

DREF Operational Update

Colombia: Population Movement (Returnees)

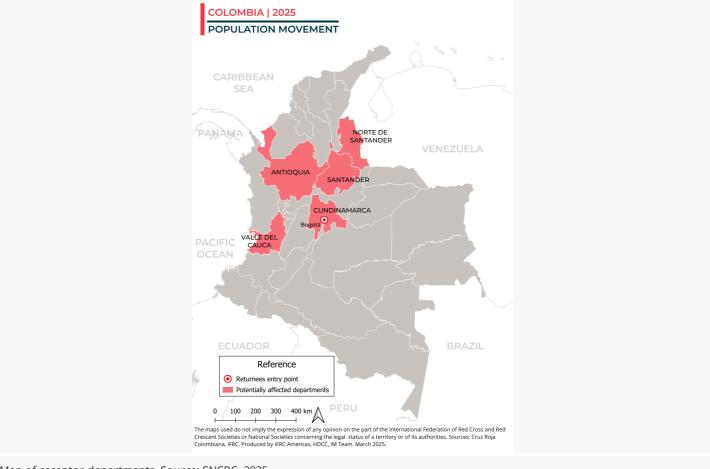


SNCRC assistance to returnees, El Dorado Airport. Source: SNCRC, July 2025

Appeal: MDRCO030	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 76,878	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Population Movement
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 27,000 people	People Targeted: 2,500 people	
Event Onset: Slow	Operation Start Date: 27-03-2025	New Operational End Date: 30-09-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 27-03-2025		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 15-06-2025	
Additional Allocation Requested 0		Targeted Regions: Bogota D.C	



Description of the Event



Map of receptor departments. Source: SNCRC, 2025.

Approximate date of impact

As of 20 January 2025, with the changes on immigration policy in the United States, a significant increase in deportations of Colombian citizens is projected. It is estimated that by 2025 the number of deportations of Colombians will amount to approximately 27,000 people, which would represent an increase of 58% compared to the previous year.

Provide any updates in the situation since the field report and explain what is expected to happen.

According to the dashboard developed by Migration Colombia, between 28 January and 6 March 2025, a total of 1,467 Colombians were deported on flights organized by the National Government in coordination with the Air Force, Migration Colombia, and the Foreign Ministry (1). These flights originated from the United States and Panama, arriving at airports in Bogotá and Medellín.

Deportations remained consistent throughout this period. The United States deported 201 people on 28 January and 105 on 29 January. On 3 February, Panama deported 43 Colombians to Medellín. Additional flights from the United States followed on 3, 6, and 10 February, carrying 109, 91, and 109 deportees, respectively. On 13 February, two flights arrived: one from Panama with 35 people in Medellín and another from the United States with 107 in Bogotá. The United States continued deportations with flights on 18, 19, 20, and 25 February, carrying 107, 96, 109, and 105 deportees, respectively. Panama sent another flight on 28 February with 35 deportees. Finally, In March, the United States operated two more flights, on 4 and 6 March, with 110 and 105 deportees, bringing the total for the period to 1,467. These figures only account for coordinated flights with government oversight, meaning the actual number of deportations could be higher.

Meanwhile, El Tiempo (2025) reports that approximately 1,000 Colombians are currently detained in the United States, awaiting deportation in the coming weeks (2). With an average of 200 people returning weekly to Bogotá through coordinated flights between the Colombian and U.S. governments, the Colombian Foreign Ministry estimates that deportations will continue at this rate in the months ahead. However, this represents only a small fraction of the 27,000 Colombians with deportation orders, indicating that forced returns may increase further in the near future.





Monitoring visit of IFRC. June, 2025



Mobile humanitarian store service. Source: SNCRC, July 2025



Mobile humanitarian store service. Source: SNCRC, July 2025

Why your National Society is acting now and what criteria is used to launch this operation.

Since the beginning of the deportations, the Colombian Red Cross has participated in coordination and response preparedness meetings with national entities. The Colombian Red Cross received the first request from the government on 28 January 2025, to support the first flights of deportees. In connection with the above, on 28 February, the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs requested support from the Colombian Red Cross to provide humanitarian assistance at El Dorado Airport as a result of to the increasing demand for essential services not covered by the current government response and the absence of other humanitarian organizations affected by USAID funding cuts.

In total, the Colombian Red Cross has supported 6 flights since the first government request, representing a total of 627 people assisted through different actions including restoring family contact, food, hydration, first aid and information. In the initial flights, the CRC also provided temporary lodging and distribution of cleaning supplies.

In anticipation of a potential increase in deported nationals with humanitarian needs, the Colombian Red Cross developed its Contingency Plan. This plan is based on a scenario-planning exercise conducted in December 2024, involving migration specialists from various branches, organized by the Colombian Red Cross Migration Team and facilitated by the IFRC.

Drawing from the 17,090 Colombians deported in 2024 (3), three potential impact scenarios have been identified:

Moderate (Green Alert): A 10% increase, reaching approximately 1,350 deportees per month.

Worrisome (Orange Alert): A 30% increase, with 1,596 deportees per month.

Critical (Red Alert): A 50% increase, totaling 1,841 deportees per month.

In alignment with the government's 2025 projections, the Colombian Red Cross proposes a trigger-based action plan for this DREF Operation. The plan includes:

Trigger 1 – Anticipatory Actions Phase: Activates readiness, prepositioning, and early actions.

Trigger 2 – Response Phase: If needed, escalates to full-scale response.

Trigger 1 - Anticipatory Actions Phase

This first trigger has already been met and is based on:

- Stricter U.S. immigration policies implemented since January 20, signaling an expected rise in deportations to Colombia in 2025.
- The Colombian government's request to Colombian Red Cross for humanitarian assistance at El Dorado Airport.

This phase focuses on strengthening the National Society's capacity to manage a potential Red Alert scenario, which could exceed response capabilities. The Colombian Red Cross has already initiated assistance activities using its own funds and will expand operations through this DREF Operation as soon as it is approved.

Trigger 2 – Response Phase

This trigger will activate if deportations increase by 30%, reaching 1,595 returnees per month. If met, the National Society will develop an operations update to scale up the operation and transition from anticipatory actions phase to response phase.



For this, the Colombian Red Cross will evaluate the total number of deportees from the previous month and the average number over the last three months. If there is a 30% increase, the response will be considered for escalation according to the National Society's contingency plan.

Additionally, escalation to a potential response phase may also be triggered by government requests informed by updated reports showing a sustained rise in deportations.

Given the fluid and often unpredictable nature of migration contexts, the Colombian Red Cross, in coordination with the IFRC Delegation for Colombia, will continuously monitor evolving needs. This will ensure that the activation of the Response DREF aligns with the immediate humanitarian needs of returnees at the right time.

Scope and Scale

A significant increase in deportations of Colombian citizens from the United States is projected for 2025, with estimates indicating a 58% rise compared to the previous year. This surge is driven by the tightening of U.S. immigration policies since January 2025, suggesting that the steady flow of deportees in vulnerable situations will persist.

As deportations increase, the situation is expanding in regional scope and scale, posing new challenges for returnee integration and stability. This influx is expected to impact key areas such as safety, health, emotional well-being, and socioeconomic conditions, underscoring the need for comprehensive response strategies.

Many Colombians migrate due to economic hardship, family reunification, or the pursuit of better opportunities and international protection. Their return requires reintegration strategies that ensure access to basic services, employment, psychosocial support, and protection mechanisms to uphold their rights.

Colombia's current social and economic conditions add another layer of complexity to the reintegration process. Strengthening response capacities and coordinating efforts among various stakeholders is essential to support sustainable resettlement.

Initial assessments by the Colombian Red Cross during the first deportation flights have highlighted urgent needs, including food, water, sanitation, hygiene, transportation, temporary shelter, and family reunification support. The limited resources for international cooperation and the increasing demand for services reinforce the urgency of intervention.

The Colombian Red Cross is stepping in as a key humanitarian actor, complementing government efforts to address the gaps in assistance for returnees. The government has already recognized the need to enhance support mechanisms, and ongoing requests for Red Cross assistance are expected as deportation numbers continue to rise.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Nearly 1,000 Colombians are ready to be deported from the U.S.	https://www.eltiempo.com/mundo/eeuu-y-canada/cerca-de-1-000-colombianos-estan-listos-para-ser-deportados-desde-estados-unidos-3425883
2. Migration flows 2024 by Migración Colombia	https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/migraci.n.colombia/viz/FlujosMigratorios-2024/Inicio
3. Migration flows 2025 by Migración Colombia	https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/migraci.n.colombia/viz/FlujosMigratorios-2025/Inicio

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 two month no-cost timeframe extension, for a total timeframe of implementation of 6 months (new end date: 30 September 2025).
- (ii) An adjustment in the following budget lines, without modifying the total approved budget:
- SHELTER: The positive variation in this line is due to an adjustment of CHF 817.83, corresponding to the transfer of resources from the WASH line. The remaining CHF 5,130.70 comes from surpluses generated by the monetization process, which has made it possible to expand the scope of services, cover differences in costs and strengthen the responsiveness of implementation.
- LIVELIHOODS: The positive variation in this line is due to an adjustment of CHF 1,576.47, resulting from surpluses generated by the monetization process, which has made it possible to expand the scope of services.
- MULTI PURPORPOSE CASH: The negative variation in this line, equivalent to CHF 1225.97, is due to the adjustment in the representative market rate (RMR) applied during the monetization process.
- WASH: The negative variation in this line is due to an adjustment of CHF 817.83, corresponding to the transfer of resources to the Shelter line. The remaining CHF 3,206.36 is due to the adjustment in the representative market rate (RMR) applied during the monetization process.

The other variations also respond to the representative market rate during the monetization process, which was applied in favor of the local currency. Therefore, the team made the variations taking into account the local markets, the initial technical and financial planning, and the purchase schedule, in line with the proposed quantities and goals.

(iii) An adjustment in the following indicators:

- The indicator of SHELTER (Number of people accessing the accommodation service) increases from 125 to 217 as proposed target.
- The indicator of SECRETARIAT SERVICES (Number of monitoring visit) increases from 2 to 4 as proposed target.

The above, taking into account the optimization of funds from the monetization of approved funds and the requirements reported by the Colombian Red Cross.

Please explain how the operation is transitioning from Anticipatory to Response:

This request does not imply the activation of a response phase, as the established triggers for such activation have not yet been reached. Rather, the extension is requested to anticipate a potential increase in humanitarian needs. This measure aims to ensure operational readiness and timely response capacity in the event of a possible deterioration of the situation.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	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. For this emergency, the IFRC team in Colombia supported the registration on the GO platform, as well as the formulation of this DREF.
Participating National Societies	The PNS present in the country have expressed their interest in learning about the humanitarian needs that have arisen from the current deportation process due to they interest in contributing to humanitarian action by complementing the response.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC has so far provided the Family Links Restoration (RFL) service, strengthening the deployment of actions for the reestablishment of family links, this service helps to reconnect deported nationals with their nuclei established in Colombia; the ICRC



Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs accompanied the arrival of the nationals of the first three flights. However, this request was extended for flights operated since March. The National Police providing a space for the care of minors and the respective medical care. OPAIN guaranteed a space to provide humanitarian assistance and managed humanitarian transport for people without a support network in the city of Bogotá and with high levels of vulnerability and multiple affectation. The Mayor's Office of Bogotá arranged the temporary accommodation service for nationals without a support network in the city of Bogotá, meanwhile, their return to the different cities of origin was achieved. The Colombian Institute of Family Welfare (ICBF) assessed the minors who arrived on the three flights and on 29 January they delivered liquid welfare to the children. The Ministry of Health of Bogotá has arranged basic medical care. The Ombudsman's Office received statements and referred cases to the Unit for Comprehensive Attention and Reparation to Victims in cases associated with the internal armed conflict.
UN or other actors	Given the decrease in funding by the United States Government to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the response of other actors has been reduced, making it difficult to deliver humanitarian assistance, the presence of international cooperation and the services offered. Before this budget cut was known, the Colombian Red Cross managed to articulate in a coordinated manner with partners such as UNHCR and IOM the accommodation services operated by implementing partners within the framework of current projects. This made it easier for the returned migrant population to have access to showers, food, lodging and toiletries.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Interagency Group on Mixed Migratory Flows – GIFMM has carried out an exhaustive monitoring of the migratory context in the face of the arrival of the returned migrant population that has been deported from the United States. This has made it possible to know not only the humanitarian needs, but also the impact on the different regions of the country and the possible trends of this dynamic.

Regarding the coordination for the response to returned migrants, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Migration Colombia and the Colombian Air Force were in charge of coordinating actions to assist this population, through the established protocol, with the participation of different public and private entities and in conjunction with the Colombian Red Cross.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has articulated a response on the ground, for the attention of nationals. This has allowed the non-duplication of actions, the strengthening of the line of integration and stabilization, complementarity in care and a safe referral for protection cases.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

In some specific cases, the need for support the people who arrive at points far from their places of origin has become evident, making it difficult for them to access support networks and immediate refuge. Lack of financial resources prevents them from continuing their journey or accessing temporary accommodation, exposing them to street situations and precarious living conditions. Likewise, the lack of



safe reception spaces leaves many people without a decent place to spend the night. In addition, the absence of support mechanisms for family reunification limits the possibility that they can be reunited with their loved ones safely and quickly.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

It was evident that access to basic foodstuffs is a major limitation in the process of receiving deportees.



Multi purpose cash grants

There has been evidence of a lack of access to humanitarian transport, which prevents deportees from moving from the cities of return to their places of origin or safe reception points. The absence of economic resources for their mobilization leaves many people without viable options to continue their journey safely, increasing the risk of being stranded in these cities and exposing themselves to street conditions, exploitation or insecurity. The situation is even more critical for those who do not have support networks in the city of arrival, which aggravates their vulnerability and makes family reunification difficult. In addition, the lack of assistance in conditional cash transfers for humanitarian transport increases exposure to the dangers of en-route migration, including human trafficking, violence and exploitation.

Additionally, it is required to guarantee humanitarian transport with accompaniment under a protection approach, and through an established protocol, ensuring that the humanitarian response does not cause action with harm and that people arrive at reception sites that protect their integrity. To this end, it is necessary to validate their reliable support networks to ensure the safety and well-being of those receiving assistance.



Health

Primary health care

It is critical to provide medical care to returnees to treat conditions arising from the trip, such as dehydration, fatigue, and respiratory infections, which can compromise their well-being. It is also necessary to ensure the proper management of physical injuries and ensure immediate access to health services. The availability of pharmacological treatments is essential to treat urgent medical conditions, as well as timely referral to specialized services in cases that require it.

Mental health

It is necessary to pay attention to the high levels of stress, anxiety and emotional effects derived from the deportation process, as well as psychosocial support in the face of family separation and the uncertainty of return. The creation of safe spaces for emotional expression and the implementation of psychological first aid are required. In addition, it is essential to guarantee a differential approach that responds to the particularities of each case.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

It is necessary to guarantee access to drinking water for consumption and hygiene, especially for those people who do not have a stable place to stay. In addition, the absence of basic hygiene supplies and the lack of adequate toilets and showers leave many people without access to safe and dignified facilities for their personal hygiene. It has been identified that, upon arrival, the nationals do not bring laces on their shoes and bring their belongings between sacks and tarpaulins that make them easily identifiable. That is why it is necessary to have shoelaces and tote bags that they can obtain upon arrival at the airport, as part of the elements of the Humanitarian Store Strategy.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The need to guarantee communication for returnees, due to family separation during the deportation process, has been identified to facilitate contact with their support networks. Likewise, the installation of free connectivity points that allow access to the internet and the making of essential calls is required. Inquiries have also been made about support networks and services available to people who are returning to Colombia under deported status.

As part of the implementation, the Colombian Red Cross team has been attentive to identifying people who may have faced situations of



vulnerability in their migration process, such as forced displacement, human trafficking, gender-based violence, and other forms of violence that may affect their integrity and rights. Taking into account that some people may have left Colombia in search of international protection, special attention has been paid to identifying needs and thus strengthening orientation actions for the dissemination of access routes to protection services and safe return. Attention is also paid to institutional processes for the restitution of rights in order to facilitate processes of safe referral and referral of cases to appropriate assistance and protection mechanisms.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF operation, the Colombian Red Cross plans to mitigate the risk of a humanitarian crisis that could be triggered by an unusual increase in the number of people deported. In this regard, anticipatory actions will be implemented designed to provide assistance to 2,500 deportees during 6 months through primary health care, psychosocial care, WASH, delivery of hygiene items, food assistance, accommodation, cash vouchers for in-land transportation, information as aid and the protection of family links.

Operation strategy rationale

The Colombian Red Cross has structured the anticipatory action phase into three activity blocks: readiness, pre-positioning for early actions, and early actions. These efforts aim to strengthen the National Society's capacity to effectively meet the identified needs of deported persons.

Additionally, it is worth noting that a small portion of stock is also being pre-positioned for potential response needs. This prepositioning will ensure that the National Society has the necessary materials to scale up the operation if required, preventing delays in timely assistance.

Readiness, pre-positioning, and early actions will be implemented upon approval of this DREF Operation. These actions respond to the first trigger—already met—linked to changes in U.S. immigration policies that have increased deportations and prompted a government request for humanitarian assistance from the Colombian Red Cross.

The anticipatory actions phase focuses on the following areas: Health, Shelter, Livelihoods and Basic Needs, Cash, PGI, WASH, CEA, and Migration, as outlined below:

HEALTH:

- Readiness and Pre-positioning: The Colombian Red Cross will ensure sufficient resources for early health interventions at El Dorado Airport in Bogotá. This includes:
- Coordinating the setup of a designated physical space.
- Identifying trained personnel to provide physical and psychological first aid.
- Procuring necessary medical supplies, including first aid kits.

These activities are based on assessments conducted by Colombian Red Cross teams supporting flight receptions and insights from local authorities. Additionally, as part of readiness efforts, a referral pathway will be established with medical centers for specialized care when needed.

- Early Actions: The plan includes providing physical and psychological first aid services to an estimated 540 returnees through trained personnel and necessary medical supplies. Given the operational context, the activation activities will be conducted for volunteers involved in assisting deportees to ensure their well-being and maintain effective service delivery.

SHELTER, HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS:

- As part of readiness and pre-positioning, the Colombian Red Cross will coordinate access to temporary accommodation for deportees in need of shelter upon arrival. A prioritization and support roadmap will be developed, focusing on families with children and those without support networks in Bogotá. To ensure service quality, trained personnel in the shelter, housing, and settlements sector will be identified, and visits to temporary accommodation facilities will be conducted. Additionally, warm-up kits for children and adults and cloth bags with key self-care messages will be pre-positioned based on identified needs.
- During the early actions phase, the pre-positioned kits will be distributed, and trained personnel will oversee accommodation services following the established prioritization protocol. Its was planned that at least 125 deportees will receive one night of lodging, with an early departure strategy limiting stays to a maximum of two days per person. Accommodation will be arranged in hotels with pre-identified providers, ensuring a safe and dignified space for returnees. In the framework of this operational update, the indicator was



updated to 217 according to the needs identified by the Colombian Red Cross field team.

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS:

- As part of readiness and pre-positioning, the Colombian Red Cross will oversee the procurement and management of ready-to-eat food for returnees. This includes designing a food assistance distribution protocol that establishes a safe, accessible, and convenient distribution point. The protocol will also assess and identify the most suitable food suppliers to ensure efficient distribution.
- During the early actions phase, the food assistance distribution protocol will be activated, enabling the purchase and distribution of snacks at the National Society's designated point of care.

MULTIPURPOSE CASH:

- As part of readiness and pre-positioning, the Colombian Red Cross will develop a protocol and feasibility study for providing conditional cash assistance to support deportees' transportation to their city of origin. This includes establishing agreements with transportation providers and defining the prioritization and support process for beneficiaries.
- During the early actions phase, a plan for Dignified Transport will be activated, providing humanitarian transportation vouchers to at least 250 deportees, enabling their safe travel from Bogotá to other cities.

Protection, gender and inclusion (PGI):

- The operational team will articulate with the Peacebuilding and Institutional Doctrine area of the Colombian Red Cross for the activities of readiness and prepositioning. This will allow the development and purchase of necessary tools and connectivity services to activate the RFL service at the point of care and take advantage of strategic alliances with UNHCR, Ombudsman's Office, Victims Unit, ICBF, Foreign Ministry, Colombia Nos Une Program, among others, for the update of key information for the referral of cases with protection needs with institutions and authorities specialized and in charge to handle asylum or refugee applications.
- As part of the early actions, restoring family link services will be conducted to support people to re-establish contact with their families and support networks. It is expected that at least 1000 persons will be supported with access to calls and connectivity network. Likewise, key messages on self-care and support routes and access to rights will be disseminated, for example, the channels of the Colombian government program for returnees "Colombia nos une" (Colombia unites us) will be disseminated.

Water, hygiene and sanitation (WASH):

- Readiness and prepositioning activities are aimed at acquiring the necessary elements to equip the humanitarian store with hygiene kits and hydration.
- Through WASH early actions, 2,500 people will be reached with differentiated hygiene kits for children, women and men, and the humanitarian tent strategy will be strengthened through which people will be able to access information on access to showers and toilets, as well as additional hygiene items for babies and women if necessary.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

- The National Society with the support of the IFRC's regional CEA team will develop an information, assistance and feedback strategy for deportees adapted to the country context and operational needs. In addition, the National Society will define the communication channels for the delivery of key information on available returnee assistance and participation channels, as well as the channels for receiving and managing concerns, complaints and recommendations from the people targeted. These activities will be supported by the development of an CEA workshop for staff and volunteers of the National Society.

Migration:

- Through this operation, the Colombian Red Cross will update its contingency plan and develop an action plan to support the deported population throughout the country. For this, an analysis of the humanitarian situation in Colombia by deportees will be developed. The achievement of these activities will be supported through a workshop that will be accompanied by IFRC staff.

In addition, the development of a lessons learned workshop at the end of the operation is proposed and coordination meetings with the IFRC Country Delegation is proposed, to ensure that actions are carried out according to plan, and to address possible complications and avoid delays. Regular updates on the situation will be made in collaboration with Migration Colombia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, humanitarian organizations present in the country, to evaluate the possible need to escalate this DREF to a Response DREF based on the defined triggers or, on the contrary, activate a stopover mechanism in the event that flights with deportees cease permanently, either by an official notification from the authorities or after 15 days of not receiving flights.



Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The operation prioritizes assistance to returnees in situations of high vulnerability, facilitating a humanitarian response based on needs and protection criteria. The selection of the population will be carried out through characterizations at the reception points and will focus on the following profiles:

- Priority will be given to the attention of deported people who arrive in the country through flights to El Dorado International Airport in Bogotá.
- Women at risk, especially pregnant, breastfeeding or at risk of gender-based violence.
- Diverse sexual orientation and gender identity people who report some type of risk.
- Families that include minors, the elderly, or those who refer to some type of disability.
- People with a medical diagnosis who need complementary care.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Assessments at the points of arrival

The National Society team will identify the people with the most urgent needs to be addressed by the team in a differentiated way and according to our response lines.

Vulnerability criteria

Assistance will be provided according to the situation of each individual, prioritizing risks of protection, health and access to basic elements.

Considering the framework of dignity, access, participation and security that guide protection activities in the Movement. Likewise, the importance of coordination with government entities and other humanitarian agencies that can complement the response is considered.

Total Targeted Population

Women	615	Rural	-
Girls (under 18)	10	Urban	100%
Men	1,845	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	30		
Total targeted population	2,500		

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 Protection risks that may affect the integrity and fundamental Identify previously safe and private care spaces for people's care. rights of the returnees, due to stigma and discrimination. Additionally, include the differentiated care approach according to the needs identified. Team risks due to potential repercussions on the physical safety Implement rotating shifts for the staff involved in the operation, and well-being of the team such as emotional overload and preparation in emotional self-care techniques. Clear information exhaustion and insecurity and violence at points of care. on the complementarity of the response to avoid frustration with the cases. Coordinate with local authorities and security agencies to identify appropriate spaces to install the point of attention. Take safer access measures Lack of information and access to documentation that directly Provide information and operational communication from the affect people in their process of transit to places of origin CEA approach to be linked in the implementation of humanitarian transport assistance. In addition, prior coordination with government entities.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

The deportation process of Colombian citizens from the United States has captured public and media attention in recent months. Various media outlets have covered the situation, generating information and opening the debate on the circumstances and consequences of the process. While this coverage helps to raise awareness of the issue, it has also raised concerns among deportees.

The presence of media at reception points can cause discomfort for some people, who fear that the public exposure of their cases will lead to them being stigmatized or singled out. This perception is intensified when individual stories are presented without proper context, which could in terms of security, expose them and reinforce narratives that do not reflect the complexity of their experiences.

On the other hand, although there is a main point of arrival or reception, in the short term many of the returnees will seek to continue their transit to their cities of origin within the national territory. In this process, a number of factors can affect both returnees and host communities.

According to a Recent report of the Ombudsman's Office, so far in 2025, 11 humanitarian emergency hotspots have been identified in the country, several of them associated with dynamics of violence and the presence of Organized Armed Groups (GAO). In some areas, these conditions have restricted access, which can hinder family reunification and affect the reintegration of returnees into their communities of origin, which implies an additional challenge.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Νo

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 17,666

Targeted Persons: 217

Targeted Male:
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual	
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Progress Towards Outcome

- A contract was signed for hotel-type lodging. Since 13 June, accommodation services have been offered to deportees through a prioritization mechanism established by the Colombian Red Cross national migration team, reaching an average of 23 people per flight for a total of 94 people reached to date. Due to the optimization of resources through monetization, the proposed target for this indicator is increased.
- The process of delivering bags with self-care protection messages began on 13 June to date, 538 units have been delivered.
- The warm kits for children and adults are currently being purchased and are expected to be ready by the end of July.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 7,871

Targeted Persons: 2,500

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Male: -Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people receiving snack kits	2,500	1,683

Progress Towards Outcome

- The NS managed the procurement processes and established a safe and accessible distribution point for the target population. The food has been adapted to the operational context, oriented to Colombian gastronomy and local products. The food service has been offered to people with the possibility of accessing food according to their needs and preferences, promoting their ability to choose the products offered.
- The distribution has been carried out on a permanent basis since 3 April, reaching an average of 110 people per week, covering 1,683 people to date. According to estimates and flight scheduling, the goal is expected to be reached during the last week of July.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 6,744

Targeted Persons: 250

Targeted Male:
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of humanitarian transport services for migrants returned through conditional cash vouchers	250	46

Progress Towards Outcome

- The feasibility study along with the protocol for care and/or referral were completed by the NS.
- Despite the challenges in selecting the supplier and awarding the service, 46 people have been reached with this service, some of the



main destinations being Medellín (8 people); Neiva (7 people); Bucaramanga (6 people); Santa Marta (4 people); Villavicencio, Cúcuta and Cali (3 people in each city).



Budget: CHF 685

Targeted Persons: 540

Targeted Male:
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of returned migrants receiving physical or psychological first aid	540	538

Progress Towards Outcome

- Progress in this area has been significant, as it is a cross-cutting service that complements other areas such as shelter and humanitarian transportation. The operational team includes personnel with experience in Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (SMAPS), which has allowed us to maintain a continuous and smooth implementation of this service.
- The services in this sector began to be offered on 13 June, when the lodging and transportation services were already active, all this in order to have an active offer of integral attention. Since that date, humanitarian response has been given to 4 flights, and in all of them 100% of the returnees have had access to this service, which represents a reach of 538 participants out of a goal of 540. Under this premise, it is projected to meet the goal of attention in the next flight scheduled for the second week of July.
- It is expected that, once the established goal has been reached, the service will continue to be provided until the end of the operation, given its complementary nature. Although there is a physical space available for its development, managed with OPAIN, it is important to clarify that this service is not limited to a single moment of attention. For example, emotional support can continue in person, if the person so wishes, even the following day, before leaving the housing facility.
- Training in physical and psychological first aid will be held on 21 and 22 July 21, with the support of the National Society's Health area. The first aid kits, both physical and psychological, are already in the purchasing process and are expected to be received in the first half of August.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 16,767 Targeted Persons: 2,500 Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with differentiated basic hygiene kits	2,500	700

Progress Towards Outcome

- Distribution will continue during the entire period of operation, implemented through the Humanitarian Store strategy, which is the central methodology for the provision of this service. This modality, which allows people to select items according to their needs, reinforces the Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI) approach adopted throughout the operation.



Progress in this component has been conditioned, in part, by the time required for the purchasing processes. For this reason, rather than a low demand, the need to extend the implementation time responds to the lapses necessary to guarantee the availability of inputs. At present, the corresponding purchase orders have already been issued, which indicates that the most critical phase in terms of time management has been overcome, and it is projected that the supplies will be received in mid-July. Training was developed with the team consolidated in orientation on the mobile humanitarian store, both in terms of methodology and the use of the data collection tool.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 2,449 **Targeted Persons:** 1,000

Targeted Male: Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people receiving RFL services	1,000	1,683
Number of people oriented towards routes of access to rights	1,000	538
# of activities focused on the prevention of child safeguarding	1	1

Progress Towards Outcome

- RFL services are an indicator already achieved. The Peacebuilding and Institutional Doctrine team has supported the development of this indicator. As of 3 July, a total of 1,683 persons has been reached out of the 1,000 projected to the goal. This is developed from services such as phone charging, WIFI access, calls to their families.
- On the other hand, with regard to people oriented towards access to rights, this activity -currently underway- is developed within the framework of inter-institutional coordination and in alignment with the care routes established at the national level. This indicator is part of a comprehensive care strategy, articulated with various entities and adjusted to the specific needs identified in each case.

In some cases, and depending on the profile of the person, a direct and immediate (in situ) referral is made to entities such as the Ombudsman's Office or other competent institutions. In other scenarios, when people's final destination is another city, communication is arranged with the national referent of the Personería (or corresponding entity), in order to facilitate contact with the corresponding territorial liaisons, thus promoting a more adequate and timelier accompaniment.



Migration And Displacement

Budget: CHF 2,075

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male:
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of workshops developed for the update of the contingency plan and action plan	1	0



Number of analysis of the humanitarian situation in Colombia due to	1	0
deportations		

Progress Towards Outcome

- The workshop is scheduled to take place during the first 15 days of August. Its preparation is already underway, fed directly by the lessons learned during the implementation of the DREF. Its execution requires additional time to consolidate inputs and coordinate the participation of key stakeholders at the national level.
- The Humanitarian Situation Analysis document is based on the information collected during the assistance days, especially the bimonthly reports and assistance records. The focus of the analysis becomes stronger as implementation progresses, which makes it necessary to extend the execution time in order to have a complete and representative view of the period covered by the DREF, which would provide the necessary inputs for its creation in mid-September.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 1,038 Targeted Persons: 0 Targeted Male: -Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of strategies of information, help and feedback for deportees developed	1	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- This product is currently in the consolidation phase, based on the CEA actions already implemented, the tools in use and the feedback collected during the service days. Its formulation has been adjusted according to the development of the operation itself, which requires additional time to close and adequately document the process. Under these conditions, this product is expected to be ready by mid-September, according with the planning developed with the CEA IFRC Regional focal point.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 2,823 Targeted Persons: 0 Targeted Male: -Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of missions of the CEA focal point	1	0
Number of monitoring visits	4	2



Progress Towards Outcome

- The monitoring visits were completed according to the initial planning and it is contemplated to increase two additional visits, according to the favorable monetization of the operation's funds.
- 1) 8 May 2025: Accompaniment by Program Assistant representing the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.
- 2) 15 May 2025: Accompaniment by Program Assistant representing the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It starts with the onshore food delivery service.
- In the framework of the National Society' monitoring visit during June 2025, a representation of the 510 NLRC and the IFRC regional and global migration focal points visited the mobile humanitarian store.
- The mission of the IFRC's CEA regional referent is subject to the availability of her agenda and that of the implementation team. This accompaniment is scheduled to take place during the second week of August. During the bilateral meetings, the planning of the space, the planned agenda and the strengthening of the CEA component for the DREF implementation team and for the National Migration Strategy have been advanced



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 18,762
Targeted Persons: 0
Targeted Male: Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of lessons learned workshops developed	1	0
Number of monitoring visits	5	5

Progress Towards Outcome

- To date, the administrative staff has been hired and a community professional has been hired to provide support from the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach.
- The monitoring visits by the National Society have been completed. As described below:
- 1. 3 April 2025: Accompaniment by National Migration Manager, Protection Officer and Protection Coordinator for the population in mobility of the NS. Within the framework of the DREF, at that time of the operation, the identification of needs and opportunities for improvement were key to adapt the response that would later be complemented.
- 2. 22 May 2025: Monitoring visit by Colombian Red Cross' National Migration Manager, with the objective of generating feedback to the food service, which by that date was in the process of improvement in terms of supplier. Likewise, the visit and accompaniment by Institutional Doctrine Officer of the NS, with contributions and suggestions on visibility, operational communication, among other aspects that later contributed to the improvement of the response.
- 3. 13 June 2025: Accompaniment of Colombian Red Cross' National Migration Manager and the strategy's administrative team. New acquisitions such as loading stations are put into operation and the operation already has all the services available. Logistics are fully deployed.
- 4. 19 June 2025: Visit by Monitoring, Evaluation, Analysis and Learning (MEAL) Officer, to accompany and monitor the information collection process of the actions framed in the humanitarian response to returnees nationals. From this opportunity, modifications and/or adaptations were made to the tool that subsequently improve the collection of information.
- 5. 26 June 2025: Accompaniment by Colombian Red Cross National Migration Manager and the Peacebuilding and Institutional Doctrine leader; lead Strategic Designer within 510 NLRC, National Society Development and Membership Services Coordinator of the IFRC Delegation in Colombia; Regional Migration and Displacement Coordinator of IFRC; and Global Migration and Displacement Leader of the IFRC.
- The lessons learned workshop is scheduled to be held during the last week of August, in accordance with the operational update, and the agenda will be built jointly by the teams involved, taking into account the lessons learned during implementation.



About Support Services

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

For the development of the operation, there will be 1 National Administrator in charge of managing and facilitating the elements required by the operation. This person will be responsible for the follow-up on the contract of suppliers process, managing legalizations, advances, logistics and payments, and ensuring the timely availability of essential supplies for the humanitarian response. In addition, he/she will support in the validation and elaboration of feasibility studies for the required services. Taking into account, the current operations, this person will also be the administrative focal point for all ongoing operations with the IFRC in Colombia.

Likewise, 1 Community Engagement and Accountability Analyst in charge of processing and analyzing information to strengthen the strategy of attention to deportees, ensuring that informative materials, communication channels and engagement strategies are effective, and evidence based. This role will have a cross-cutting approach, supporting the material that will be developed within this operation, contributing to the lessons learned exercises and the construction of frameworks that reflect the needs identified, as well as the development of participation and accountability mechanisms for the people served.

In addition, three (3) volunteers are expected to provide support by facilitating timely and adequate access to available humanitarian assistance. This team will be supported by the staff of the National Migration Strategy.

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 Branch 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, and has received direct accompaniment from Colombian Red Cross migration and peace-building personnel and institutional doctrine.

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

The National Society of the Colombian Red Cross will carry out procurement processes in accordance with its internal procurement procedure. In addition, it has a specific process designed to respond to emergency situations.

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. Several follow-up visits will also be carried out by the staff of the National Society and the staff of the IFRC Delegation in Colombia. This is framed in a specific monitoring plan for the fulfillment of the proposed operational strategy.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Institutional actions will be identified by distinctive elements with the emblem of the Colombian Red Cross, facilitating the location of the points destined for the provision of humanitarian assistance. In addition, graphic material will be collected to develop communication pieces that will be disseminated in the coordination spaces. To this end, the Office of Communications and Image of the Colombian Red Cross will provide the necessary support in the management of internal and external communication strategies, supporting by the IFRC Regional Communications Team.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRCO030 - Colombian Red Cross Colombia: Population Movement

Operating Budget

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

Planned Operations	55,293
Shelter and Basic Household Items	17,666
Livelihoods	7,871
Multi-purpose Cash	6,744
Health	685
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	16,767
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2,449
Education	0
Migration	2,075
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	1,038
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	21,585
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	2,823
National Society Strengthening	18,762
TOTAL BUDGET	76,878

Internal #V2022.01

Click here to download the budget file



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