeque as a preventive measure in response to ongoing risk conditions. As part of the government's protective actions, it was announced that all in-person academic activities in educational institutions at all levels and modalities would be suspended nationwide until further notice. These actions reflect the institutional commitment to prioritizing the safety and well-being of affected communities.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>Coordination meetings have been held through the Humanitarian Network, along with the activation of sectoral cluster structures, to ensure coordinated interventions and optimize the use of resources through unified efforts.</p>

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Based on the technical assessment conducted by the Honduran Red Cross, significant shelter and housing needs and gaps were identified. More than 150 families were affected by partial or total damage to their homes, with complete destruction reported particularly in hillside communities at high risk, such as La Torera, Las Cumbres, and La Honduras in the municipality of Dolores Merendón. In this same locality, at least 40 people were accommodated in community shelters, while other families sought refuge with relatives or neighbors. In the municipalities of Fraternidad and Ocotepeque, severe damage was also reported, including the total loss of homes, flooding, destruction of road infrastructure and basic services, as well as damage to educational centers. The situation is further aggravated by the high risk of new landslides in mountainous areas, posing a continuous threat to those whose homes are located in unstable zones.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The technical assessment conducted by the Honduran Red Cross identified significant needs and gaps related to livelihoods in the affected areas. Total or partial losses were reported in more than 150 manzanas of coffee, maize, and bean crops due to flooding, runoff, and landslides, both in hillside and lowland areas. These impacts severely disrupted family-based production systems, directly affecting the income of rural households that rely on agricultural labor and small local businesses. The communities of Fraternidad, Ocotepeque, and Concepción were among the most affected, with destroyed crops, loss of agricultural infrastructure, and adverse conditions for economic recovery.



Health

Based on the technical assessment conducted by the Honduran Red Cross, significant health-related needs and gaps were identified in the municipalities of Dolores Merendón, Fraternidad, Sinuapa, Ocotepeque, and Concepción. Over 25,000 people experienced a disruption in access to safe drinking water, immediately increasing the risk of gastrointestinal and dermatological diseases. Additionally, the unsafe storage of water has led to a proliferation of vectors such as mosquitoes, raising the likelihood of dengue outbreaks and other vector-borne diseases.

The health situation is particularly concerning for vulnerable groups, including older adults, pregnant women, and children, who face increased health risks due to prolonged exposure to unsanitary conditions. Mental health also emerged as a key concern, especially among displaced individuals and those who lost or sustained damage to their homes and livelihoods. Field observations noted limited access to basic health services in the affected areas, further exacerbated by damage to local infrastructure and transportation routes.





Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Based on the technical assessment conducted by the Honduran Red Cross in the department of Ocotepeque, critical gaps were identified in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector. The total disruption of access to safe drinking water is affecting more than 25,000 people, following the collapse of the “La Laborcita” dam and structural damage to other water intake points and distribution lines. There has been an increasing reliance on unsafe water sources and improper storage, significantly raising the risk of waterborne diseases.

In terms of sanitation, the collapse of latrines and the accumulation of solid waste have created unsanitary conditions, particularly in communities and shelters. Significant deficiencies were observed in access to personal hygiene and cleaning supplies, as well as poor hygiene conditions in communal spaces. In addition, there is a heightened public health risk due to the proliferation of vectors, such as mosquitoes, in densely populated areas with stagnant water, increasing exposure to diseases like dengue. These gaps particularly affect rural communities and vulnerable groups due to their limited access to basic services, reduced infrastructure availability, dependence on local water sources, and economic constraints that hinder the adoption of adequate protective measures.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Based on the multisectoral assessment with a Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) approach conducted by the Honduran Red Cross, significant protection needs were identified among vulnerable groups, particularly those residing in temporary shelters. The assessment revealed differentiated impacts by age, gender, and diversity, with the presence of children, older adults, female-headed households, and adolescents living in non-segregated spaces lacking minimum standards of privacy and safety. This situation increases the risk of exposure to gender-based violence (GBV), particularly for women, adolescents, and LGBTIQ+ individuals.

In addition, major barriers to accessing essential services such as water, sanitation, and hygiene were identified, directly affecting individuals' ability to maintain basic self-care practices, including menstrual hygiene and child care. Poor living conditions also compromise the emotional well-being and protection of older adults and young children. The breakdown of community support networks, coupled with geographic isolation, impassable roads, and the loss of basic services, further deepens accessibility gaps, especially for people with disabilities or limited mobility. Finally, the absence of clear information regarding the presence of indigenous communities or persons with disabilities represents a critical gap in visibility, limiting the capacity for inclusive and differentiated humanitarian response.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Based on the initial actions carried out with a Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach, the Honduran Red Cross has identified critical needs related to limited access to clear, timely, and culturally appropriate information among affected communities. Gaps have been observed in communication channels between humanitarian organizations and the affected population, as well as limited opportunities for communities to actively participate in decision-making processes regarding the assistance they receive. Additionally, the absence of structured mechanisms for safely and confidentially expressing concerns, needs, or questions has also been noted.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The Honduran Red Cross does not foresee any additional limitations to implementing the actions proposed under this IFRC-DREF. As an auxiliary to the public authorities, the National Society has been actively engaged in decision-making forums at both local and national levels, reinforcing its institutional positioning within the National Risk Management System. Furthermore, it has received a formal request for support from the Municipality of Ocotepeque, which strengthens the legitimacy and relevance of its intervention. This coordination ensures that the planned actions are aligned with the priorities of local authorities and the identified needs of the affected population, thereby contributing to a technical, complementary, and context-specific humanitarian response.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC-DREF operation aims to assist 5,000 people (approximately 1,000 families) through multisectoral actions in order to reduce health risks and protect the health and dignity of the population affected by the impacts of Tropical Wave Erick in the department of Ocotepeque. This will be achieved by providing key interventions in the sectors of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection,



Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), ensuring immediate and safe access to drinking water, basic hygiene conditions, and healthy environments over a three-month period.

Operation strategy rationale

The operational strategy seeks to respond in a timely and effective manner to the most urgent needs of communities affected by the surface trough and the influence of Tropical Wave Erick, with a geographic focus on the department of Ocotepeque—one of the most impacted areas according to official reports from the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO).

In its auxiliary role to public authorities, the Honduran Red Cross will act in coordination with the institutions of the National Risk Management System (SINAGER), as well as with local and departmental authorities, ensuring a humanitarian response that complements ongoing governmental efforts. This operation is aligned with a formal request for support issued by the Municipality of Ocotepeque, thereby ensuring coherence with local priorities, inter-institutional coordination, and contextual relevance of the planned interventions.

Although initial assessments led by the Honduran Red Cross in coordination with COPECO have identified critical needs in sectors such as health, education, and shelter, these are being addressed or planned by the respective government entities, including the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and COPECO itself. In this context, and based on the persistent gaps identified and local demand, the operation will focus on targeted Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions, which are considered a top priority due to their direct impact on public health.

Additionally, the cross-cutting approaches of Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) will be integrated throughout the response to ensure that all actions are culturally appropriate, inclusive, and people-centered.

1. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The response prioritizes the restoration of access to safe water and basic hygiene practices in severely affected communities. It includes the temporary operation of an M15 water treatment unit to supply safe water to seven urban neighborhoods in the municipalities of Ocotepeque and Sinuapa. At the household level, water treatment capacity will be strengthened through the distribution of water filters and hygiene kits, with a gender-sensitive and culturally appropriate approach.

These interventions will be reinforced by community hygiene promotion sessions focused on the prevention of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, as well as vector control campaigns (thermal fogging) in mosquito-prone areas. Additionally, buckets with lids and taps—procured by the National Society with other funding sources—will be distributed to improve household water storage and hygiene practices. All actions will be implemented in coordination with water committees, local governance structures (patronatos), and community leaders.

2. Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)

The strategy prioritizes a safe, inclusive, and people-centered humanitarian response. Training sessions will be conducted for volunteers and technical staff on the Minimum Standards for PGI and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Community awareness activities will focus on protection pathways, rights, and safe reporting mechanisms. Safe spaces will be strengthened in affected communities to provide emotional support and psychosocial first aid, and a mapping of local services and actors will be updated to enhance multisectoral coordination.

3. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

To ensure transparency and community involvement, the strategy includes information sessions about the IFRC-DREF operation, along with community meetings to define selection criteria and distribution plans. Accessible and safe feedback mechanisms such as suggestion boxes and phone lines will be implemented, and accountability exercises will be conducted to report progress and results to the community. Satisfaction surveys will also be applied to gather feedback and continuously improve the quality of the response.

4. National Society Strengthening

The strategy includes the hiring of key technical personnel (operations coordinator, administrator, WASH specialist, and driver) to ensure efficient and timely implementation. Planning, monitoring, and accountability systems will be reinforced, and operational and logistical tools will be updated. This investment will enhance the Honduran Red Cross emergency response capacity in a sustainable and results-oriented manner.

The IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for Central America will provide ongoing technical support—both remotely and in the field—to ensure quality implementation, assist in strategic decision-making, and address operational risks as they arise.



Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The operation targets 5,000 people (approximately 1,000 families) affected by the impacts of Tropical Wave Erick in the department of Ocotepeque, with priority given to the municipalities of Ocotepeque and Sinuapa. These communities are facing critical disruptions in access to safe drinking water, significant damage to sanitation infrastructure, and a high risk to public health. The target population includes households in situations of vulnerability, such as those headed by women, older adults, persons with disabilities, or families with young children. The selection of intervention areas was based on damage assessments conducted in coordination with local authorities, Municipal Emergency Committees (CODEM), and community leaders, identifying the sectors most affected in terms of basic services and concentration of vulnerable groups.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The selection of the target population for this IFRC-DREF operation is based on a combination of risk, vulnerability, and needs-based criteria to ensure that humanitarian assistance reaches the most affected and underserved groups. The primary criteria used include:

Geographic exposure to risk: The operation focuses on communities located in areas classified as high-risk or highly vulnerable according to official alerts issued by the Permanent Contingency Commission (COPECO), particularly those within the municipalities of Ocotepeque and Sinuapa in the department of Ocotepeque. These areas have experienced critical damage to water and sanitation infrastructure and face a heightened risk of waterborne diseases.

Socioeconomic vulnerability: Families with limited resources or pre-existing conditions of poverty are prioritized, as their capacity to respond and recover from the impacts of the emergency is significantly constrained. This includes households that lack access to basic services, such as safe water, hygiene products, and health care.

Inclusion of specific groups in situations of vulnerability: The operation gives special consideration to the needs of people at heightened risk of exclusion or harm, including female-headed households, older adults, people with disabilities, and children. These groups often face additional barriers in accessing assistance and are more exposed to protection risks during emergencies.

The identification of priority communities and households is supported by multiple data sources and participatory processes, including:

- Initial situational reports from the National Emergency Operations Center (COE) under COPECO.
- Needs assessments conducted by the Honduran Red Cross branch councils in the affected zones.
- Use of the Damage and Needs Assessment tool (EDAN) to verify conditions on the ground.

This multi-layered and coordinated approach ensures that the selection process is transparent, evidence-based, and aligned with humanitarian principles. It also helps avoid duplication of efforts with other actors involved in the response and maximizes the impact of the available resources.

Total Targeted Population

Women	2,900	Rural	70%
Girls (under 18)	100	Urban	30%
Men	1,900	People with disabilities (estimated)	3%
Boys (under 18)	100		
Total targeted population	5,000		



Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	No
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes
Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.	
Risk	Mitigation action
Insecurity during aid distribution	<p>Work with local authorities to ensure security at distribution and shelter sites.</p> <p>Train staff on personal safety protocols and conflict management.</p> <p>Clearly communicate distribution processes to reduce tension and avoid crowds.</p> <p>Prepare an FAQ sheet for volunteers and technical staff on the response operation.</p>
Collapse or flooding of roads and bridges	<p>Identify alternative routes in coordination with SINAGER and local authorities.</p> <p>Set up distribution points near remote communities to reduce travel constraints.</p>
Increased flood risk may compromise staff safety	<p>Continuously monitor weather conditions and adjust activities accordingly.</p> <p>Implement safety protocols, including temporary suspension of activities if needed.</p> <p>Provide field staff with protective equipment (raincoats, boots, etc.).</p>
Risk of disease outbreaks	<p>Distribute hygiene kits, chlorine, and sanitation supplies.</p> <p>Train staff on hygiene promotion and waterborne disease prevention.</p>
Physical and emotional exhaustion among staff	<p>Implement shift rotations to ensure adequate rest.</p> <p>Offer psychosocial support, including debriefings and counseling sessions.</p> <p>Monitor staff health and promote open communication on well-being.</p>



Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The department of Ocotepeque, located in western Honduras and bordering El Salvador and Guatemala, presents moderate security concerns related to its geographic and socioeconomic context. While the region does not currently report active presence of violent groups that would restrict access or humanitarian operations, its location in the "Trifinio" border area is associated with informal cross-border movements of people and goods, particularly through unmonitored routes. These dynamics have led to increased patrols by police and military forces in border areas, particularly near customs checkpoints at El Poy (El Salvador) and Agua Caliente (Guatemala).

The topography of Ocotepeque is predominantly mountainous, with limited access routes, which may pose logistical and safety challenges during field deployments. Incidents linked to community disputes and social tensions are more common than organized violence, and should be monitored accordingly.

The Honduran Red Cross enjoys high levels of trust and acceptance in the region, reinforced by its long-standing presence and ongoing activities, including pre-hospital care and humanitarian services for migrants at official border crossings. Nevertheless, continuous context monitoring and application of the Safer Access Framework, institutional security protocols, and operational communication guidelines are essential to mitigate risks and ensure the safety of personnel throughout the operation.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Planned Intervention



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 169,461

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of families receiving family hygiene kits.	1,000
Number of communities reached through vector control campaigns.	5
Number of people with access to safe water.	5,000

Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of family hygiene kits in affected communities (stock replenishment).
- Water treatment using the M15 purification unit and distribution of safe water through water trucks.
- Implementation of vector control campaigns, including fumigation and elimination of mosquito breeding sites.
- Procurement and distribution of household water filters.
- Implementation of personal and environmental hygiene promotion activities, carried out in parallel with the distribution of supplies.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 11,751

Targeted Persons: 300

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers and staff trained in PGI in emergency contexts.	25
Number of people reached with key information on access to rights and safe reporting mechanisms.	300

Priority Actions

- Conduct a rapid assessment with a Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) approach in emergency contexts.
- Train and update volunteers on the application of the Minimum Standards for PGI and the Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEA) policy.
- Establish and strengthen community-based safe spaces with a PGI approach, offering basic psychosocial support, emotional care, and recreational activities to mitigate stress.
- Update the mapping of key actors and available local services.
- Disseminate reporting pathways and local/community support networks, and implement two community awareness campaigns on access to rights.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 10,190

Targeted Persons: 300

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of sessions conducted to socialize the IFRC-DREF operation and the institutional feedback mechanism.	5
Number of volunteers and staff trained in feedback mechanisms and CEA in emergency contexts.	25
Percentage of people reached who report satisfaction with the implemented actions.	80
Percentage of affected people who have access to the institutional feedback mechanism.	100

Priority Actions

- Organization of community information sessions to present the IFRC-DREF operation.
- Community meetings to develop selection criteria and support the participatory identification of affected individuals.
- Implementation of sessions to share and explain institutional feedback mechanisms.
- Training for Honduran Red Cross volunteers and technical staff on safe and effective community feedback mechanisms.
- Administration of satisfaction surveys in communities to assess perceptions of the implemented actions.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 16,102

Targeted Persons: 0



Indicators

Title	Target
Number of field monitoring visits conducted during the operation.	2

Priority Actions

- Cover financial and communication expenses associated with the implementation of the operation.
- Conduct field monitoring visits to provide technical follow-up on activities.
- Facilitate the lessons learned process at the end of the operation.
- Partially finance the salary of the Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) Officer, the Disaster Management Coordinator, and the Finance Officer supporting the operation.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 32,853

Targeted Persons: 25

Indicators

Title	Target
Number of volunteers and staff receiving institutional uniforms, personal protective equipment, and safety gear.	25
Number of field monitoring and follow-up visits conducted.	3
Number of people participating in the lessons learned workshop.	25

Priority Actions

- Hiring of key technical staff for the implementation of the operation: one coordinator, one WASH technician, one administrator, and one driver.
- Carrying out monitoring and follow-up visits by the National Society Headquarters authorities and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Unit (UMER).
- Procurement of uniforms for volunteers and staff participating in the IFRC-DREF activities.
- Purchase of personal protective equipment (masks, hand sanitizer, latex and nitrile gloves, etc.) and safety gear (goggles, helmets, specialized masks for vector control, etc.) for volunteers and staff involved in the operation.
- Organizing psychosocial support (PSS) sessions for volunteers and staff involved in the IFRC-DREF response.
- Conducting a lessons learned workshop at the end of the IFRC-DREF operation.

About Support Services

How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.

The Honduran Red Cross will ensure the mobilization of at least 25 trained volunteers to directly support the implementation of IFRC-DREF activities in the affected communities.

In addition, four key staff members will be hired to lead the operational aspects of the response:

1. General Operations Coordinator (based at National Society Headquarters): This position will be responsible for the strategic coordination of the operation, technical liaison across departments, and alignment with IFRC guidelines. The coordinator will dedicate 50% of their working time to the DREF operation.



2. Administrator (based at National Society Headquarters): Responsible for budget monitoring, administrative follow-up, and procurement processes, in close coordination with the National Society finance department.
3. Field WASH Technician: This role will lead the planning, implementation, and monitoring of community-level activities in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector, working collaboratively with local authorities and community structures.
4. Specialized Driver: Holding a valid license for heavy-duty vehicles, this staff member will be responsible for operating the water truck used to deliver safe drinking water to affected communities.

Does your volunteer team reflect the gender, age, and cultural diversity of the people you're helping? What gaps exist in your volunteer team's gender, age, or cultural diversity, and how are you addressing them to ensure inclusive and appropriate support?

Yes. The volunteer team supporting the IFRC-DREF operation reflects a balanced representation in terms of gender and age and includes individuals from the same communities affected in the department of Ocotepeque. This enhances the relevance and cultural sensitivity of their engagement with the population.

The team is composed of both men and women who are familiar with the territory, local dynamics, and cultural contexts. Additionally, they have received training or refresher courses in key areas such as Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), health, risk management, among others. While the team already demonstrates strong diversity, the National Society continues to promote the inclusion of youth and underrepresented groups through open community-based recruitment and targeted training opportunities to ensure inclusive and culturally appropriate humanitarian support.

If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?

The Honduran Red Cross has a solid structure for the procurement of goods and services, with established procedures that align with IFRC procurement systems. It also has a large and secure warehouse to ensure proper storage of supplies.

For this operation, the National Society will procure the family hygiene kits and water filters through the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit to ensure timely availability at the onset of the operation and relevance in the distribution of supplies. The remaining items will be locally procured by the National Society, following IFRC standard procurement procedures.

How will this operation be monitored?

Monitoring and supervision of the operation will be led by the Honduran Red Cross's Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Unit (UMER), which will conduct at least two field visits: one during implementation to verify progress, and another at the end of the operation to assess the achievement of indicators, outputs, and planned activities.

Additionally, the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) team will conduct post-distribution satisfaction surveys. The findings will inform real-time decision-making and serve as a key input for the analysis of lessons learned at the end of the operation. From the IFRC side, the Country Cluster Delegation for Central America will hold regular virtual meetings and conduct field monitoring visits to provide technical support and ensure that operational objectives are being met.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The Communications and Image Department of the Honduran Red Cross will be responsible for covering and disseminating the key actions of the operation, producing digital content to be shared through institutional channels such as social media, internal bulletins, printed materials, and audiovisual products.

The department will receive technical support from the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) teams at both the National Society and IFRC levels, as well as from the Communications Department of the IFRC Regional Office for the Americas. This collaboration will strengthen the production of key messages and other communication materials that effectively highlight the scope and impact of the operation.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

- Honduran Red Cross
Honduras: Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	191,402
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	169,461
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	11,751
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	10,190
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	48,955
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	16,102
National Society Strengthening	32,853
TOTAL BUDGET	240,357

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal

7/7/2025

#V/2022.01

[Click here to download the budget file](#)



Contact Information

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

National Society contact: Hugo Orellana, National President, hugo.orellana@cuzroja.org.hn

IFRC Appeal Manager: Marjorie Sotofranco, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, marjorie.sotofranco@ifrc.org

IFRC Project Manager: Mariela Gómez, Disaster Management Coordinator, mariela.gomez@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Diana Oviedo, Programs and Operations Coordinator, diana.oviedo@ifrc.org

Media Contact: Susana Arroyo, Manager, Regional Communications, susana.arroyo@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)

