



Response coordination space. July 2025. Merida State

Appeal: MDRVE012	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 375,194	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 24,095 people	People Targeted: 5,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 01-07-2025	New Operational End Date: 31-12-2025	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 01-07-2025		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 15-09-2025	
Additional Allocation Requested: -		Targeted Regions: Amazonas, Barinas, Mérida, Zulia	

Description of the Event



Map highlighting the targeted areas for this operation

Date of event

25-06-2025

What happened, where and when?

The passage of Tropical Wave number 9 through western Venezuela has caused heavy rains that led to flooding and landslides in the states of Barinas, Mérida, Trujillo, and Táchira. Local and national authorities agree that this has been the strongest rain episode of the season in the Andean region. In response to this situation, on 25 June, the government activated the "Andes 2025" Emergency Plan, which includes the mobilization of the Bolivarian National Armed Forces, Civil Protection, and regional authorities to carry out evacuations, clear blocked roads, assist isolated communities, and mitigate the effects of flooding and landslides.

Since late April 2025, Venezuela has experienced an exceptionally active rainy season marked by frequent rainfall, thunderstorms, and landslides that have impacted several vulnerable regions across the country. The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMEH) attributed the situation to various meteorological factors, including the early onset of the rainy season with the arrival of the first tropical wave on 24 May, followed by a second on 30 May. Additionally, persistent troughs and atmospheric disturbances have contributed to ongoing climatic instability, particularly in the central, western, and southern regions.

INAMEH estimates that between 45 and 50 tropical waves are expected during this extended rainy season, projected to last until November. The effects have already been severe, particularly in the Andean, plains, and Amazonian regions, where communities and infrastructure have sustained significant damage.

As of Friday, 20 June, the passage of the first eight tropical waves had already caused persistent and intense rainfall, resulting in river overflows and widespread flooding. The most affected states include Zulia, Barinas, Mérida, Apure, and Trujillo, with additional flooding reported in Bolívar and Sucre. Assessments conducted by Civil Protection and Red Cross teams indicate that approximately 24,095 people, grouped into 4,819 families, were affected across eight states: Amazonas, Apure, Barinas, Mérida, Monagas, Táchira, Trujillo, and Zulia.



This emergency unfolded against the backdrop of an already difficult humanitarian context in Venezuela. Floods and landslides have endangered lives, destroyed homes and crops, and severely damaged drinking water systems, road infrastructure, and essential services—leaving many communities without access to basic needs.

Among those affected, particularly vulnerable groups include older adults, people with disabilities, and children, all of whom face significant challenges in evacuating or accessing humanitarian assistance. The situation is further complicated by the presence of people in migratory contexts—such as returnees, those in transit, and internally displaced persons—many of whom returned without resources or support networks, leaving them especially exposed.

Venezuela has faced increasingly severe rainy seasons over the past five years, revealing the country's limited preparedness and the vulnerability of many communities to extreme weather events. This crisis underscores the urgent need for sustained efforts to build resilience and safeguard the most at-risk populations.



Water distribution point at the Barinitas.
August 2025.



VRC volunteer doctors providing medical
assistance in Mérida. July 2025



Assistance to communities in Barinitas.
August 2025

Scope and Scale

The rainy season in Venezuela intensified significantly on 3 June, when authorities in the states of Táchira and Trujillo reported widespread damage caused by accumulated rainfall in the preceding days. Impacts included floods, landslides, fallen trees, and structural damage to homes—particularly in the municipality of Boconó, where 36 families were affected.

On 5 June, the fourth tropical wave of the season caused severe devastation across several western states and the Venezuelan Andes. In Zulia, 46 homes were flooded in Cabimas. In Mérida, Sucre, Táchira, and Trujillo, authorities reported landslides, overflowing streams, and collapsed infrastructure. In the Libertador municipality of Mérida, the Gaviria and La Fría streams rose to dangerous levels, causing damage along Trunk 7. Seven homes were directly impacted, one of which was completely destroyed. Civil Protection identified 2,560 critical risk points across the state.

By 25 June, heavy rainfall had intensified in eastern Venezuela. In Maturín, Monagas State, flooding affected 158 families in the Ciudad Colonial urban area. In Táchira, 22 homes were damaged due to floods and landslides, while in Barinas, a bridge over the Michay River collapsed as a result of rising water levels.

The situation worsened with the arrival of the ninth tropical wave in late June, triggering a new series of emergencies, particularly in the Andean and western regions. In Mérida, at least 103 homes were completely destroyed and over 370 were damaged. More than 8,000 families were cut off due to road blockages, and at least 25 bridges collapsed—16 of them irreparably.

As of July 6, the Amazonas state authority has confirmed that 199 families in the Atures, Autana and El Burro municipalities have been affected. This is due to the fact that the Orinoco River rose to 52.83 meters above sea level, which means 83 cm above the flood level of 52 meters above sea level. Rainfall projections anticipate that it will continue to rain continuously.

One of the worst-hit areas was the municipality of Rangel, in the Apartaderos region, where the overflowing of a river directly affected more than 270 families. Timely evacuations by authorities prevented any loss of life. In Trujillo, 92 homes were damaged, and in Táchira, more than 870 families were left isolated. Meanwhile, a critical section of the José Antonio Páez highway in Portuguesa State collapsed, disrupting key transportation routes for food distribution and emergency assistance.

In response to the scale of the emergency, the Andes 2025 Task Force was activated, bringing together Civil Protection, the Fire Service, the National Guard, and local authorities to respond across 46 affected municipalities. In addition to its auxiliary role, the National Society works closely with Civil Protection to identify gaps and assist communities in greatest need. By the end of June, meteorological

authorities warned of the imminent arrival of the tenth tropical wave and maintained high alerts for continued intense rainfall nationwide.

The situation remains especially critical as the Andean states contribute approximately 70% of the country's vegetable production—placing national food security and the region's recovery at serious risk.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. - El País, 06/27/2025: Villages under water and eight thousand families affected	https://www.ntn24.com/noticias-actualidad/25-puentes-con-perdida-total-en-venezuela-por-las-lluvias-dan-balance-oficial-de-los-destrozos-565095
2. - Infobae, 06/27/2025: Heavy rains devastated a village in the Venezuelan Andes	https://www.infobae.com/venezuela/2025/06/27/fuertes-lluvias-arrasaron-con-un-pueblo-en-los-andes-venezolanos-mas-de-270-familias-afectadas-en-merida/
3. - NTN24, 06/27/2025: 25 bridges totally lost in Venezuela due to rains	https://elpais.com/america/2025-06-27/pueblos-bajo-el-agua-y-ocho-mil-familias-afectadas-las-lluvias-tropicales-arrasan-en-venezuela.html
4. INAMEH. (2025, abril 23) Declaraciones de presidente INAMEH. Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/reel/DJyy5ChuEYz/?igsh=cGFjdGg5Nnkycmtj
5. Maduro activates "Andes 2025" Plan in response to emergency caused by rains in Venezuela.	https://www.elimpulso.com/2025/06/26/maduro-activa-plan-andes-2025-ante-emergencia-por-lluvias-en-venezuela-26jun/
6. Link to the folder of operation photos	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TJcrHKeccZw_0J1d24R-5ZqWBmSohRzK

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 Venezuelan Red Cross aims to inform about:

(i) A 2-month no cost timeframe extension (New end date: 31 January 2025)

This is mainly due to the challenges presented at the local level and to ensure the implementation of the planned activities and the closure of the operation.

The state declaration of external emergency has led to significant adjustments in the planning and execution of community activities. In some previously selected communities, political calls have been held, resulting in the temporary suspension of scheduled activities. With a more restricted operating environment, this has required constant risk assessment to ensure staff safety and the continuity of humanitarian actions. The NS has now activated its contingency plan, which has involved the implementation of protective measures for volunteers and the review of operational protocols.

In Venezuela, emergency management is usually centralized under a single authority, generally governmental or military in nature. This means that all community activities must be authorized in advance by local authorities. In the states of Barinas, Amazonas, and Mérida,



this dynamic has remained unchanged, and although significant progress has been made—such as participatory assessments with Civil Protection and deliveries in some communities—the continuity of actions has faced challenges. Furthermore, the institutional validation process has caused delays in the authorization of activities, hindering the timely planning and execution of interventions. Despite these challenges, progress has been made through advocacy and dialogue with key actors.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	Since the beginning of the response, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has provided the National Society in Venezuela with support, technical assistance and coordination through its Delegation.
Participating National Societies	A delegation from the German Red Cross is present in Venezuela to support the VRC's emergency response plans as needed. Drawing on its previous experience, the delegation has provided funding for the logistical deployment of assessment missions and rapid responses to emergencies.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been present in Venezuela since 1999. The ICRC Delegation and the Venezuelan Red Cross are in constant coordination with the Movement's partners in the prioritised states.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	The Venezuelan government has implemented various measures to address the onset of the rainy season in June 2025, which has affected several regions of the country. Inspections have been carried out in streams and vulnerable areas as part of the 2025 Rainy Season Plan, aiming to prevent overflows and ensure community safety. To respond to rain-related emergencies in Mérida, Táchira, Trujillo, and Barinas, the national leader activated the "Andes Plan 2025," in which Civil Protection, regional authorities and the Bolivarian National Armed Forces were deployed to carry out evacuations, clear blocked roads and assist isolated communities. The National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMEH) has issued alerts about heavy rainfall and electrical storms in multiple states, including Bolívar, Amazonas, Apure, Lara, and Zulia. Additionally, Civil Protection teams have been deployed in Táchira to monitor the impacts and coordinate emergency responses.
UN or other actors	The Humanitarian Country Team has held meetings with organisations, particularly in Apure where it has been active since 10 June, and has organised the coordination and monitoring of the emergency response. The UNHCR has made supplies available to the VRC via the IFRC to support the pre-positioning and provision of supplies for the response, including kitchen kits, blankets, hand washing points, semi-collapsible canisters and water treatment tablets. OCHA has maintained communication with the authorities to verify new information on the impacts, particularly in the state of Apure. OCHA has coordinated with the Táchira Civil Protection Service and partners of the Local Coordination Forum (FLC). On 25 June, UNHCR, in coordination with OCHA, delivered basic necessities (200 mats, 200 hygiene kits, 200 linen kits and 25 reflectors) to affected



families. The FLC continues to monitor the situation and is ready to respond to new requests.

OCHA is maintaining constant monitoring of the situation.

Civil society has organised at least seven collection centres (six in Mérida and one in Trujillo).

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

In the state of Mérida, the increase in the flow of the El Chama River seriously affected the community "Brisas del Río", where it is estimated that more than 60 homes were damaged, 75 families in this sector were evacuated preventively and transferred to an improvised shelter in the 16 de Septiembre School (By 25 June, it did not have access to water, bathrooms without conditioning due to the lack of water, only support has been received from a 1,000 liter tanker truck).

In the state of Apure, Amparo parish, at least 590 families were affected, the Catholic Church of the parish has been conditioned as a temporary shelter, where approximately 30 families are currently sheltered, mostly children and the elderly. The local population has shown remarkable solidarity, making donations of food (mainly protein), clothing and basic supplies. There has been evidence of the presence of humanitarian organizations that support (Caritas and OCHA).

So far, improvised shelters have been set up in schools and churches to accommodate people from the affected community. In this regard, the Venezuelan Red Cross is providing technical assistance to ensure the shelters are managed correctly. The National Society is responsible for managing these shelters and ensuring that protection and integrity standards are maintained for the people temporarily housed in these spaces. The assistance provided for these centres includes adapting and equipping the spaces to ensure these standards are met.

In the current emergency in the Venezuelan Andes, the low temperatures represent a significant health risk, particularly for children and the elderly. Blankets are essential for protecting people against the cold, preventing illnesses related to low temperatures and providing a minimum level of comfort and security at this critical time. It is urgent and necessary to take this measure to improve the well-being and quality of life of those affected by the emergency.

Due to the start of the rainy season, there has been an increase in vector-borne diseases, making it necessary to distribute mosquito nets.



Health

The intense rainfall recorded in Venezuela in recent weeks has had an additional impact on the challenging conditions faced by health centres in several states, particularly in Barinas, Apure, Zulia, Mérida and Portuguesa. This has directly affected access to and the quality of health services, while significantly increasing health risks for those affected.

In addition, the needs assessment was accompanied by first aid assistance in affected communities, mainly in the states of Barinas, Apure (Guasdalito) and Merida, reporting care for simple wounds, abrasions, sprains, strains and medium care.

One of the most common effects of the rains is the hasty establishment of makeshift shelters, which often fail to meet the minimum standards set out in the Sphere Handbook. The lack of adequate conditions in these shelters favours the spread of communicable diseases, particularly in contexts where access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation is compromised.

The main risks identified are:

- Acute diarrhoeal diseases.
- Skin diseases associated with prolonged exposure to moisture and contaminated water.
- Diseases transmitted by poor food handling.
- Vaccine-preventable diseases, especially in children.
- Vector-borne diseases, such as dengue, Zika, chikungunya and malaria.
- Acute respiratory infections and chronic conditions exacerbated by humidity.
- Arbovirosis.



In addition to the above, the contamination of water and food sources represents a risk not only to human health, but also to the health of domestic and consumer animals, as well as to the environment.

Floods and landslides have caused the loss of essential goods and appliances, including medicines (both general and for chronic conditions), personal hygiene products, kitchen utensils, clothing, and blankets. This leaves families in a highly vulnerable situation, which could be alleviated by the urgent distribution of emergency kits and medicines.

Many of those assisting communities, whether providing first aid or restoring roads and homes, have suffered injuries and bruises that require immediate attention (simple wounds, bruises, abrasions, sprains and sprains and medium care where chronic diseases have been identified with loss or non-compliance of treatment due to loss during the emergency). In this context, the Venezuelan Red Cross's work through its network of trained volunteers is essential in providing first aid and supporting the community response.

From a public health perspective, flooding poses an immediate and long-term threat. Mixing drinking water with sewage, faeces and chemicals creates conditions conducive to outbreaks of gastrointestinal diseases such as cholera, hepatitis A and E, and infectious diarrhoea. At the same time, stagnant water becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes, leading to an increase in cases of diseases such as dengue, malaria, Zika and chikungunya.

In emergency contexts, another critical issue is mental health and psychosocial well-being. Humanitarian crises can have a profound effect on individuals, families and communities, generating stress, anxiety and anguish, and sometimes severe trauma. Support systems must be established that respond to these needs with a multi-level approach, providing basic protection and active listening services as well as specialised care for critical cases. These systems should align with the pyramidal approach to mental health intervention and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

The well-being of humanitarian and health personnel must also be considered, as they work in adverse conditions and face high emotional demands. Implementing specific self-care and psychosocial support plans for these workers is crucial for ensuring their mental health and the sustainability of the humanitarian response.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Communities in the states of Mérida, Barinas, Amazonas, Zulia and Apure are facing serious limitations in their access to drinking water in terms of both quantity and quality. Intense rainfall associated with multiple tropical waves has caused catchment sources and distribution networks to collapse in numerous sectors.

In Mérida, the Chama River and several streams have overflowed, affecting at least nine municipalities and destroying homes, crops and electrical systems. Areas of the páramo such as Mucurubá, San Rafael de Mucuchíes and La Mucuchache have been particularly badly hit. The loss of household goods and structural damage to homes hinders personal hygiene, food preparation and basic sanitation, thereby endangering public health. The on-site assessment determined that the damage to the water infrastructure is extensive, further increasing difficulties in accessing safe drinking water.

In order to mitigate the serious effects on this sector, it is necessary to mobilise at least one OX-LMS 06 emergency water treatment plant with the capacity to produce up to 20,000 litres of safe water per day for the most affected communities. The distribution of family hygiene kits, cleaning kits, collapsible drums, water purification tablets and improved storage and treatment systems for humanitarian service points (200 litres) is also required, as well as home filtration systems. These actions must be accompanied by awareness-raising sessions on hygiene, sanitation, and the safe use of water.

This comprehensive strategy aims to ensure access to clean drinking water, maintain adequate hygiene and sanitation levels, and prevent diseases in this emergency context.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

The recent floods have made children and adolescents particularly vulnerable, especially in rural and isolated communities. The main gaps identified include the loss of safe environments, exposure to physical and psychosocial risks, family separation and interruption to educational and recreational activities, all of which are essential for their well-being.

In this context, the response will focus specifically on child protection, prioritising actions that reduce risks and promote safe and dignified environments for children affected by the emergency. To this end, key messages on child protection will be disseminated to caregivers, volunteers, and community actors to prevent violence, abuse, neglect, and family separation. Volunteer personnel will be trained in basic protection standards, the identification of risk signals, and the safe referral of cases that require it. These actions seek to



reduce exposure to risk, and to restore the basic rights of children in an emergency environment, focusing on well-being, emotional support, and dignity.

Additionally, measures to reduce the structural inequalities that exacerbate the impact of emergencies must be promoted. To this end, new volunteers must be recruited and trained in key areas such as gender equity in humanitarian action, gender-sensitive analysis, minimum protection standards, inclusion in emergency contexts, the Code of Conduct, the Prevention and Response of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy and child protection.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

As a member of the National Disaster Risk Management System, the Venezuelan Red Cross has identified various priority gaps through its operations that require attention. One of these is the need to strengthen response capacity by providing response teams with the necessary resources to deliver effective training in dealing with emergency situations.

Similarly, the urgent need to incorporate a community approach to risk management has been highlighted, particularly in densely populated urban areas with a high level of exposure to hazards. Furthermore, coordinated action among other humanitarian actors in the planning and coordination of responses is essential to ensure rapid and efficient responses to possible adverse events.

In challenging contexts, it is necessary to develop community-level actions aimed at strengthening knowledge and capacities in areas such as emergency response, first aid, evacuation, planning and coordination, as well as supplying essential equipment. To this end, the Venezuelan Red Cross recognises the need to expand its internal capacities and acquire resources. Among the prioritised needs in risk management is acquiring personal protective equipment, such as gloves, raincoats, rubber boots and jackets, for volunteers carrying out fieldwork.

Activating the national emergency operations centre is a fundamental action for monitoring the effects across a large part of the country and provides timely information for decision-making.

Although anticipated actions have already been implemented, it is still necessary to increase support for communities so that they are prepared for possible emergencies, as the experience of the state of Sucre demonstrates. Early warning systems must be established at the local level, and post-event monitoring must be ensured, to improve response and reduce future risks.



Community Engagement And Accountability

As part of our commitment to providing quality, transparent responses, VRC will continue to implement a community satisfaction evaluation mechanism in areas that have been prioritised. This instrument will continue to enable the National Society to collect feedback from those assisted regarding the relevance, quality and timeliness of the assistance provided, and to identify areas for improvement.

The information collected is analysed to adjust ongoing actions and strengthen accountability to communities, ensuring their views are considered in decision-making processes.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

The IFRC-DREF operation aims to reach 5,000 people (1,000 families) directly to provide a timely humanitarian response in order to address the urgent needs of people affected by floods in Zulia, Mérida, Barinas and Amazonas states, with actions in the following areas: shelter, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), protection, risk management, community participation over 6 months.

Operation strategy rationale

The response strategy focuses on providing timely humanitarian assistance to communities affected by the floods in June 2025, particularly in the states of Mérida, Barinas, Amazonas and Zulia. The Venezuelan Red Cross will continue to implement a range of comprehensive interventions in the areas of housing, water and sanitation, health, protection, and community participation, giving priority to the most vulnerable and hardest-to-reach families.



Shelter and essential items:

3,000 blankets will continue to be distributed to replace lost shelter items, with the aim of reaching 1,000 families across different states based on need. Technical assistance will also be provided to shelter managers in the form of five specialised workshops addressing issues such as space organisation, security, dignity and protection. At the same time, resources will be allocated to make specific adaptations to the shelters according to needs identified in the field, such as structural improvements, improvements to sanitary areas, and improvements to kitchen areas.

Health and psychosocial care

The Humanitarian Health Service Points will continue to be reinforced to incorporate the following activities:

- Basic first aid and pre-hospital care
- Basic psychosocial care in affected communities, including group sessions and one-to-one support
- Self-care and emotional support activities for volunteers, recognising the stress they have experienced while responding to the crisis
- Distribution of mosquito nets for 1,000 families (3 per family). Items already prepositioned to be replenished with DREF.

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)

A robust WASH response axis will be implemented, including:

- Distribution of personal hygiene and cleaning kits to at least 1,000 families
- Delivery of 1,000 Sawyer-type household filters, along with storage kits and improved filtering for community spaces and humanitarian points
- Activation of the OX-LMS 06 water treatment plant, mobilized from the Barinas subsidiary, with capacity to produce 20,000 liters of safe water per day. This plant is destined to be located in Bolivar Municipality, Barinitas parish, with a current gap of 10,000 families without access to safe water, by request of HidroAndes and support of the municipal mayor's office, distribution by means of tanker trucks. For additional support, the WatSan 05 plant in Barquisimeto has been pre-positioned.
- Community campaigns to promote handwashing, menstrual hygiene, chlorination and safe water storage, adapted to rural and indigenous contexts.

Protection and community participation

From a protection perspective, the following actions will continue to be carried out:

- Identification of protection risks in communities and shelters, through an adapted protection action plan created based on the findings of the evaluation.
- Disseminating key messages to prevent family separation, strengthen support networks, and publicise sources of help. Implementing community feedback mechanisms to collect concerns, suggestions and complaints safely and anonymously. Coordination with Family Links Restoration Points and safe referral.

Risk management and coordination:

- The response is supported by the continuous operation of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at Headquarters, which maintains:
- Daily weather monitoring;
- Validation and adjustment of regional contingency plans;
- Logistics management and supply replacement, including personal protective equipment for deployed personnel.

This entire response will continue to be developed in close collaboration with local authorities and other humanitarian organizations to ensure smooth logistics and community participation.

This operation aims to reach 5,000 people (1,000 families) directly, within an estimated population of 18,545 affected individuals. The strategy adapts to existing logistical and technical capacities by integrating local affiliates, civil protection authorities, and organised communities. This guarantees an effective, contextualised response with a humanitarian approach

The activities carried out will continue to be announced through the official social media channels of the Venezuelan Red Cross, integrating the actions on the ground with the compilation of audiovisual content such as photographs, videos, testimonies, etc. This strategy will allow different audiences – both internal and external – to know the impact and magnitude of the interventions carried out.

Likewise, key messages will continue to be generated and adjusted with a preventive approach aimed at external audiences, in order to offer updated information on the regional context, make visible the actions implemented at the local level.

In collaboration with the communication managers of the subsidiaries and focal points, the demands related to the institutional image and visibility of the emblem is addressed, in addition to compiling specific inputs required by the National Directorate of Communications for dissemination in the official media.

In coordination with the VRC, the government, the Civil Protection Agency and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Red Cross has identified approximately 1,804 families affected by the floods in the state of Apure on 25 June. The Red Cross plans to request the partial activation of the country's Humanitarian Fund in order to support 500 families, implementing a strategy consisting of WASH, shelter, PGI and CEA actions. This would involve relief supplies such as hygiene kits, cleaning kits, jerry cans, tablets



and cooking kits, as well as mobilizing a water treatment plant. This would increase the scope of the intervention and complement the DREF. If these additional funds are approved, the proposed responses to this operation is focused on the states of Mérida, Amazonas, Barinas and Zulia.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The emergency caused by the heavy rains in June 2025 mainly affected families living in rural and peri-urban areas of the Andean states and western Venezuela. These families included children, the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and peasant communities who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. Living in conditions of high vulnerability—often in precarious housing near rivers, streams, or unstable slopes—these populations have been hit hardest by landslides, flash floods, and the loss of road infrastructure.

People in transit, particularly those returning from the Colombian border via land routes, have also been trapped by road closures, collapsed bridges, and a lack of access to basic services such as food, temporary shelter, and healthcare. Several of these routes coincide with internal migration corridors, further complicating mobility and increasing protection risks. Host communities, as well as volunteer and humanitarian personnel deployed in the affected areas, are also experiencing high levels of stress and overload. As a result, they are being included in psychosocial support and self-care initiatives.

The following states have been prioritised due to their level of impact, strategic location along national connection routes, and productive relevance:

Mérida (Apartaderos, Rangel, Libertador): The epicentre of the emergency, where more than 103 homes were destroyed and over 8,000 people were left isolated. The Páramo area has been severely affected by overflowing rivers and collapsed rural roads, leaving peasant families cut off.

Barinas: The collapse of a bridge over the Michay river has cut off rural areas, as well as the overflowing of the Santo Domingo river have caused landslides, overflows, damage to infrastructure and road collapse in the municipalities of Barinas, Obispo, Obispo, Bolívar, Antonio José Sucre and Antonio José Sucre: Barinas, Obispo, Bolívar, Antonio José de Sucre

Zulia: As a result of heavy rainfall in the upper and middle basin of the Guasare River, we are informed about the flooding and overflowing of rivers, flooding of houses, loss of household goods and limited access to communities. According to data issued by the INAMEH station, 267 mm of rain were recorded in a period of less than 24 hours, which caused the Guasare river to swell, causing significant damage in several communities in the municipality. As a result of this event, families are reported to have been affected.

Amazonas: As a consequence of the continuous rainfall at national level and the passing of tropical wave No. 14, the Governor of Amazonas state, Miguel Rodríguez, has confirmed the affectation, 199 families affected in the Atures, Autana and El Burro municipalities. This is due to the fact that the Orinoco River rose to 52.83 meters above sea level, which means 83 cm above the flood level of 52 meters above sea level. Rainfall projections anticipate that it will continue to rain continuously.

In all these states, the humanitarian response prioritizes the distribution of essential WASH supply kits, access to safe water, hygiene promotion sessions, pre-hospital assistance, basic and community-centered psychosocial support, shelter support and technical assistance. The response is designed taking into account the specific needs of each community, ensuring culturally relevant actions adapted to the realities.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The objectives of this operation are based on a vulnerability approach, identifying those most in need of immediate support.

The aim is to ensure their safety, health and well-being. For this reason, assistance will continue to be prioritised for particularly vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, children, pregnant women, and people with disabilities. These groups are often disproportionately affected by emergency situations due to their specific needs and limitations in accessing resources and assistance independently. Prioritising these groups ensures that assistance is inclusive and accessible to all, thereby promoting equity in the response.

The selection criteria include:

- (a) families who have suffered a partial or total loss of their home;
- (b) families without access to safe drinking water sources;
- (c) Families who have not received assistance from government or non-governmental organisations during the current emergency.



- (d) families with members belonging to vulnerable groups, such as children, adolescents, pregnant women, the elderly and people with disabilities; People with chronic diseases.
- (e) People in shelters.

Total Targeted Population

Women	2,550	Rural	30%
Girls (under 18)	450	Urban	70%
Men	1,700	People with disabilities (estimated)	5%
Boys (under 18)	300		
Total targeted population	5,000		

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	No
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	No
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?	No

Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
The National Society has no or almost no child protection systems	It is envisaged to develop a detailed plan that Describe how mitigation measures will continue to be developed for the response. With the support and advice of the International Federation. in addition, the National Society is currently working on the development of child protection policy.
The rains continue and worsen access to the affected communities.	Material is mobilized in the Subsidiaries near the impact areas.
Limited access to fuel may restrict movement for field activities.	Coordination management with local authorities to ensure the supply of fuel necessary for the execution of the VRC operations.
The magnitude of the event exceeds the operational capabilities of the National Society	Constant monitoring of the situation in the COE in view of its possible worsening. Support with the IFRC, ICRC and German CR team to support the SN response
The security context in the country may be affected (civil unrest, armed clashes in different states, landslides or road closures)	Activate the social tension contingency plan that defines the response protocols in coordination with the support of the IFRC and the ICRC



Lack of timely information for the creation of reports.	Constant communication with subsidiaries to ensure the creation of reports and timely information submission.
Loss of key personnel can affect work continuity.	Implementation of actions from governance bodies to guarantee human resources and maintain continuity of operations.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

This operational strategy is defined by a timely and coordinated response from teams in the Relief, RCF, Emergency Health and other technical areas to ensure the timely delivery of assistance to affected communities.

Security conditions vary according to the context and area of the emergency, so prior to field trips, teams must evaluate the security conditions of the affected area, access routes to and from the affected communities, and ensure they have more than one means of communication with the Subsidiaries. They must also consider portable energy backup during interventions, avoid acting at night when necessary, establish community-specific safety plans, and make safety briefings and debriefings routine before and after interventions.

All intervention teams must have a designated safety representative who can identify operational risks in the field and take action when necessary. The correct use of the uniform and increased visibility of the emblem are also important. The complementary approach to security must be applied. Communicate with community leaders before and during the response.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?	Yes
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Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 22,693

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families provided with blankets	1,000	650
# of shelters supported that have been adequated	4	0
# of shelters that have received technical assistance	4	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- The VRC distributed warmth and essential household supplies to affected communities: 458 families in Barinas, 254 in Mérida, and 150 in Zulia. These supplies addressed immediate protection and cooking needs for families in affected communities and shelters.
- Technical assistance trainings have also been implemented for Temporary Shelter Centers once they are established by the relevant authorities. This support focuses on four key pillars: Operational organization of the center, ensuring protective environments for all population groups, maintaining physical safety conditions, and promoting the psychosocial well-being of sheltered families.

Budget: CHF 26,020

Targeted Persons: 740

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people reached with pre-hospital care	740	1,546
# of people reached with basic and community-focused psychosocial support	740	713
# of group self-care sessions for volunteers	10	11
# of Humanitarian Service Points Strengthened	4	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- The services have addressed a broad spectrum of health needs, including the management of chronic non-communicable diseases, treatment of infectious and parasitic conditions, and preventive health education. Special attention has been given to maternal and child health, encompassing prenatal care, postpartum support, and pediatric wellness checks.
- The team has also responded to urgent needs, providing trauma care for accident-related injuries and cases of violence, alongside critical mental health interventions.
- To date, the volunteers have conducted in-person medical consultations in 21 communities throughout Mérida. Beyond clinical care, they organized three community Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (SMAPS) sessions, held jointly across Mérida and Barinas states. These sessions focused on practical strategies for crisis management and anxiety reduction, equipping communities with tools to cope with ongoing challenges.
- This integrated approach—combining direct medical services with psychosocial care—reflects the team's commitment to addressing both immediate and long-term health impacts in crisis-affected areas



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 207,902

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of families reached with WASH supplies	1,000	852
# of people reached with hygiene, sanitation and safe water promotion sessions	3,000	4,084
# of liters of safe water delivered	600,000	1,215,000

Progress Towards Outcome

- The VRC distributed WASH supplies to affected communities, including: Family Cleaning Kits (552 families), Family Sanitation Kits (762 families), Water Filters (609 families), Jerry Cans (2x10L capacity), Water Purification Tablets (x15 blisters). These supplies allow the long-term water storage and portability for daily use and guaranteed the safe-drinking water in the affected communities. This multi-component approach ensures sustainable water management while addressing immediate and long-term WASH needs in vulnerable communities.
- The OX-LSM 06 water treatment plant was successfully installed in the community of Barinitas, Barinas, on 06 July 2025, at the request of Hidro Andes. The plant operated continuously until 18 August 2025, demonstrating reliable performance throughout the intervention period. With a maximum production capacity of 60,000 litres per day, the system maintained a steady distribution output of 35,000 litres daily. This was achieved through two distribution channels: 20,000 litres were dispensed directly at the plant's distribution point, while the remaining 15,000 litres were delivered via a water truck with 5,000-liter capacity, which completed three daily refill rounds.
- The plant was equipped with two 24-hour distribution points to ensure uninterrupted access to safe water. Meanwhile, the water truck played a crucial role in extending services to remote areas, currently covering four sectors per day, each comprising approximately 30 to 40 families. Since operations began, the truck's reach has expanded from an initial 40 communities to 60, reflecting the growing efficiency of the distribution system. Estimated daily water distribution averaged 20L/person (2 jerry cans). Special needs cases received up to 2,000L/day based on medical/vulnerability assessments by local community leaders. Quantities were calculated from total outputs divided by registered beneficiaries, with jerry cans serving as standardized measurement and distribution vessels
- In parallel with water distribution, the VRC implemented hygiene promotion activities to reinforce proper water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) practices. The sessions reached over 4,084 participants, educating communities on essential hygiene habits, household sanitation, and collective responsibility in maintaining clean water sources. The active participation of community members has been a positive indicator of the intervention's acceptance and potential for long-term impact. Moving forward, maintaining this dual focus on infrastructure and behavioural change will continue to be critical to ensuring sustainable benefits for the population of Barinitas and surrounding areas.



Budget: CHF 597
Targeted Persons: 149
Targeted Male: -
Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of volunteers who received PGI key information messages	150	0
# of people reached with at least one RFL service	150	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- The evaluations made by the VRC, collected data disaggregated by age, gender, disability, health situation and household composition, which made it possible to identify conditions of aggravated risk in households headed by women or with families with members such as older adults, people with disabilities, families with children, and people with chronic illnesses. According to the data, 320 persons with disabilities and 40 households with pregnant women were identified so far.
- The interventions in Health, Water Sanitation and Hygiene took into account the previous prioritizing criteria, ensuring that these groups could access the available resources equitably and safely.
- The VRC has implemented protective measures to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable groups during aid distributions and census activities to provide supervised care for children; trained volunteers facilitate protective activities (educational games, psychosocial support), enabling the caregivers to collect supplies without compromising child safety.
- Trained volunteers in sign language ensured equal participation for deaf/hard-of-hearing beneficiaries. This enables accurate communication of needs during registrations, increasing trust with marginalized groups and reduced miscommunication mismatches.





Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 512

Targeted Persons: 1,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of people who received information about feedback mechanisms	1,000	530

Progress Towards Outcome

- Community participation was materialized through meetings with local leaders, personnel from the health areas and consultations during surveys in community spaces, where objectives and working methods were shared.
- Satisfaction surveys were implemented after the distribution journeys, including questions related to Respect, Information, Safe-spaces, Healthiness, Quality, Pertinence, Listening, NET Promoter Score and additional comments. Following aid distributions, 530 beneficiaries were surveyed across multiple dimensions of service quality. Preliminary results demonstrate strong positive impact: 90% reported the supplies effectively covered their basic needs and 87% indicated the assistance enhanced household autonomy (responding "Completely" or "Majority").



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 48,501

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of international and national procurement processes conducted for supply replenishment	10	9
# of field technical support missions	3	2
# of surge personnel deployed	1	2

Progress Towards Outcome

The logistics team at the IFRC Regional Office in Panama, provide support with procurement processes restocking, maritime transport to Caracas and distribution to warehouses. Additional support is also being provided for specialized procurement. The Venezuela Regional Delegation finance team provides ongoing assistance for financial reporting and budget tracking.

The IFRC deployed (2) SURGE personnel, one specialized in logistics and supply chains to provide technical support for the planning, coordination and logistical follow-up of the operation; and one specialized in PMER to provide support in the follow-up of the operation and other technical tasks related to the role.





Budget: CHF 68,969

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
# of personnel hired directly for the operation	5	5
# of lessons learned workshops conducted	1	0
# of monitoring and evaluation visits by NS	4	3
# of communicational and visibility plans developed and implemented	1	0

Progress Towards Outcome

- Five new staff members were hired to strengthen the operational capacity of the National Society: an Emergency Operations Center Officer, a Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Officer, a Risk Management Assistant, an Administrative Assistant, and a Procurement and Logistics Assistant. This expansion of the human team is essential to ensure efficient resource management, agile programmatic execution, and compliance with required administrative and financial procedures
- Monitoring and coordination missions are being conducted in the field. The Operations Coordinator, along with technical teams from the Health, WASH, Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Communication sectors, are frequently conducting field visits. The objective of these missions is to firsthand supervise the progress and quality of implemented activities, verify compliance with established plans, identify logistical or programmatic challenges, and maintain direct and effective coordination with local authorities, partners, and the affected communities themselves to ensure a harmonized and people-centered response.

About Support Services

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

Following the emergency, the VRC had a team of contracted staff consisting of an Emergency Operations Centre Assistant, a Risk Management Assistant, a WASH Officer, an Administrative Assistant and a Purchasing Assistant. The Emergency Operations Centre Officer was responsible for monitoring updated information provided by subsidiaries

The Emergency Operations Centre Officer is responsible for monitoring updated information provided by subsidiaries in impacted areas, analysing it and translating it into concrete, timely information for decision makers. They will continue to support the subsidiaries in identifying the most urgent needs of the deployed teams to promote comprehensive and integrated decision-making. The Risk Management Assistant has promoted the validation and compliance of contingency and rainfall response plans and provided on-site support.

The WASH Officer assessed water and sanitation needs, implemented planned activities in this area and provided technical assistance to the Operations Coordinator. They have guided and accompanied WASH activities carried out by volunteers in communities to ensure the effectiveness of WASH interventions.

The Procurement Assistant will continue to collaborate closely with the Administrative Assistant to develop a timely procurement plan tailored to identified needs, streamlining procurement processes to contribute efficiently and effectively to fulfilling the supply chain. They are supporting the National Society's Logistics Officer to enable timely delivery of supplies.

The Administrative Assistant will continue to provide logistical and administrative support, manage supply logistics, coordinate



documentation and reporting, assist with financial management and facilitate internal and external communication as required. Additionally, VRC team of 130 volunteers from the Apure, Zulia, Mérida and Barinas branches will actively participate in providing essential humanitarian assistance to ensure an effective and comprehensive response to the emergency. A further 20 volunteers from the headquarters have been constantly deployed to participate in the action. Insurance for these 150 volunteers is included in this IFRC-DREF.

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 team of volunteers largely reflects the gender, age and cultural diversity of the people they are helping. Although they have a good representation of female volunteers, they are working to increase their numbers, especially relief and youth.

Activities are encouraged to include members without discrimination of any kind.

Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.

In accordance with the Venezuelan Red Cross's assessment, the need to strengthen the logistics area was identified. Therefore, the hiring of a logistics and supply chain specialist to provide technical support in the planning, coordination, and logistical follow-up of the operation is envisaged.

This additional logistics personnel will be responsible for providing technical advice to ensure the supply chain is implemented and managed adequately in the emergency response, as well as supporting the Venezuelan Red Cross in strengthening its logistics systems and procedures. They will also collaborate closely with the IFRC Country Delegation and the National Society to ensure compliance with IFRC logistics standards and donor requirements.

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

The National Society plans to partially procure items, which will be distributed by the National Society through national procurement in Venezuela. The Senior Procurement Officer will provide support to ensure compliance with the IFRC Procurement Manual and guarantee minimum quality standards, while mitigating integrity risks. This approach will ensure the timely availability of essential supplies.

The procurement of replacement materials in the water, sanitation and hygiene, health and shelter sectors will be carried out through the IFRC Delegation in Venezuela, with the support of the IFRC Senior Procurement Officer and the Regional Logistics Unit. This will ensure quality standards are met. This process is carried out in coordination with the VRC.

The priority is to purchase as many supplies as possible in Venezuela, such as filters and medical consumables.

Purchases made internationally are intended to restock the National Society. As most of these items are standard, long delays in receiving them are not expected, so the plan is to import at least two containers. In addition, the IFRC Country Delegation in Venezuela has a framework agreement for customs clearance, which has been shown to speed up the process and mitigate the risk of increased costs.

The National Society will manage procurement and distribution through country-level contracting in Venezuela, with the support of the Senior Procurement Officer. This will ensure compliance with the IFRC Procurement Manual and guarantee minimum quality standards while mitigating integrity risks. This approach will ensure the timely availability of essential supplies.

How will this operation be monitored?

The follow-up of this DREF operation is supported by the Operations Coordinator responsible for the project, who is assisting the Venezuelan Red Cross team in charge of the DREF and supervising the COE's activities. Periodic reports on activities allow any challenges that may arise to be identified and addressed in a timely manner. The VRC has carried out field visits to support the emergency response in each state. In addition, periodic meetings are held with the accompaniment of the IFRC Delegation in the country and the COE staff to follow up on activities and decision-making in real time.



Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Activities will continue to be announced through the Venezuelan Red Cross's official social media channels, integrating on-the-ground actions with the compilation of audiovisual content, such as photographs, videos and testimonies. This strategy will enable different audiences, both internal and external, to understand the scale and impact of the interventions carried out.

Key messages have been generated and adjusted with a preventive approach aimed at external audiences to provide updated information on the regional context and highlight the actions implemented at the local level.

In collaboration with the communication managers of the subsidiaries and focal points, demands relating to the institutional image and visibility of the emblem will continue to be addressed. Specific inputs required by the National Directorate of Communications for dissemination in the official media were also compiled.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRVE012 - Venezuelan Red Cross Venezuela: Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	257,724
Shelter and Basic Household Items	22,693
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	26,020
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	207,902
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	597
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	512
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	117,470
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	48,501
National Society Strengthening	68,969
TOTAL BUDGET	375,194

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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IFRC Project Manager: Anthony Piña, Programs and Operations Coordinator, anthony.pina@ifrc.org

IFRC focal point for the emergency: Anthony Piña, Programs and Operations Coordinator, anthony.pina@ifrc.org

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[Click here for the reference](#)

