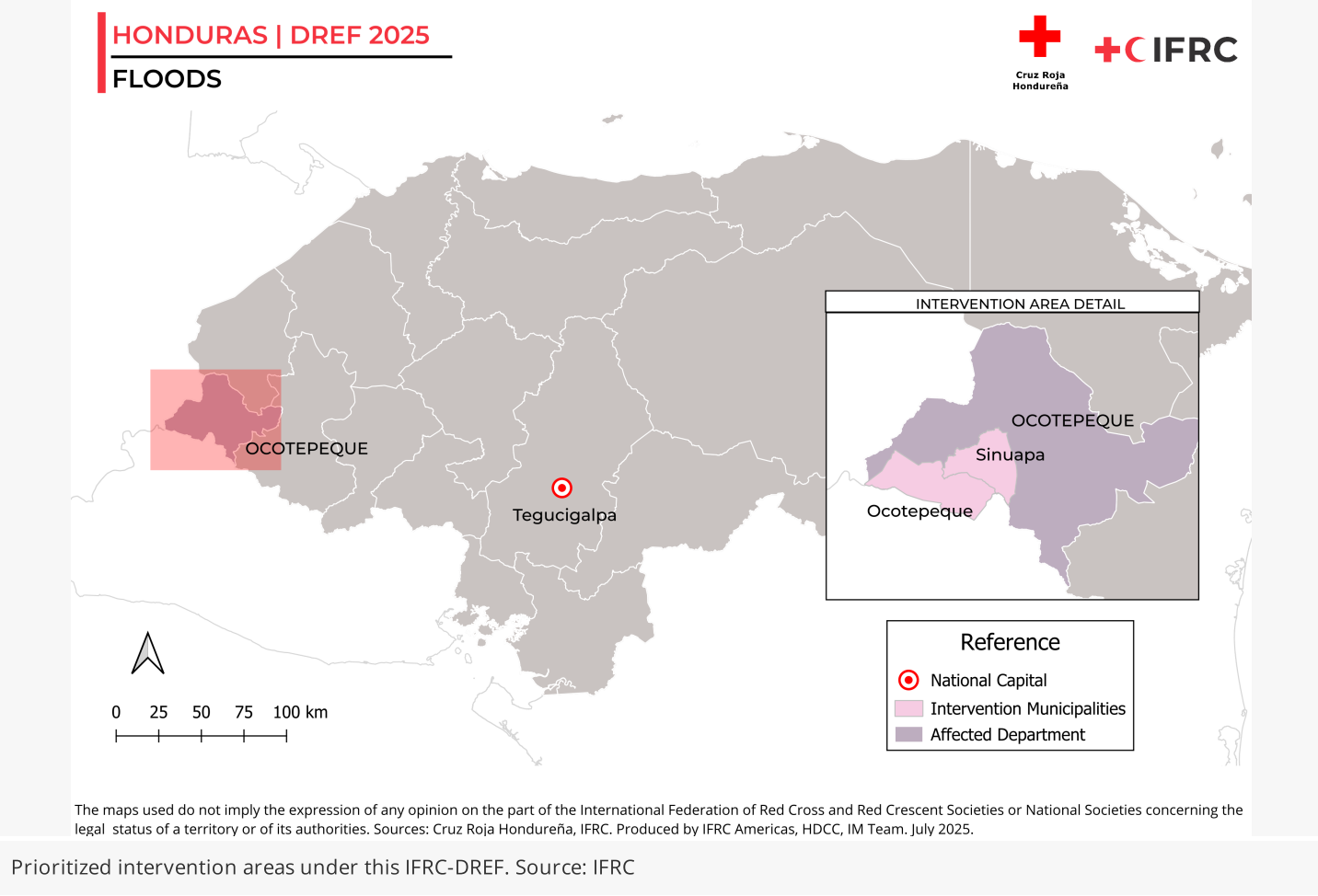




M15 plant: water treatment & distribution, July 2025, Ocotepeque.

Appeal: MDRHN026	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 318,535	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: -	People Affected: 25,000 people	People Targeted: 5,000 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 07-07-2025	New Operational End Date: 31-01-2026	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 07-07-2025		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 30-09-2025	
Additional Allocation Requested: 78,178		Targeted Regions: Ocotepeque	

Description of the Event



Date of event

25-06-2025

What happened, where and when?

Since 17 June 2025, the department of Ocotepeque has been affected by heavy rains caused by the interaction of a surface trough with Tropical Wave Erick. This hydrometeorological phenomenon caused flooding, landslides, and the collapse of road, sanitation, and water collection infrastructure, particularly affecting the municipalities of Sinuapa, Ocotepeque, Dolores Merendón, and Fraternidad.

In response to the evolving emergency, on 18 June, the Secretariat of State for Risk and National Contingency Management (COPECO) declared a Red Alert for Ocotepeque and areas of the Ulúa River in Yoro. Subsequently, yellow and green alerts were issued in other departments of the country (1).

Local authorities in six municipalities (Dolores Merendón, Fraternidad, San Jorge, Concepción, Ocotepeque, and Sinuapa) requested urgent assistance from the central government and humanitarian organizations to address the crisis, which includes the loss of more than 150 acres of coffee crops and the destruction of roads and drinking water systems (2).

In the municipalities of Dolores Merendón, El Chimis, San Jerónimo, San Antonio, Vega Vieja, and Las Toreras, landslides and rising rivers destroyed homes, coffee crops, and bridges, leaving communities isolated and without access to basic services. In addition, the La Laborcita dam, a key infrastructure for water supply in the area, was reported to have collapsed completely.

During August and September, heavy rains continued to severely affect the region, on 16 September, COPECO issued several weather alert bulletins. On that day, a green alert was declared for 72 hours across nine departments: Copán, Ocotepeque, Lempira, Intibucá, La Paz, Santa Bárbara, San Francisco Morazán, Valle, and Choluteca. On 18 September, COPECO elevated the alert level, declaring a red alert for municipalities along the Ulúa River and a yellow alert for nine departments, including Ocotepeque, due to persistent rainfall across the country. The heaviest rainfall was expected over the western, southwestern, southern, and central regions of Honduras (3).



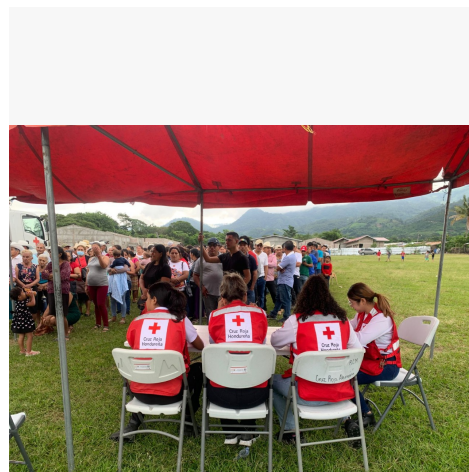
This yellow alert remained in effect until 25 September, when COPECO issued a new green alert for five departments: Ocotepeque, Copán, Santa Bárbara, Lempira, and Intibucá, which lasted until 29 September (4).



Safe water distribution. July, HRC.



CEA activities in the communities of Pie Del Cerro and Santa Rita. August, HRC



Distribution of hygiene kits in affected communities. August, HRC

Scope and Scale

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

According to official reports from COPECO, the most affected municipalities are Sinuapa, Ocotepeque, Dolores Merendón, Fraternidad, Concepción, and San Jorge. Among the most critical impacts is the total collapse of the La Laborcita dam, a key structure for drinking water supply, which left more than 25,000 people without access to safe water. In addition, the destruction of pipes and water intake structures in Pomola and Cacahuapa exposed entire communities to immediate health risks.

According to the damage report issued by the Honduran Red Cross on 6 September 2025, the water shortage emergency directly affects around 16,000 people in the urban area of Ocotepeque and indirectly impacts approximately 25,000 in total, including communities in the neighboring municipality of Sinuapa. The situation has caused severe limitations in access to safe water for consumption, hygiene, and sanitation, particularly affecting vulnerable families, educational centers, and health facilities.

In this context, as of September, palliative measures have been implemented by the government to partially restore the water supply in the municipality of Ocotepeque, with the support of Plan Trifinio, a regional integration body made up of the governments of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Through this tri-national platform, specific funds were channeled to temporarily address the water supply in the affected area. However, these actions proved to be limited in their effectiveness, as further heavy rains caused the temporary solutions to collapse. The pipes laid to restore service were severely affected by the runoff and landslides caused by the rainfall, which led to further interruptions in supply.

The Honduran Red Cross report also highlights that, despite interventions by the Honduran Social Investment Fund (FHIS) and COPECO, there is still no official technical report or reconstruction budget, which limits progress toward structural solutions. Actions implemented by the municipality and cooperating partners remain temporary and palliative, including emergency connections to local streams, partial repair of water pipelines, water delivery through private tankers, and activation of underground wells.

In the urban area of Ocotepeque, overflowing rivers flooded more than 120 homes, damaging personal belongings, contaminating water storage, and forcing evacuations. Public buildings such as health centers and schools reported minor to moderate damage, affecting the continuity of services.

The crisis disproportionately affects vulnerable groups. Children and adolescents represent a significant portion of the displaced population, facing risks from unsafe water, poor sanitation, malnutrition, and psychological distress. Older adults and people with

chronic illnesses have limited access to medical care, while pregnant and lactating women face barriers to accessing decent housing conditions and hygiene items.

At least three rural schools and one health center have temporarily suspended operations due to minor structural damage and access limitations.

The deterioration of water and sanitation conditions has increased the risk of outbreaks of gastrointestinal, skin, and vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever, due to prolonged exposure to contaminated runoff and mosquito breeding sites.

During August and September, heavy rains continued to severely affect the region, in the department of Ocotepeque caused severe impacts, including the flooding of more than 120 homes in the municipality of San Francisco de Ocotepeque, as well as the death of a 14-year-old girl in the village of La Labor, who was swept away by a stream while attempting to cross it. According to local media reports, the heavy rainfall associated with the passage of a tropical wave also led to the isolation of several communities in the western region of the country, keeping local authorities and residents on alert due to the risk of further landslides and flooding. At the national level, the rains affected more than 8,000 people were affected, 45 communities were cut off, 60 homes were damaged, and 9 were completely destroyed, caused significant material damage to homes and basic infrastructure (5).

In June, COPECO estimated that more than 25,000 people were affected by the disruption of the water supply system. Subsequently, in early September 2025, the Honduran Red Cross conducted a detailed assessment, identifying around 16,000 people directly affected by the ongoing water shortage in the urban area of Ocotepeque and nearby communities, and a total of 25,000 people indirectly impacted. Despite this broader impact, the Honduran Red Cross operation continues to prioritize humanitarian assistance for 5,000 people (1,000 families) with urgent needs in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), food security, and other essential services. The September rains once again affected areas previously impacted in June, including families whose water supply systems had been temporarily restored, causing new damages and sustaining the need for humanitarian assistance and continued technical support for the affected communities.

Through the DREF Operation – Ocotepeque, the Honduran Red Cross has maintained an active humanitarian response since June, focusing on restoring and ensuring access to safe water as a fundamental need. Following the September assessment, the operation continued to reinforce these actions, prioritizing the most affected communities identified through field evaluations. Key interventions include the installation and operation of a water treatment plant, the daily distribution of safe water via water trucks, the delivery of hygiene kits, and the promotion of safe water storage and consumption practices.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. 1. COPECO – Raises Ocotepeque to Red Alert	https://x.com/copecogob/status/1935408032231633223
2. 2. El Mundo - Six municipalities in Ocotepeque call for state aid after devastation caused by rains and dam collapse	https://elmundo.hn/claman-por-ayuda-estatal-tras-devastacion-por-lluvias/
3. 3. COPECO – Raises Ocotepeque to Yellow Alert	https://x.com/copecogob/status/1968564844543480049?s=48
4. 4. COPECO – Green Alert to Ocotepeque	https://x.com/copecogob/status/1972898658224869477?s=48
5. 5. El País- More than 120 homes affected and the death of a young girl reported after severe rainfall in Ocotepeque.	https://www.elpais.hn/mas-de-120-viviendas-afectadas-y-una-menor-fallecida-tras-intensas-lluvias-en-ocotepeque/

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	Yes



Are you requesting an additional allocation?	Yes
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Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Through this Operations Update No. 1, the Honduran Red Cross seeks to inform about:
(i) a three-month extension of the operation timeframe (new end date: 31 January 2025), and
(ii) a second allocation of CHF 78,178, bringing the total budget to CHF 318,535.

Following the initial response to the floods in Ocotepeque—triggered by the interaction between a surface trough and Tropical Wave Erick in July—subsequent technical assessments conducted in early September by the Municipal Mayor’s Office and inter-institutional teams, and on 6 September 2025 by the Honduran Red Cross, revealed a greater impact than initially reported. These assessments confirmed the complete collapse of the La Laborcita dam, extensive damage to water distribution systems, homes, and schools, as well as the prolonged disruption of essential services for more than 25,000 people.

Furthermore, intense and recurrent rains between late August and September have worsened the situation, causing direct and indirect effects on the same communities that were already affected and damaging several of the temporary repairs previously made to the water infrastructure. According to COPECO alert bulletins, the western region remained under Yellow Alert until 24 September due to continued rainfall, flooding, and landslide risks, which delayed restoration works and further increased humanitarian needs in the affected area.

Although the geographical scope and target population remain unchanged, the evolving situation requires operational and budgetary adjustments to sustain an adequate humanitarian response. The intervention continues to focus on ensuring access to safe water, distributing hygiene supplies, and implementing community protection and participation measures. The persistence of needs and the fragility of temporary water solutions make it necessary to extend critical WASH activities—such as water trucking, hygiene promotion, and vector control—to safeguard public health and dignity until infrastructure is restored.

It is worth noting that the affected area is located approximately eight hours from the capital, Tegucigalpa, posing significant logistical challenges. The local Red Cross branch in Ocotepeque is small and has limited operational capacity, necessitating the deployment of most personnel from the capital. This has substantially increased support costs, particularly mobilization costs for technical staff and volunteers. Additionally, access to several affected communities remains difficult due to damaged roads and landslides, limiting the timely transportation of equipment, supplies, and water to the most remote areas.

During the implementation of the operation, the municipalities of Ocotepeque and Sinuapa formally requested the Honduran Red Cross to act as the implementing entity of funds provided by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the temporary rehabilitation of the water system. This new institutional role expands the scope of the operation, requiring additional coordination and oversight to ensure complementarity with governmental and development initiatives, while strengthening the auxiliary role of the National Society in support of public authorities.

Water distribution by tanker trucks continues to meet the most urgent needs, following the conclusion of operations with the M15 water treatment plant. However, the water system remains highly fragile, as renewed rainfall has once again damaged temporary repairs and delayed restoration efforts. Although support from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is anticipated to enable more durable rehabilitation of the infrastructure, planned interventions remain in their initial phases.

Finally, health prevention and vector control activities must be extended as the rainy season persists and Ocotepeque remains under Yellow Alert. These conditions continue to heighten public health and sanitation risks, particularly among vulnerable groups. Extending the operation will also allow the Honduran Red Cross to maintain close coordination with local authorities, ensure alignment between humanitarian and development actions, and continue reinforcing community engagement and accountability mechanisms at the local level.

Consequently, the Honduran Red Cross is requesting an extension of the operation timeframe and an additional budget to maintain critical services, adapt to the evolving context, and uphold the safety and dignity of affected populations until essential infrastructure is restored and local systems can operate sustainably.

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The Honduran Red Cross maintains ongoing communication with the IFRC through the Central America Country Cluster Delegation team. Since the earliest hours of the emergency, this team has provided key technical support, which has been essential for the development of this IFRC-DREF proposal.
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	In addition, the National Society will continue this collaboration throughout the implementation of the operation, ensuring effective monitoring through regular meetings to assess progress, adjust strategies, and ensure the achievement of the established objectives.
Participating National Societies	As part of the humanitarian response to the floods in Ocotepeque, the Honduran Red Cross has received valuable support from its partners in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. One of the most significant contributions comes from the project “Local response targeting the most vulnerable people affected by the complex humanitarian crises unfolding in Central America,” implemented by the German Red Cross with funding from the European Union's Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid (DG-ECHO). As part of this project, technical personnel were deployed on operational internships to provide direct support for coordinating field operations in the municipality of Ocotepeque. This initiative, which forms part of the cooperation and technical exchange approach promoted by the project, represented a key opportunity to strengthen regional capacities through the operational deployment of specialized talent from the WASH HUB Central America. This support has contributed significantly to strengthening the humanitarian response in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector, promoting mutual learning, continuous improvement of operational practices, and effective coordination with local actors. It has also facilitated joint planning and the creation of synergies with the Honduran Red Cross response teams in the intervention area, consolidating more coordinated and efficient humanitarian action focused on the needs of the affected communities.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

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

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	Yes
National authorities	Initially, Honduran authorities immediately activated risk management mechanisms to coordinate an inter-agency response. From the early hours of the event, the National Risk Management System (SINAGER) was put into operation, including the activation of the National Emergency Operations Center (COE) and the Regional COEs, in order to facilitate evidence-based decision-making and real-time monitoring of the situation. COPECO, as the governing body, convened an extraordinary meeting of SINAGER to update the national outlook and strengthen coordination in the most affected departments. As a preventive measure, the Red Alert was extended to the department of Ocotepeque and the suspension of all face-to-face academic activities nationwide was announced until further notice. Later on, in response to the serious impact on access to basic services caused by the collapse of the La Laborcita dam and the resulting interruption of drinking water supplies in key communities in western Honduras, the municipalities of Sinuapa, Ocotepeque, and Dolores Merendón have issued formal requests for international assistance. In this context, palliative measures have been implemented to partially restore the water



	supply in the municipality of Ocotepeque, with the support of Plan Trifinio, a regional integration body made up of the governments of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Through this tri-national platform, specific funds were channeled to temporarily address the water supply in the affected area. However, these measures proved insufficient in the face of persistent heavy rains. The temporary solutions installed, including provisional pipes, were severely damaged by runoff and landslides, causing a further interruption to the service. This situation highlighted the urgent need to implement more resilient and sustainable solutions in the medium and long term. Responding to the call for international support, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has channeled a contribution of US\$200,000 for the temporary restoration of water lines in the municipalities of Ocotepeque and Sinuapa, as well as to address priority basic needs in Dolores Merendón. This funding seeks to mitigate the immediate impacts of the water crisis while moving toward structural interventions that ensure the sustainability of the service. The funds will be managed by the Honduran Red Cross. These actions reflect the commitment of various international and regional actors to local efforts to ensure access to essential services in a context of prolonged emergency that continues to severely affect thousands of people in the western part of the country.
UN or other actors	Coordination meetings have been held through the Humanitarian Network, along with the activation of sectoral cluster structures, to ensure coordinated interventions and optimize the use of resources through unified efforts.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

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



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The technical assessment conducted by the Honduran Red Cross identified significant needs and gaps related to livelihoods in the affected areas. Total or partial losses were reported in more than 150 manzanas of coffee, maize, and bean crops due to flooding, runoff, and landslides, both in hillside and lowland areas. These impacts severely disrupted family-based production systems, directly affecting the income of rural households that rely on agricultural labor and small local businesses. The communities of Fraternidad, Ocotepeque, and Concepción were among the most affected, with destroyed crops, loss of agricultural infrastructure, and adverse conditions for economic recovery. No further updates were reported in the September 2025 damage assessment, previously identified needs remain unchanged. Rural households continue to face challenges in restoring their livelihoods, as agricultural recovery has been slow and heavily dependent on weather conditions and limited access to financial or technical support.



Health

Based on the technical assessment conducted by the Honduran Red Cross at the beginning of the operation, significant health-related needs and gaps were identified in the municipalities of Dolores Merendón, Fraternidad, Sinuapa, Ocotepeque, and Concepción. Over 25,000 people experienced a disruption in access to safe drinking water, immediately increasing the risk of gastrointestinal and



dermatological diseases. Additionally, the unsafe storage of water has led to a proliferation of vectors such as mosquitoes, raising the likelihood of dengue outbreaks and other vector-borne diseases.

According to the damage report issued by the Honduran Red Cross on 6 September 2025, the lack of access to safe water remains one of the main public health concerns, limiting the ability of affected families to ensure proper hygiene, food preparation, and sanitation. The prolonged situation continues to pose a latent risk of waterborne and vector-borne diseases, particularly in communities where temporary water sources have become contaminated or insufficient.

The health situation is particularly concerning for vulnerable groups, including older adults, pregnant women, and children, who face increased health risks due to prolonged exposure to unsanitary conditions. Psychosocial distress has also been reported among families who lost their homes or livelihoods, emphasizing the need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) interventions. Field observations noted limited access to basic health services in the affected areas, further exacerbated by damage to local infrastructure and transportation routes.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Based on the technical assessment carried out by the Honduran Red Cross in the department of Ocotepeque at the beginning of this operation, critical gaps were identified in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector. The total interruption of access to drinking water is affecting more than 25,000 people, following the collapse of the “La Laborcita” dam and structural damage to other water collection points and distribution lines. However, the measures taken by the government to ensure access to water since the start of the operation—palliative and temporary—were affected by the rains in August and September, once again disrupting water supply systems and prolonging the needs initially identified in July.

As a result, many families continue to rely on unsafe water sources and inadequate storage practices, which significantly increases the risk of waterborne diseases and other public health concerns. The persistence of these conditions underscores the urgency of maintaining water supply interventions and reinforcing hygiene promotion activities to mitigate further health impacts.

Sanitation conditions also remain precarious. The collapse of latrines and the accumulation of solid waste continue to generate unsanitary environments, particularly in affected communities and temporary shelters. The prolonged crisis has also led to contamination of temporary water sources and further deterioration of sanitation infrastructure, increasing health risks and community vulnerability. Limited access to personal hygiene items and poor sanitation in communal areas persist as key challenges. Moreover, stagnant water in densely populated areas has led to an increase in mosquito breeding sites, heightening the risk of vector-borne diseases such as dengue. These gaps continue to disproportionately affect rural populations and vulnerable groups, given their dependence on local water systems, limited infrastructure, and economic constraints that prevent the adoption of proper preventive measures.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

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

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





Community Engagement And Accountability

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

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

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

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF operation, the Honduran Red Cross aims to assist 5,000 people (approximately 1,000 families) through multisectoral actions that reduce health risks and protect the dignity of communities affected by Tropical Wave Erick in the department of Ocotepeque.

Following additional rainfall in August and September, which caused further damage and prolonged needs, the operation will maintain its original target population—prioritizing the most vulnerable households identified during the initial phase. Assistance will focus on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Protection, Gender and Inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA), ensuring safe access to drinking water, basic hygiene, and healthy environments throughout the six-month implementation period.

Operation strategy rationale

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

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

Although initial assessments identified critical needs in health, education, and shelter, these continue to be addressed by government entities such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, and COPECO. In this context, and based on the persistent gaps observed in the field and the expressed demands from local authorities, the operation maintains its primary focus on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) interventions—recognized as a top priority due to their direct impact on public health and community resilience.

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

1. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

The operation continues to prioritize restoring and maintaining access to safe water and basic hygiene practices in the most affected communities. Through the M15 water treatment unit, supported by a water truck, the HRC supplies safe drinking water to several urban neighborhoods in Ocotepeque and Sinuapa, benefiting families who remain without connection to the municipal water system.

At the household level, the intervention includes the distribution of water filters, hygiene kits, and buckets with lids and taps (the latter procured through complementary resources from the National Society) to improve water storage and hygiene conditions. Hygiene



promotion and vector control campaigns are also being carried out in coordination with community leaders and health authorities, focusing on the prevention of waterborne and vector-borne diseases such as dengue.

Despite these ongoing efforts, the recurrence of rains in August and September damaged temporary water restoration systems, prolonging the interruption of supply and the need for continued water trucking and hygiene support. Consequently, the proposed three-month extension will ensure the continuity of critical WASH services, including water distribution and hygiene promotion, while the HRC coordinates with municipal authorities and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on temporary infrastructure rehabilitation.

2. Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI)

The operation ensures that all activities are implemented through a safe, inclusive, and people-centered approach. The HRC has strengthened community safe spaces and implemented psychosocial support sessions, particularly for families displaced or affected by housing loss.

Training for volunteers and technical staff on the Minimum Standards for PGI in Emergencies and on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) has been completed, reinforcing institutional capacity to identify and mitigate protection risks.

Awareness campaigns continue in coordination with community leaders and local institutions, focusing on protection pathways, rights, and available referral mechanisms. The extension period will allow continued psychosocial support (MHPSS) and the consolidation of community-based protection networks in the most affected areas.

3. Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

To promote transparency and strengthen community ownership, the HRC has implemented information and feedback mechanisms, including suggestion boxes, telephone hotlines, and community assemblies. These have enabled affected households to voice their concerns and inform the design and adjustment of activities.

During the extension phase, the HRC will deepen community engagement through feedback sessions, satisfaction surveys, and two-way communication mechanisms, ensuring continued accountability and improved relevance of interventions.

Educational campaigns will also be expanded in coordination with water committees and local governance structures, reinforcing safe hygiene, disease prevention, and protection messaging.

4. National Society Strengthening

To ensure efficient implementation, the operation continues to rely on a core team composed of an operations coordinator, administrator, WASH specialist, and driver, supported by volunteers in the affected branches. Strengthened planning, monitoring, and logistics systems have enabled improved coordination and accountability across sectors.

In addition, the HRC has been formally requested by the municipalities of Ocotepeque and Sinuapa to act as the implementing entity for Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) funds aimed at the temporary rehabilitation of the water supply system. This new institutional role expands the scope of the operation and underscores the trust placed in the HRC's technical and financial management capacity.

To ensure complementarity and to further strengthen the auxiliary role of the HRC to public authorities, the operation will continue to promote close coordination with municipal governments, local water boards, and relevant national institutions. This collaboration seeks to align humanitarian and development efforts, reinforce local capacities, and ensure that the response contributes to the sustainability and resilience of essential public services.

Given this additional responsibility and the persisting needs identified in the field, the three-month extension will ensure quality implementation, enhance traceability of actions, and allow adequate coordination with local authorities and partner institutions.

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

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

The IFRC-DREF operation continues to target 5,000 people (approximately 1,000 families) affected by the impacts of Tropical Wave Erick and subsequent rainfall in the department of Ocotepeque, with priority given to the municipalities of Ocotepeque and Sinuapa. These communities are still facing critical disruptions in access to safe drinking water, significant damage to sanitation infrastructure, and a high risk to public health. The target population includes households in situations of vulnerability, such as those headed by women, older adults, persons with disabilities, or families with young children. The selection of intervention areas was based on damage assessments



conducted in coordination with local authorities, Municipal Emergency Committees (CODEM), and community leaders, identifying the sectors most affected in terms of basic services and concentration of vulnerable groups.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Total Targeted Population

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

Risk and Security Considerations (including "management")

Does your National Society have anti-fraud and corruption policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse policy?	Yes
Does your National Society have child protection/child safeguarding policy?	No
Does your National Society have whistleblower protection policy?	Yes



Does your National Society have anti-sexual harassment policy?	Yes
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Please analyse and indicate potential risks for this operation, its root causes and mitigation actions.

Risk	Mitigation action
Insecurity during aid distribution	Work with local authorities to ensure security at distribution and shelter sites. Train staff on personal safety protocols and conflict management. Clearly communicate distribution processes to reduce tension and avoid crowds. Prepare an FAQ sheet for volunteers and technical staff on the response operation.
Collapse or flooding of roads and bridges	Identify alternative routes in coordination with SINAGER and local authorities. Set up distribution points near remote communities to reduce travel constraints.
Increased flood risk may compromise staff safety	Continuously monitor weather conditions and adjust activities accordingly. Implement safety protocols, including temporary suspension of activities if needed. Provide field staff with protective equipment (raincoats, boots, etc.).
Risk of disease outbreaks	Distribute hygiene kits, chlorine, and sanitation supplies. Train staff on hygiene promotion and waterborne disease prevention.
Physical and emotional exhaustion among staff	Implement shift rotations to ensure adequate rest. Offer psychosocial support, including debriefings and counseling sessions. Monitor staff health and promote open communication on well-being.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation:

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

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

The Honduran Red Cross enjoys high levels of trust and acceptance in the region, reinforced by its long-standing presence and ongoing activities, including pre-hospital care and humanitarian services for migrants at official border crossings. Nevertheless,

continuous context monitoring and application of the Safer Access Framework, institutional security protocols, and operational communication guidelines are essential to mitigate risks and ensure the safety of personnel throughout the operation.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

Yes

Planned Intervention



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 217,550

Targeted Persons: 5,000

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of families receiving family hygiene kits.	1,000	1,000
Number of communities reached through vector control campaigns.	5	5
Number of people with access to safe water.	5,000	13,513

Progress Towards Outcome

The acquisition and distribution of family hygiene kits in affected communities has been completed, contributing to improved sanitary conditions in prioritized households. At the same time, drinking water has been treated and distributed, reaching a total volume of 1.4 million liters through the operation of the M15 unit and the use of tanker trucks. Vector control campaigns have been implemented in areas of highest epidemiological risk, including fumigation and elimination of mosquito breeding sites. Likewise, the acquisition of domestic water filters has been completed, and they are ready to be distributed in the next operational phase. Activities to promote personal and environmental hygiene have been carried out in parallel with the delivery of supplies, with the active participation of community leaders and trained local volunteers, thus strengthening prevention practices in the communities involved.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 13,220

Targeted Persons: 300

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers and staff trained in PGI in emergency contexts.	25	25
Number of people reached with key information on access to rights and safe reporting mechanisms.	300	0

Progress Towards Outcome

A rapid assessment focusing on Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) has been carried out in priority communities, identifying specific risks and differentiated needs in emergency contexts. At the same time, training and refresher courses have been completed for volunteers on the application of the Minimum Standards for PGI and the Policy on Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEA), thereby strengthening local capacities for a safe and people-centered response. As part of community actions, safe spaces with a PGI approach have been established and strengthened, offering basic psychosocial support, emotional care, and recreational activities to mitigate stress among the affected population. In addition, local information channels and support networks have been disseminated, and two community awareness campaigns on access to rights have been implemented. The updating of the mapping of key actors and local services is still pending completion, as part of the process of strengthening territorial coordination.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 14,780

Targeted Persons: 300

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of sessions conducted to socialize the IFRC-DREF operation and the institutional feedback mechanism.	5	5
Number of volunteers and staff trained in feedback mechanisms and CEA in emergency contexts.	25	25
Percentage of people reached who report satisfaction with the implemented actions.	80	0
Percentage of affected people who have access to the institutional feedback mechanism.	100	0

Progress Towards Outcome

As part of community engagement and accountability actions, information sessions have been organized in the affected communities to present the objectives and scope of the intervention. Community meetings have also been held to develop selection criteria in a participatory manner and to jointly identify the people affected. At the same time, sessions have been held to explain the institutional feedback mechanisms available, promoting secure and transparent access to communication channels between the population and the Honduran Red Cross. In addition, training of volunteers and technical staff in the use of effective and secure community feedback mechanisms has been completed. The administration of satisfaction surveys in the communities is pending implementation, as part of the participatory evaluation and continuous improvement process of the operation.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 19,995

Targeted Persons: 0

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

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

Progress Towards Outcome

To date, two technical monitoring visits have been carried out by the IFRC, with the participation of specialists in Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and Health/WASH.

During the first CEA monitoring visit, the capacities of CEA volunteer and technical staff were strengthened in emergencies and feedback mechanisms, applied at the community level through protection consultations. Progress was also made in initiating strategies to strengthen local branches volunteering and in implementing participatory tools for internal feedback on the operation.

These visits have strengthened technical support for the operation, facilitated the exchange of good practices, and ensured alignment with humanitarian standards in key sectors of intervention.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 52,991

Targeted Persons: 25

Targeted Male: -

Targeted Female: -

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers and staff receiving institutional uniforms, personal protective equipment, and safety gear.	25	25
Number of field monitoring and follow-up visits conducted.	3	4
Number of people participating in the lessons learned workshop.	25	0

Progress Towards Outcome

At the time of this update, the hiring of key technical staff has been completed, including the operation coordinator, a water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) specialist, an administrator, and a driver. Supervision and monitoring visits have also been carried out by the National Headquarters and the Results Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (UMER) to ensure the quality and effectiveness of the interventions. Uniforms for volunteers and staff have been purchased and distributed, as well as personal protective and safety equipment, ensuring adequate conditions for field work. In addition, psychosocial support sessions have been held for staff and volunteers as part of institutional care actions. A lessons learned workshop is still pending and scheduled for the end of the operation, with the aim of systematizing experiences and strengthening future humanitarian responses.

About Support Services

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

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



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

1. General Operations Coordinator (based at National Society Headquarters): This position will be responsible for the strategic coordination of the operation, technical liaison across departments, and alignment with IFRC guidelines. The coordinator will dedicate 50% of their working time to the DREF operation.
2. Administrator (based at National Society Headquarters): Responsible for budget monitoring, administrative follow-up, and procurement processes, in close coordination with the National Society finance department.
3. Field WASH Technician: This role will lead the planning, implementation, and monitoring of community-level activities in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector, working collaboratively with local authorities and community structures.
4. Specialized Driver: Holding a valid license for heavy-duty vehicles, this staff member will be responsible for operating the water truck used to deliver safe drinking water to affected communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

How will this operation be monitored?

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

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

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

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



printed materials, and audiovisual products.

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



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRHN026 - Honduran Red Cross
Honduras: Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	245,550
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	217,550
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	13,220
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	14,780
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	72,985
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	19,995
National Society Strengthening	52,991
TOTAL BUDGET	318,535

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

