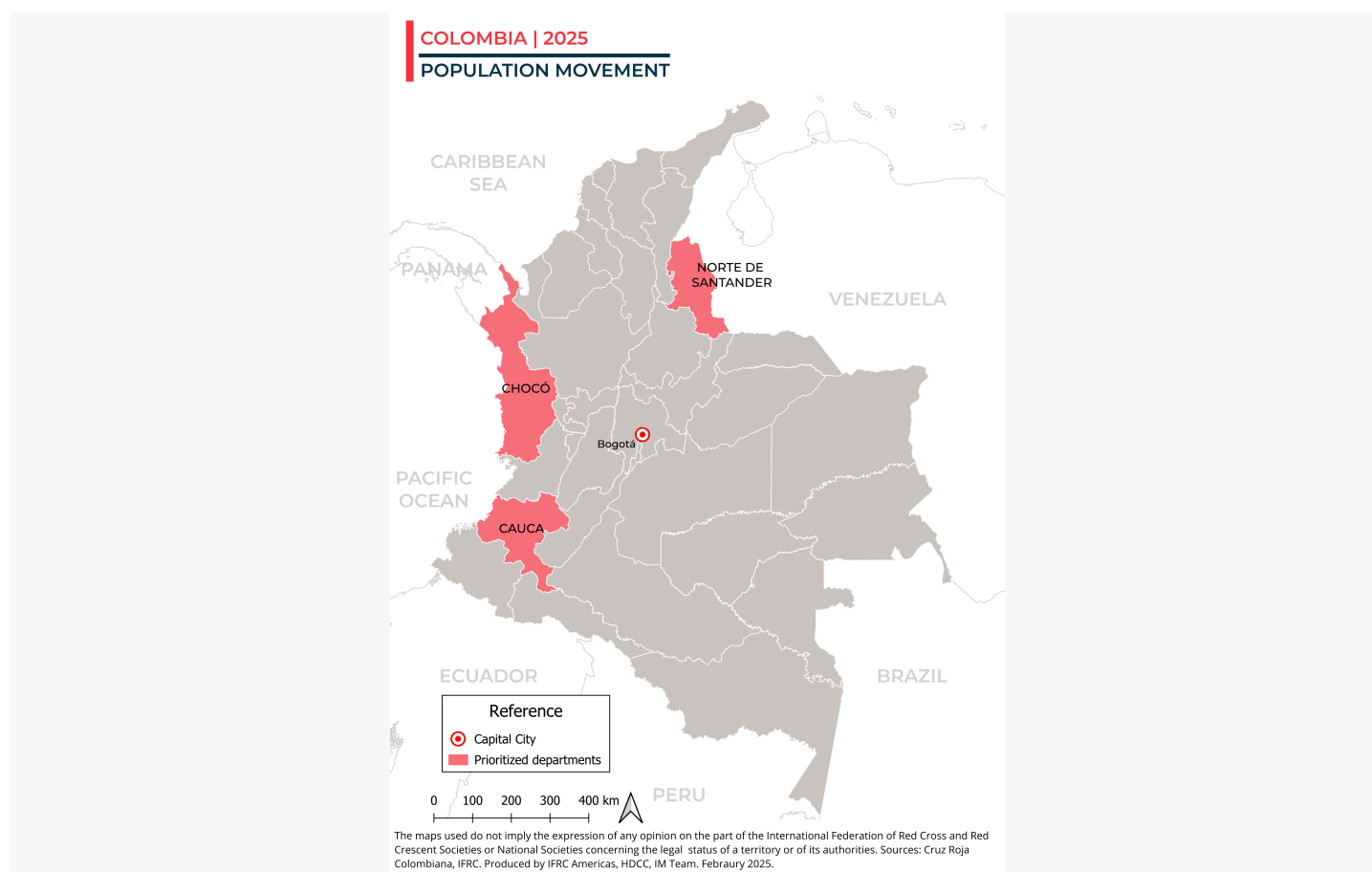


Delivery of food kits in Quibdó, Chocó. Source: SNCRC, June 2025

Appeal: MDRCO029	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 222,064	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Population Movement
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 83,167 people	People Targeted: 12,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 06-03-2025	New Operational End Date: 30-09-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 03-06-2025		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 15-06-2025	
Additional Allocation Requested: 0		Targeted Regions: Cauca, Choco, Norte de Santander	

Description of the Event



Departments prioritized for Internal forced displacement. Source: IFRC, 2025

Date of event

18-02-2025

What happened, where and when?

Since 16 January to date, at least 83,167 people have been affected by the intensification of clashes between Non-State Armed Groups in the municipalities of Ábrego, Convención, El Tarra, San Calixto, Teorama, Hacarí, Sardinata and Tibú, in Norte de Santander. This escalation of violence has generated unprecedented displacement in the region, with 57,756 people forced to flee their territories, highlighting that this is the largest mass displacement recorded in the last 28 years.

Considering this situation, the government has declared a state of internal commotion and emergency (Decreet 006, 24 January 2025). Due to the exceptional nature of this situation, the Colombian Red Cross-National Society has requested the activation of an IFRC-DREF. To note that this is the first time that DREF is solicited for this type of emergency, highlighting the exceptional nature of the situation.

The report of the Ombudsman's Office, dated 16 February 2025, warns about the humanitarian crisis in Norte de Santander, Cauca and Chocó due to clashes between non-state armed groups. The conflict has left 57,756 people displaced and 25,411 people confined, affecting a total of 83,167 people.

In addition to the previously mentioned regions, the Ombudsman's Office has documented emergencies in Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Antioquia, Magdalena Medio, Arauca, Meta, Guaviare, Sur de Córdoba, Tolima and Putumayo; therefore, it is estimated that the number of people affected may be much higher.

In view of this situation, the Ombudsman's Office has requested the National Government to take protective measures, the international community to reinforce humanitarian support and the armed groups to respect the rights of the population and cease the recruitment of minors.

Norte de Santander:

- 16 January 2025: Multiple clashes and attacks against the civilian population are reported in the Catatumbo sub-region, with violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).
- 17 January 2025: The destruction of at least 2,600 explosive devices is reported in Tibú, indicating high contamination by weapons.
- Between January and February 2025: More than 22 security events are documented, including clashes and selective homicides in rural areas, restricting humanitarian access.

The escalation of violence in the Catatumbo region has generated a domino effect in other regions, such as the departments of Cauca and Chocó, which are planned to also be prioritized through this IFRC-DREF.

Cauca:

- 21 January 2025: An Early Warning is issued regarding the risk of expansion of the Western Bloc Commander Jacobo Arenas into rural areas of Popayán. It is warned that the group could impose territorial control affecting the civilian population.
- February 2025: The advance of the Western Bloc Commander Jacobo Arenas is confirmed in the villages of Los Cerrillos, Las Mercedes, Santa Rosa and La Meseta, generating a risk of confinement and displacement.

Chocó

- 4 January 2025: 558 people from the Afro-descendant communities of Puerto Martínez and Tripicay are confined due to clashes between the security forces and a non-state armed group.
- 6 January 2025: 568 people from Wounaan indigenous communities are confined due to restrictions imposed by an armed group, preventing access to crops and basic services.
- 7 February 2025: Displacement of 226 people from the communities of Puerto Murillo and Fujiadó to Noanamá due to fighting between armed groups.
- 18 February 2025: A 72-hour armed strike is reported in the department by the ELN.



Preparation of humanitarian assistance.
Cauca Branch. Source: SNCRC, June 2025



Delivery of food kits, Quibdó, Chocó.
Source: SNCRC, June 2025



First Aid Workshop, Cauca Branch.
Source: SNCRC, June 2025

Scope and Scale

The escalation of violence in Norte de Santander, which is causing a domino effect in the departments of Cauca and Chocó with subsequent mass-internal displacement in the country has generated a humanitarian crisis of great magnitude, aggravated by the constant clashes, confinement of communities and serious violations of International Humanitarian Law (IHL). Taking this context into account, the Colombian Red Cross has requested the activation of the IFRC-DREF to respond to the needs of the affected population.

According to the Ombudsman's Office, as of February 2025, 83,167 people have been affected, with 57,756 displaced and 25,411 confined. In addition, similar emergencies have been documented in Nariño, Valle del Cauca, Antioquia, Magdalena Medio, Arauca, Meta, Guaviare, South of Córdoba, Tolima and Putumayo, so the actual number of people at risk could be even higher.

Many displaced people lost their homes and are forced to live in precarious conditions, either in makeshift shelters, overcrowded or informal settlements without access to basic services. The most affected municipalities in Norte de Santander include Tibú and Catatumbo, with high levels of contamination by explosive devices. In Cauca, the advance of armed groups in rural areas such as Los Cerrillos, Las Mercedes and La Meseta has generated confinement and displacement. In Chocó, Afro-descendant and indigenous communities have been trapped by the conflict, with restricted access to crops and basic services. Municipalities receiving displaced populations include Cúcuta, Tibú and Ocaña (Norte de Santander); Quibdó and Istmina (Chocó); and Popayán, Balboa, Cajibío and Argelia (Cauca), where the massive arrival of families has generated a crisis of attention and humanitarian assistance.

The main protection risks include selective homicides of social leaders and peace signatories, forced disappearances without state response, sexual and gender-based violence used as a control mechanism, forced recruitment of children and adolescents, confinement of communities that prevents access to food, health and education, presence of landmines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) that limit mobility, forced displacement with loss of property and social disintegration, and mobility restrictions imposed by armed groups, affecting access to essential goods.

Faced with this crisis, the Ombudsman's Office has urged the National Government to strengthen protection, the international community to increase humanitarian aid, and the armed groups to cease hostilities and the recruitment of minors.

The Colombian Red Cross has started its response operation in Norte de Santander with support from ICRC and Participating National Societies. The UN has activated the CERF for 3.8 million USD for the first time in a long time (which is an indicator of the exceptional nature of the situation). Nevertheless, the magnitude of the event and increasing humanitarian needs caused by the escalation of violence in the identified departments highlight that gaps still exist. According to the Ombudsman's Office, the affected people in the Cauca and Chocó department are in desperate need of assistance and has urged humanitarian organizations present in the country to contribute to the response. This evolving context, therefore, has propelled the National Society to request the activation of this IFRC-DREF.

During the last few months, new situations of violence have arisen in the departments that were prioritized in the framework of this DREF. In April, authorities reported that the armed conflict continued to affect the department of Norte de Santander, reporting a second phase of displacement, mainly in urban areas, of approximately 13,000 people. Faced with this situation, local authorities reported an overflow of their capacity to care for displaced families.

In June and July, a latent risk of a resurgence of situations of violence has been reported in the department of Chocó, due to the presence of armed actors in the territory. This would imply the imminent emergence of armed strikes, illegal detentions, and displacement of the most affected families from rural areas to urban centers.

In the department of Cauca, in recent months there have been occupations by non-state armed actors in certain rural villages in the municipality of Argelia. This has generated great difficulties in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the confined communities, leading the NS to think of new alternatives for the delivery of humanitarian assistance to these families in the urban centers in the coming months.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Situation Emergency Catatumbo, Colombia: Response and Capacity, ELC/GIFFM/EHP, n.d.	https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiYjE3MzE2MWMtOGQ2Ny00Y2RiLTlINzEtYWlwYTUxNGY3ZjU1IiwidCI6IjNIOTQyYWU0LWNkOTMtNGQzNy1iZTJmLTY5MzIiNDNjMTRiNyJ9
2. Newsletter, Ombudsman's Office, 16 February 2025	https://www.defensoria.gov.co/documents/20123/3085684/CRISIS+HUMANITARIA+ENERO+FEBRERO+2025.pdf/5d3cdcac-2859-fc24-5e89-03671a55cd46?t=1739798738522
3. Bulletin 27 PMU, Government of Norte de Santander, 16 February 2025	https://x.com/apnnoticias/status/1891555966186881439
4. Early Warning 001-25, Omdusman's Office, 21 January 2025	https://alertasstg.blob.core.windows.net/alertas/001-25.pdf
5. Decreet 0062, President of the Colombian Republic, 24 January 2025	https://www.camara.gov.co/sites/default/files/2025-01/DECRETO%200062%20DEL%2024%20DE%20ENERO%20DE%2025.pdf
6. Early Warning 004-25, Ombdusman's Office, 17 February 2025	https://alertasstg.blob.core.windows.net/alertas/004-25.pdf



Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	No
Are you requesting an additional allocation?	No

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Through this Operations Update No. 1, the Colombian Red Cross aims to inform about:

(i) A 2 month no-cost timeframe extension, for a total operational timeframe of 6 months (new end date: 30 September 2025) as per the following reasons:

- The ongoing armed conflict situation in several regions of the country, such as the departments of Chocó, Norte de Santander, and Cauca, has been a significant obstacle to the timely development of programmed activities. These unpredictable situations have forced the operation to postpone the execution of some activities and the delivery of humanitarian assistance, ensuring the integrity and safety of volunteers and operational personnel in the field.
- Administrative and accounting difficulties arose due to the rotation of personnel within the framework of the operation. This consequently impacted delays during the fulfillment of activities, since the incorporation of new human resources required a period of adaptation and training, affecting the expected times for the implementation of certain key actions.
- Difficulties were encountered during the process of purchasing and acquiring elements for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, which limited the execution of activities within the initially planned timeframe. As a result, the IFRC Delegation has reviewed this case with the Executive Directorate to avoid further setbacks in emergency operations.

(ii) An adjustment in the following budget lines, without modifying the total budget:

At financial level, the monetization of the operation's funds was favorable for the National Society; therefore, the budgetary movements were carried out respecting the technical planning and the operational requirements identified in the field. In general, the following movements were made:

- Addition of 1 month of local coordinator in Norte de Santander.
- Extension of National Coordinator and local administrative assistant support.
- Coverage of transportation and correspondence expenses.

(iii) An adjustment in the following indicators:

At technical level, the DREF operation maintains its planned indicators in the application and the projection of its compliance during the closing of the month of July and the month of August. Due to the optimization of the funds and the needs prioritized in the field, the Livelihood and basic needs indicator of # families supported with family food kits increases from 3000 to 3600.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Country Delegation in Colombia provides support to the Colombian Red Cross in finance, operations, PMER, internal coordination with in-country Movement partners and external coordination with the humanitarian country team.</p> <p>For this emergency, IFRC team in Colombia supported the formulation of this DREF operation. In addition, support is being provided to identify the departments and municipalities with the greatest needs, gaps and priority actions.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>The German Red Cross has been supporting the National Society with the establishment of a fixed medical team in the Cúcuta stadium, where food kits and hygiene kits have</p>



been distributed to the vulnerable populations affected by the escalation of violence in Norte de Santander. The Norwegian Red Cross supported the Rapid Health Response team in its deployment to Ocaña, Norte de Santander, providing care in general medicine, mental health, psychosocial support and nursing. Additionally, the visibility of the Misión Médica has been raised, ensuring that communities have access to these essential services.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

ICRC have maintained channels of communication, including confidential and bilateral dialogue with emphasis on the protection and respect for the civilian population, as well as health assistance and access to impartial humanitarian organizations. Additionally, the ICRC is supporting local authorities and communities with the recovery of deceased persons, contributed to the payment of funeral expenses, is collecting missing persons requests as well as arrest allegations from families who lost contact.

In its Operational Partnership Agreement with the National Society, the ICRC has been supporting activities in Norte de Santander covering some operational, logistical and volunteer support costs. ICRC has supported WASH actions, has delivered health kits for urgent medical care to several hospitals in Cúcuta, has provided cash support to vulnerable people with urgent protection needs, and has been monitoring the security context and humanitarian access. In Choco and Cauca, they are supporting the NS in monitoring the situation.

For this intervention, it is planned to coordinate with the ICRC to ensure that security conditions and Safer Access are present for the intervention of staff and volunteers of the National Society on the field.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>The Government has implemented strategies to mitigate the humanitarian crisis, including the distribution of 213.52 tons of food assistance in Norte de Santander. Psychosocial care has also been provided to victims of the conflict. In Norte de Santander, 64 evacuation flights were carried out, transferring 723 people, and security was reinforced in affected areas. Humanitarian organizations have protected affected communities, strengthened ethnic governments and provided mental health care. They have also distributed food, promoted education within protective spaces and improved access to drinking water and sanitation. In Choco and Cauca, the situation is being monitored due to the armed strike that began on 18 February.</p> <p>Even though the Government has not officially requested international assistance for the response to this crisis, the MOFA has convened a meeting with the Humanitarian Country Team, in which international support was solicited, due to the magnitude and unprecedentedness of the events.</p>
UN or other actors	<p>OCHA has been closely monitoring the situation and humanitarian needs in the affected departments, through the Local Humanitarian Coordination Teams.</p> <p>In addition, several actors have been involved in the displacement emergency in Norte de Santander, starting January 2025. UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, and other organizations have centered their efforts in the providing of assistance to vulnerable communities in the areas of WASH, Shelter, PGI, Health, Education, and Livelihoods.</p> <p>The United Nations has allocated \$3.8 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to support displaced populations and host communities in the Catatumbo region. Nonetheless, the needs remain enormous due to the number of people affected, especially considering the escalating needs in the departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó and Cauca.</p>



Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

At the national level, the National Unit for Attention and Reparation to Victims is the institution in charge of coordinating the response to the emergency together with the National System. The Colombian Red Cross participates in the Unified Command Post (PMU) and The Municipal Departmental Councils, of Civil Defense and the Ombudsman's Office; through the leadership of the local governments. The Colombian Red Cross together with other response institutions and technical monitoring institutions, also participates in the National Crisis Rooms and coordination spaces at the Departmental and Municipal levels, which allow the National Society to make decisions based on evidence and knowledge. In addition, the National Society is part of and participates in the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), a space to support and complement the response to emergencies caused by armed violence and natural disasters, with emphasis on areas of difficult access and affected populations.

Within the Movement, the National Society activated their Crisis Room to ensure coordination of Movement response in support of the Branches. A high-level Movement coordination meeting took place late January and was attended by IFRC, ICRC and the PNSs present in the country (German, American, Spanish, Norwegian, Canadian and Italian RC), to deepen efforts as a Movement. During this meeting the National Society presented their Action Plan for the emergency highlighting the volatility of the situation and gaps.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Currently, displaced persons have had to resort to lodging in the homes of relatives or friends. Likewise, different organizations have offered lodging services in hotels, or in short-stay temporary lodgings, which means that access to safe places with basic hygienic conditions and adequate for human dignity is limited, generating overcrowding and precarious conditions.

In Norte de Santander, municipalities such as Cúcuta and Tibú have received thousands of displaced persons, exceeding the capacity of the shelters. In Cauca and Chocó, many displaced families have had to settle in improvised housing without access to basic services such as basic tools required for food security.

Coordination mechanisms with other humanitarian actors that provide these services have identified the delivery of food, kitchen and tableware kits as complementary services that the Colombian Red Cross can offer.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The confinement limits agricultural production and product commercialization, which seriously affects food security. In Norte de Santander, Cauca and Chocó indigenous and Afro-descendant, and farmer communities that depend on agriculture have lost access to their crops due to the occupation of their territories by armed groups. In Norte de Santander, road closures and control of commercial routes have led to shortages of food and basic products in several rural areas. In Chocó, the displacement of coastal communities has forced them to abandon their fishing and agricultural activities. The provision of family markets is vital to ensure that these communities are fed while their livelihoods are being restored. Particularly, this past 24 February, during the coordination meeting with the National Society Headquarters, the Norte de Santander Branch has requested assistance with food kits and other humanitarian assistance in emergency.



Health

Displacement due to armed conflict causes multiple physical and psychosocial impacts related to the violent actions that force communities to flee their territories to save their lives and integrity. Since people must walk for long days to reach other municipalities to take shelter for a few days while the intensity of armed actions decreases, during the journey they may cause different physical health problems, such as wounds, skin burns and dehydration. The main psychosocial effects caused by the conflict are related to fear, anxiety, distrust, uncertainty and generalized fear. Due to the magnitude of the event, there is a need to strengthen the knowledge and skills of the volunteer team to provide physical health care and psychological first aid in critical situations that may arise during the development of the actions of this DREF.

Additionally, the rapid development of the operation in the Catatumbo sub-region, located in the department of Norte de Santander, and the involvement of volunteers and personnel for more than a month has generated the need to develop psychosocial deactivation activities with collaborators directly involved during the response to this emergency.





Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Forced displacement obliges many families to settle in temporary shelters with limited access to hygienic conditions, due to the lack of adequate hygiene facilities in temporary settlements and, in many cases, the overcrowded conditions in which they are located. Forced displacement is characterized by the sudden departure of communities from their homes, making it impossible for people to take their personal belongings, and therefore their personal hygiene implements, with them. In the confinement areas, the population cannot go out to look for basic implements for their survival, nor personal hygiene implements, to prevent the risk of diseases and the maintenance of dignified conditions within the displaced population. Therefore, the delivery of hygiene kits differentiated by age and gender is essential to improve sanitary conditions and prevent diseases.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In Norte de Santander, Cauca and Chocó, the armed conflict has generated risks such as forced disappearance, child recruitment, gender violence and accidents caused by explosive devices. Therefore, there is a need to implement actions to mitigate these impacts, strengthen community orientation on access to rights, humanitarian aid and risk prevention.

According to the governor of Choco, 80% of the department has the presence or suspicion of explosive artifacts, which has shown the need to disseminate key messages on safe behavior in the face of contamination by weapons, to reinforce the protection of the affected communities.

In Cauca and Chocó, Afro-descendant and indigenous communities have been forced to migrate to the cities, where they may face discrimination and difficulties in accessing their rights, goods and services.



Migration And Displacement

Norte de Santander is the main host department for migrants from Venezuela due to its location on the border, many people displaced by the conflict seek refuge in this department, where resources are limited to address the dual crisis of internal displacement and migration. It is therefore possible that the migrant population is doubly affected by the armed conflict.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Due to the difficult access in some areas, there have been limitations for authorities to develop context analysis and needs assessment with the communities; mainly in Choco and Cauca, which has generated that information in these areas is limited and the support of the Red Cross is required for the collection of this information from the community participation and accountability component.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

Due to the progressive evolution of displacement in Norte de Santander, it has not been possible to carry out a needs assessment. Chocó has faced several limitations due to the persistence of the armed conflict, the armed strike and the geographical conditions of the affected areas.

1. Restricted access to communities: The confinement imposed by armed groups and the presence of explosive devices have made it difficult for humanitarian teams to enter, limiting the collection of direct information.
2. Lack of updated data: In some areas, available information is partial or outdated, hindering an accurate analysis of the humanitarian situation.
3. Distrust and fear among the population: Affected communities for fear of reprisals may not share key information about their needs.
4. Limited infrastructure and connectivity: In several rural areas, the lack of access to communication and transportation complicates the collection of real-time data.
5. Inter-agency coordination: efforts to consolidate and analyze information from the different humanitarian partners present in the country have been made and a dashboard developed. Nevertheless, there are still several gaps to collect data and information, due to the limitations listed above.

Within the framework of this operation, a context assessment and needs analysis will be conducted in Choco and Cauca.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF Operation, the Colombian Red Cross aims to support 14,400 people (3,600 families) who have been displaced and affected by the armed conflict in the departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó and Cauca during 6 months, through the lines of intervention of livelihoods and basic needs, shelter housing and settlements, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability.

Operation strategy rationale

This DREF seeks to respond to multiple needs that have arisen because of the escalation of violence and exceptionality of the event, prioritizing support to families that have been displaced in the departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó and Cauca.

The prioritized municipalities in the operation are:

- Norte de Santander: Cúcuta, Ocaña, Tibú, Abrego.
- Chocó: Quibdó, Istmina
- Cauca: Popayán, Argelia, Cajibío, Balboa

The contemplated actions by sector of intervention include:

1. Shelter:

- The volunteers will support the delivery of kitchen kits and tableware set kits and the filling out of the documents for verification sources. Deliveries will be made according to the situation of the region, with the accompaniment of municipal mayor's staff and community leaders to ensure the proper delivery of these items to the affected people and families according to the situation of the region.

2. Livelihoods and basic needs:

- One of the greatest needs identified in the field is access to essential services such as food. This operation will support displaced families that have already been identified and assessed by the Red Cross, municipal mayors' offices and community leaders. Deliveries will be made with the accompaniment of municipal mayors' staff and community leaders. The kits delivered by the Colombian Red Cross follow the guidelines and minimum standards established according to the humanitarian assistance manuals of the IFRC, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and the National Society's own standards, as well as the Sphere project standard and the standardization manual for emergency humanitarian aid for Colombia of the UNGRD. Although they contain the basic minimum elements, kits can be adapted according to the cultural and nutritional characteristics of the regions.

3. Health:

- It is necessary to reinforce the volunteer's knowledge and capacity of physical and psychological first aid to support the affected people if necessary, during field activities and distributions. Likewise, it has been evident the need to carry out emotional deactivation processes with volunteers and personnel involved in the operation, particularly in Norte de Santander; in Chocó and Cauca, emotional deactivation is also contemplated at the end of the intervention. Taking into account that the National Society is developing its own health response actions from the beginning of the event through the deployment of emergency rapid response medical teams and mobile health units.

3. WASH:

- With the support of the volunteers, the delivery of hygiene kits differentiated by age will be carried out. The above with the accompaniment of local authorities and community leaders.

4. Protection, Gender and Inclusion:

- Sensibilization on the risk of explosive devices through the dissemination of radio messages on safe behaviors related to weapons contamination so that the community has basic information to mitigate the risks of accidents or incidents in the presence of explosive devices.
- Promotion of access routes to rights through the actions of the volunteer, which will disseminate information related to the legal mechanisms established for the attention of victims of the armed conflict. To this end, the Colombian Red Cross will be in communication with the local authorities in order to disseminate the official information established for the territory.

5. Community Engagement and Accountability:

- Community surveys, interviews with local leaders, focus groups and participatory meetings will be implemented to better understand the needs of the population. In addition, radio channels and digital tools will be used to strengthen two-way communication with communities, allowing them to receive reports and feedback on the situation on the field. This approach will ensure that the humanitarian response is based on reliable information and the priorities expressed by the affected communities.



- Field visits will be made to update the needs and context analysis, assess humanitarian needs and protection risks, and identify the response capacities of each Branch. This assessment is planned for Cauca and Chocó.

This DREF will complement the National Society's response plan for the crisis in the departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó, and Cauca, focusing on the most urgent needs identified in the field.

Additionally, it is worth highlighting that this DREF aligns with and complements ongoing efforts by Movement Partners, humanitarian organizations and the government. For instance, the German and Norwegian Red Cross are primarily supporting health services, while the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) initially focused on protection measures and facilitating humanitarian access.

At the same time, the CERF allocation will provide critical emergency assistance to 42,700 people, including displaced populations and host communities, primarily in Norte de Santander. This response will cover food assistance, emergency shelter, essential household items, access to safe water and sanitation, education, and protection services, with a particular focus on child protection and gender-based violence. The funding serves as an initial response to address urgent needs over the next three months while additional resources are mobilized.

Finally, regarding the exit strategy for this operation, it is worth highlighting that the Colombian Red Cross, with the support of the German Red Cross and IFRC, is developing an Early Action Protocol for complex crisis aimed at mitigating the risk of a population movement to turn into a humanitarian crisis.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This IFRC-DREF will prioritize attention to people who have been displaced by violence in the departments of Norte de Santander, Chocó and Cauca, mainly from the municipal capitals coming from rural areas.

The municipalities prioritized in the framework of this operation have been considered taking into account the presence of the Colombian Red Cross in the field, humanitarian access, logistical conditions, operational security, the presence of other humanitarian actors and other resources.

The distribution of assisted people by departments as follows:

- Norte de Santander: 6,000 people (1,500 families)
- Choco: 4,000 people (1,000 families)
- Cauca: 2,000 people (500 families)

It is worth highlighting that this DREF interventions initially aims to target displaced populations, but not confined populations due to the implications in terms of access and security. However, as the needs analysis in the field progresses, it is possible that the prioritized municipalities and people targeted will be updated.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Priority will be given to families that have not been reached with humanitarian assistance by the National Risk Management Unit or families that require additional and complementary support from the Colombian Red Cross.

The criteria for prioritizing families and the population to be served are as follows:

- Families with children under 5 years old.
- Families with pregnant or breastfeeding women or adolescents.
- Families with members with special abilities (physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual) or with chronic or degenerative diseases that make it impossible for them to work.
- Families with two or more dependents per adult of working age and able to work (dependency ratio equal to or higher than 2): dependents are persons under 18 and over 60, and persons with disabilities.
- Persons at risk of protection (due to armed conflict).
- Single adult heads of household with dependent children.
- People over 60 years of age.

Kitchen and cooking kits will be prioritized for individuals in shelters who have not received these items from other partners or funding sources. Meanwhile, food kits will be distributed to displaced families based on the identification process carried out by the Colombian Red Cross and local disaster management committees in host municipalities.



It is worth highlighting that some families, particularly those in shelters, may receive kitchen kits, tableware, and food kits, based on the assessment carried out by the National Society.

Total Targeted Population

Women	4,800	Rural	51%
Girls (under 18)	1,440	Urban	49%
Men	4,680	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	1,080		
Total targeted population	12,000		

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
Access and mobility risk due to restrictions imposed by armed actors that hinder access to main roads.	<p>Priority has been given to host municipalities and therefore accessible for humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>The identification of needs will make it possible to verify the status of and access to the communities by means of land transportation in accordance with the current conditions of the territory.</p> <p>Continuous monitoring through local teams and the information and telecommunications center and crisis room to analyze the dynamics of risk scenarios.</p> <p>Synergy with National Entities such as the National Unit for the Attention and Reparation of Victims, the Ombudsman's Office, the Governor's Office, the Municipal Mayor's Office, Municipal and Departmental Councils.</p>
Physical health risks	<p>Strict use of personal protective equipment (PPE) for volunteers and operation support personnel.</p> <p>Attention to self-care and public health measures for the</p>



	<p>Colombian Red Cross.</p> <p>Strengthen the capacities of volunteers to provide physical health care in critical situations that may arise within the framework of the DREF project.</p>
Psychosocial health risks	<p>Strengthen the capabilities of volunteers to provide psychological first aid in critical situations that may arise during the development of this DREF's actions.</p> <p>Implement strategies that promote emotional stability through psychological support, psychosocial accompaniment and self-care mechanisms that allow them to manage stress and the emotional burden of their work.</p>
Administrative and supply-chain risks including potential delays in the procurement of items	<p>Establishment of compliance measures with suppliers in relation to the logistics processes linked to the contract.</p> <p>Planned support from IFRC procurement team.</p>
Protection and security risks due to the presence of armed actors in the area where armed confrontations may generate a risk for access to some areas.	<p>Ensure that all personnel have the necessary insurance prior to deployment and verify that they have completed the security training courses required by IFRC.</p> <p>Prior induction and training in Operational Security, delivery of the 1000 Series Manual to the Branches and Operational staff involved.</p> <p>Operational Communication in Humanitarian Intervention, as well as adequate briefing prior to any mission.</p> <p>Prior security monitoring with ICRC support at local and national level.</p> <p>Institutional visibility and identification, through the provision of Colombian Red Cross badges, indicative and protective badges for all vehicles used in the operation, as well as "No Weapons" stickers for institutional vehicles.</p> <p>Continuous information and follow-up during the development of humanitarian intervention activities.</p>
In the department of Choco, an armed strike has taken place on the 18 February. It is possible that other armed strikes take place during the time of the operation.	<p>Continuous coordination between the National Society and ICRC is planned. Even though some field operations may be subject to sudden rescheduling or may be paused, the national coordination and management actions will continue throughout the whole of the operation.</p>
<p>Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:</p> <p>The main security concerns for the operation include access restrictions imposed by armed actors, attacks on humanitarian missions, presence of explosive devices (anti-personnel mines, unexploded ordnance and booby traps), violence against the civilian population and armed strikes that may limit the mobility of humanitarian personnel.</p> <p>To mitigate these risks, the intervention will be based on an operational security approach, prioritizing safe access, constant monitoring of the context and coordination with local actors to ensure the delivery of assistance without compromising the integrity of staff or the communities served.</p>	
Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	No



Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 14,884

Targeted Persons: 4,800

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families supported with kitchen kits	600	300
# of families supported with tableware set kits	1,200	500

Progress Towards Outcome

To date, 300 kitchen kits have been delivered in the department of Norte de Santander in the municipality of Cúcuta between 20 and 30 June, while in the department of Chocó, delivery took place in the municipality of Istmina during the week of 20 and 30 June 2025, representing a 50% achievement of the indicator.

In addition, 500 tableware kits have been delivered in the department of Norte de Santander in the municipality of Cúcuta from 20 and 30 June, and in the department of Chocó in the municipality of Istmina during the week of 20 June 2025, representing an execution of 42% of the indicator.

In order to fully complete these two indicators, it is planned for the week of 16 to 30 July, to deliver the pending kitchen and tableware kits in the department of Norte de Santander in the municipality of Cúcuta and in the department of Cauca in the municipality of Argelia, provided that the security situation in the territories is optimal to move forward with the planned activities.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 81,538

Targeted Persons: 12,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families supported with family foods kits	3,600	2,397

Progress Towards Outcome

To date, 2,397 food kits have been delivered in the department of Norte de Santander in the municipalities of Cúcuta, Tibú, Filogringo, San Pablo, Oru and Ocaña from 7 to 20 May 2025. In the department of Chocó, deliveries were made in the municipalities of Quibdó and Istmina on 20 June and 3 July 2025, representing an execution percentage of 80% of the total line.

It is planned for the week of 16 to 30 July to deliver food kits in the department of Cauca, which has been strongly affected by the aggravation of the situation and the constant clashes of armed groups, armed strike, curfew and other situations in the territory. This



situation has resulted in the need to suspend humanitarian assistance delivery operations due to the impossibility of safe access to the communities.



Budget: CHF 3,581
Targeted Persons: 45
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers updated on physical first aid	45	45
# of volunteers updated on psychological first aid	45	45

Progress Towards Outcome

To date, the goals established for compliance with the indicators of the health line have been met, representing 100% of the indicator.

The Physical and Psychological First Aid Workshops for volunteers have made a valuable contribution to the strengthening of the National Society through the Cauca, Chocó and Norte de Santander Branches. In June the workshops were successfully carried out, providing knowledge and consolidating the knowledge of 45 volunteers respectively, providing information on how to act in case of medical emergencies or accidents, the initial attention to people who have experienced a traumatic event or a crisis.



Budget: CHF 35,268
Targeted Persons: 5,100
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people who receive differentiated hygiene kits	5,100	2,550

Progress Towards Outcome

To date, 2,550 differentiated hygiene kits have been delivered in the department of Norte de Santander in the municipalities of San Pablo, Filogringo, Oru and Tibú from 8 to 14 June 2025. In the department of Chocó, 2,550 kits were delivered in the municipalities of Quibdó and Istmina from 20 June 2025 to 4 July 2025, representing an execution of 50% of the indicator.

It is planned for the week of 16 to 30 July to deliver the pending hygiene kits in the department of Cauca, which has been strongly affected by the aggravation of the situation and the constant clashes of armed groups, armed strike, curfew and other situations in the territory. This situation has resulted in the need to suspend humanitarian assistance delivery operations due to the impossibility of safe access to the communities.





Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 6,709

Targeted Persons: 30

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of radio spots on safe behaviors regarding weapon contamination in Choco and Cauca	4	0
# of PGI ENI deployed in Chocó	1	1
# of volunteers updated on Safe Access routes to rights and GBV prevention in Choco and Cauca	30	15
# of documents formulated with the risk analysis for the protection of children within the framework of the operation	1	1

Progress Towards Outcome

Currently, the Protection, Gender and Inclusion Line has provided a valuable contribution to the development of the operation. In June, the NIT volunteer in PGI was deployed in the department of Chocó, supporting specific actions for the protection, gender and inclusion of affected people, guaranteeing the elimination of barriers to access to services and ensuring that humanitarian assistance reached all beneficiary families in an equitable manner.

During the week of 20 May, the Victims Law Workshop was successfully held in the department of Chocó, providing orientation to 15 volunteers on Law 1448 of 2011, orientation on access to rights and access to care, assistance and comprehensive reparation. This activity strengthened the knowledge of the volunteers and the Branch in primary attention to victims of the armed conflict; this represents 50% of the indicator. The Victims Law Workshop is scheduled to be held in the department of Cauca on 14 July 2025, to provide orientation to the volunteers in view of the deliveries in the coming days in the department.

The risk analysis document for the protection of children within the framework of the DREF Displacement project was prepared together with the National Protection Coordination of the Peace Building and Institutional Doctrine Area from 25 to 30 June 2025, representing 100% compliance with the indicator.

The radio spots will be broadcast during the month of August as part of this operation, with the aim of raising public awareness of the danger of contamination by weapons and its consequences, promoting safety and accident prevention, as well as informing about the problem and encouraging participation in initiatives for safe behavior in the territory.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 3,581

Targeted Persons: 30

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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# of activated feedback mechanisms	1	1
# of staff/volunteers oriented (refresher training) on CEA and community feedback mechanism	10	0
# of people participating in community focus group and interviews for feedback	30	10

Progress Towards Outcome

Currently, the Community Engagement and Accountability Line has contributed to this operation thanks to the continuous activation of community participation mechanisms through PQRS reception channels, Cruz Roja Te Escucha, e-mail and WhatsApp Line. In addition, feedback mechanisms will continue to be applied in person in the Chocó and Cauca Branches with the suggestion box, information booth and banner. In addition, 10 people from the community participated in feedback exercises through the focus group methodology

The CEA Workshop is planned to be held during the month of August in order to reinforce and strengthen the knowledge of staff/volunteers oriented on CEA.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 11,022

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of missions developed by the procurement/logistics regional focal point	1	1
# of monitoring visits conducted	3	2

Progress Towards Outcome

During the weeks of 19 to 30 May, the IFRC Delegation and the CRC received the Procurement Officer of the IFRC Americas Regional Office. This mission allowed the socialization of the procurement processes carried out by IFRC, as well as an approach with the National Society's procurement team and its consequent identification of opportunities for improvement in terms of administrative processes.

The Colombian Delegation of IFRC has made two monitoring visits to the priority Branches for this operation, Norte de Santander on 6 and 7 May, and Chocó on 19 and 20 June. An additional monitoring visit to the Cauca Branch is planned for the following months, provided that security conditions are optimal for monitoring in this department.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 65,482

Targeted Persons: 30

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -



Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers involved in the operation	35	20
# of ENIs deployed	1	1
# of lessons learned workshops	1	0
# of monitoring visits conducted by the National Society	3	2
# of staff trained on DREF guidelines and aware of the standard procedures	10	10

Progress Towards Outcome

The General NIT was deployed in the department of Cauca during the month of July, providing support in the logistical aspects of the project, which represents 100% of the indicator.

Between 19 and 21 June, a visit was made to the department of Chocó, providing logistical, administrative and accounting support, as well as follow-up and monitoring. Likewise, a follow-up and monitoring visit was made by the Peace Building and Institutional Doctrine Line in the department of Chocó from 6 to 10 July. This visit was accompanied by the National Coordinator for Contamination by Weapons. The two visits made represent 67% compliance with the indicator. The last follow-up visit to the department of Cauca is scheduled for the last week of July.

The DREF guidelines workshop held in March ensured the transfer of knowledge to the National Society by reinforcing the main points on the management and coordination of DREF operations. The Lessons Learned Workshop will be held at the end of the operational activities.

About Support Services

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

Approximately 35 volunteers from the prioritized branches will be involved in the implementation of this IFRC-DREF Operation.

The Colombian Red Cross Society has an insurance plan through the policyholder, the National Disaster Risk Management Unit (UNGRD), which includes Civil Defense, Firefighters, and Colombian Red Cross volunteers. The insurance covers the National Society volunteers through life and accident insurance through Law 782 of 2002 with Decree 2012 of 2003. This insurance is renewed periodically, and the Colombian Red Cross receives the respective documentation.

Additionally, the staff directly supported by IFRC-DREF funding include:

- 1x National Coordinator with 100% dedication to the project, who will be responsible for managing the administrative, technical, and operational implementation of the project: ensuring the implementation of the response cycle and the execution of the technical and financial objectives of this Fund.
- 1x National Administrative Assistant Staff with 100% dedication to the project, will be responsible for accompanying the legalization process and financial follow-up, and procurement management.
- 1x Accounting Assistant Personnel with 100% dedication to the project, who will be responsible for the financial records in the Financial Information System managed by the Colombian Red Cross Society, monthly reconciliations, review of budgets, and support in the consolidation of financial information.
- 2x Local Coordinator with 100% dedication to the project, who will be responsible for managing the administrative, technical, and operational implementation of the project in Choco and Norte de Santander.
- 1x Local Administrative Assistant Staff with 100% dedication to the project, will be responsible for accompanying the legalization process and financial follow-up, and procurement management in Chocó.
- 2x General ENIs volunteers that will be supporting the activities in Chocó and Cauca.



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?

The Colombian Red Cross volunteers who will support the actions in the field are part of the prioritized Branches, which ensures knowledge of the operational and cultural context of the intervention area. The call for volunteers is made openly, taking into account the capacity of the Branches and the technical needs of the planned activities. This volunteer team has the required and informed technical training path necessary to be part of the operation

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

The National Society has a procurement process for emergency cases, which has already been activated for this emergency. Based on this, acquisitions will be carried out by the National Society with the support of the IFRC procurement team.

How will this operation be monitored?

The monitoring and progress of the operation will be carried out weekly between the National Society and the IFRC delegation in Colombia, as well as a context assessment and needs analysis at the beginning of the operation to make the necessary adjustments to the activities, as well as several monitoring visits by the National Society staff, the operation team and IFRC staff of the Delegation in Colombia.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Institutional actions will be made visible through distinctive elements with the Colombian Red Cross emblem, which will facilitate the identification of the points available for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. These actions will be complemented by the collection of graphic material that will serve as inputs for the development of communication pieces that will be published on the social networks of the institution and the coordination spaces. The Colombian Red Cross Communications and Image Office will provide support in this aspect.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRCO029 - Colombian Red Cross Colombia: Population Movement

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	145,560
Shelter and Basic Household Items	14,884
Livelihoods	81,538
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	3,581
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	35,268
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	6,709
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	3,581
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	76,503
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	11,022
National Society Strengthening	65,482
TOTAL BUDGET	222,064

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Internal

#V2022.01

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



Contact Information

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

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