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Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA)

Colombia: Avalanche and Flood Risks

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF N° MDRCO015	
Date of issue: 19 May 2018 Start of the emergency: 17 May 2018	Expected timeframe for implementation: 3 Months Expected end date: 19 August 2018
Amount requested for the DREF: CHF 233,859	
Total number of people in risk: 113,000 people	Number of people to be assisted: 4,000 people
Host National Society presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Colombian Red Cross Society has 27,076 volunteers, 1,793 staff and 229 local units.	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), American Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross.	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: There is a general activation of the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD), UNGRD, Unified Command Post at the National and Regional Level- With the participation of the Ministry of Mines and Energy, Ministry of Environment and National Agency for Environmental Licenses and support of entities techniques, army, police. National Disaster Management Committee, Departmental Council for Disaster Risk Management, Municipal Councils for Disaster Risk Management.	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

Ituango Hydroelectric Project is located on the Lower Cauca river (in the process of construction), northwest of the Antioquia Department, 170 Km from the city of Medellin. Main dam building works cover the land of the Ituango and Briceño municipalities, but its area of influence extends further to the municipalities of Santa Fe de Antioquia, Buriticá, Peque, Liborina, Sabanalarga, Toledo, Olaya, San Andrés de Cuerquia, Valdivia y Yarumal.

Due to a temporal obstruction to the river's flow by a landslide on the left bank, obstructed water overflowed pouring through ducts at the upper part of the building areas. Water accumulated at a ratio from 10 to 20 cm/h, in 367 meters of current damming capacity. There is only a single way out for the water throughout the turbines chamber, which allows a flow pass from 800 to 1,000 m³/s. Currently, there is no control of the water running throughout the ducts.

These circumstances set an imminent risk situation for the communities downstream of the Dam. As a caution and maximum alert measure, there was an activation of the evacuation plans of downstream communities at Corregimiento Puerto Valdivia and at the municipalities of Cáceres, Tarazá and Cauca. Workers of hydroelectric project building were also evacuated and are currently safe. On 14 May, the Antioquia State Government declared Public Calamity. The Antioquia Governor estimates that in the worst scenario of the dam's rupture, 113,000 people would be affected.

There is a current state of maximum alert at locations downstream of the project on the Cauca riverbanks: Ituango, Briceño, Valdivia (Corregimiento Puerto Valdivia), Cáceres, Tarazá, Cauca and Nechí. A preventive evacuation order was issued to the departments of Sucre (Majagual, Guaranda, San Marcos, Sucre, Caimito y San Benito de Abad), Córdoba (Ayapel) and Bolívar (Achí, Magangué y San Jacinto del Cauca). 4,000 people have been evacuated up to May 4 and the process continues.

Summary of the current response

Summary of the actions carried out by the National Society

The Colombian Red Cross Society is working since the emergency onset on response preparation, along with staff from the branches of Antioquia, Sucre, Córdoba y Bolívar (first response perimeter) as well as the branches of Caldas, Risaralda, Quindío, Tolima, Atlántico, Santander, Cundinamarca and Boyacá (second response perimeter), to develop a response capacity assessment (completed) to a situation of potential emergency.

The Unified Command Post (Puesto de Mando Unificado) actively participates with the Colombian Red Cross Society Antioquia branches and the support of the National Society's Disaster Risk Department. The Colombian Red Cross Society initially sent 3 volunteers to support work teams at the Lower Cauca, and a volunteer emergency manager to back the UCP (Unified Command Post at Ituango).

Up to 17 May, the Colombia Red Cross made relief preparedness actions at the location of the events, counting with 190 people among them managers, staff and volunteers specialized on diverse tasks. Moreover, actions proceeded to support the evacuation deploying 3 vehicles, 2 drivers and 4 psychosocial support volunteers from Quindío and Risaralda branches and National Headquarters.

Since the emergency onset, the CRCS Antioquia branch carried out monitoring and inter-units' coordination meetings daily, from the Crisis Room at the branch. As a first response:

- 4 off-road vehicles
- 1 truck
- 2 ambulances
- 1 communication and emergency bag
- 1 emergency medical kit
- 80 volunteers of different specialities

Overview of Host National Society.

The Colombian Red Cross Society has 32 branches nationwide. As an immediate response they are preparing along with the Antioquia, Sucre, Córdoba y Bolívar branches (first response perimeter) as well as the Caldas, Risaralda, Quindío, Tolima, Atlántico, Santander, Cundinamarca and Boyacá branches (second response perimeter), to develop response capacity assessments (completed) to a situation of potential emergency. Currently, there are 220 volunteers to be deployed within the two perimeters in 72 hours, plus 1,500 more in case the emergency occurs.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The Colombian Red Cross Society issues daily situation reports keeping Movement components such as the American Red Cross, German Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, the ICRC and the IFRC informed. The IFRC has been providing support to the operation through its disaster management coordinator for South America and country office.

The Colombian Red Cross Society maintains constant communication with the IFRC. Since 17 May 2018, the CRCS has posted reports on the Disaster Manager Information System (DMIS) to keep Movement actors informed. The CRCS's EOC has been active since 16 May, and it is coordinating the operations in the field and with Movement components to support the response around the clock.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

The Unified Command Post is permanently activated to:

- ✓ monitor the implementation of the response plan,
- ✓ provide support jointly with Public Enterprises of Medellín (EMP), and to
- ✓ disseminate information to communities of the Dam's area of influence from the Public Enterprises of Medellín and Colombia's Administrative Department for Disaster Prevention.

Emergency response actions are the following:

- The **National Disaster Risk Management Agency** (UNGRD) provided 400 personal hygiene kits, 1,200 mattresses and 1,200 blankets.

- The UNGRD, the Mines Ministry, Firefighters Commands, The Civic Defence, CRCS and other operating entities from the system are travelling to the affected zone, where the Departmental Risk Management Council assesses the current situation, presenting the contingency plan, looking to facilitate decision-making processes that minimize the impacts of a flooding scenario
- The **Administrative Department for Disaster Prevention** provided staff for damage assessment at Puerto Valdivia, supplies and distributions at Tarazá, Cáceres y Caucasia. Jointly with EPM staff, it has assessed contingency plans in case of a sudden rise of the river level. The population evacuated at Puerto Valdivia were shelter to collective centres (1 stadium, 2 schools, and the Women Association), along with the preparation of sanitation facilities, warm food management and provision of health services. Collective centres will be set at Trazá, Cáceres and Cucacia.
- The National Army will clean roads from mud, debris and heavy materials, and will perform a health promotion and prevention campaign next weekend.
- The Municipal Units for Agricultural Technical Assistance is also assessing the impact to agricultural activities.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

It is estimated that in the risk zone there are more than 10 municipalities, which more than 100 thousand people living there. On May 16 the evacuation process was initiated by means of indication of the Public Companies of Medellin and ratification of the National Unit of Risk Management.

- **Health:** Because most people had to evacuate immediately some people already housed are without medicines to continue the treatment of chronic diseases, respiratory, dermatological and gastrointestinal infections. In addition, many people present situations of stress due to the need to evacuate immediately and the risk of losing their skills or even life in case of overflow of the dam.
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene promotion (WASH):** Now the evacuated people are receiving drinking water through the public companies of Medellin, however, in case of overflow of the dam, there is a potential risk that the people housed and the people who live in rural areas could be affected by the need for drinking water. Additionally, the people housed or affected will require elements of personal hygiene.
- **Livelihoods:** Because some people have already been affected by the growth of the dam and the evacuation has disrupted livelihoods and subsistence and the local economy by the declaration of risk zone. The families that are in already affected zones and in collective centres work in farming and agricultural production. Thus, detailed evaluation will be required to identify specific livelihoods' needs.
- **Food security:** At the moment the EPMs are offering hot food for evacuees and sheltered people; however, there are people who have not yet evacuated who are in high-risk areas and rural areas that could require food kits for which a mapping would be required and a detailed evaluation in this regard.
- **Shelter:** Considering the extension of the risk zone and the considerable number of people that need to be evacuated to preserve life, the adaptation of shelter and accommodation areas will be required. Currently, the collective emergency centres that receive the evacuated families are being installed by the army.
- **Protection:** Due to the process of temporary relocation of people in temporary collective centres, identification needs may be presented and protective measures taken for children, girls, women, persons with disabilities.

Targeting

The target population of this plan of action is to support the population at risk to evacuate to safe areas in the Cauca river basin in the region of Bajo Cauca in the department of Antioquia and preposition humanitarian aid for 800 families

Scenario planning

Due to the complexity of the situation at the moment the evacuation of the populations with greater risk is carried out by phases and the readiness of the response teams among them the relief teams due to the potential risk of overflow of the dam in which case it could overcoming the response capacity of the relief and response agencies.

Operation Risk Assessment

The rainy season is currently occurring in the area, the rain forecasts will continue in the months of May and June; situation whereby the risk of collapse of the dam is latent; being able to affect the Cauca river basin in a sudden and sudden way.

The department of Antioquia, especially in the lower Cauca, has historically been one of the areas of Colombia most affected by the armed conflict. According to the Ituango development plan, between 2011 and 2012 in the North of the department there was an increase in terrorist acts, threats, forced displacement and homicides. This region has been one of the most affected by antipersonnel mines, being Ituango the municipality with the most affected people for these artefacts in the department. Based on this, for access to the area, CRCS volunteers will require a security briefing and will require coordination with local authorities to avoid risk actions.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective:

Support the evacuation of the population at risk of flooding and avalanche of the Cauca river basin in the Department of Antioquia; as well as prepositioning of humanitarian aid to cover at least 800 families.

Intervention strategy

At least **4,000 people at high-risk are evacuated.**

First care and psychosocial support is provided in collective centres.

Pre-positioning of the following elements:



Water and Sanitation

1,600 jerry cans
800 hygiene kits
1 water treatment plant



Shelter

4,000 blankets
4,000 mattresses
800 rolls of plastic



Health

20 first aid kits
5 psychosocial support kits



Red Cross capacity



telecom equipment



emergency medical team

The prepositioned items will be located in a safe area and easy access to the affected population in department of Antioquia.

Human Resources

The structure that has been organized for the coordination of the prepositioning operation. 1 national coordinator of the operation

- 1 coordinator of the field operation
- 1 health coordinator
- 1 telecommunications coordinator 1 finance coordinator
- 1 coordinator of water sanitation and hygiene
- 220 Volunteers

Likewise, the prepositioning and conformation in the field of 1 emergency medical team, 1 psychosocial support team, 1 team (intersectoral evaluation), 1 telecommunications equipment, logistics and water and sanitation team. The operation will only cover the costs of mobilization and not salaries. The conformation of these teams will be made with CRCS staff and CRCS volunteers and Federation support.

Logistics and supply chain

The Colombian Red Cross Society response is done with funds already available at some branches close to the affected area. At the national level purchases processes by the CRCS.

Information Technology (IT)

The CRCS has a national communication system, which has been activated to monitor the situation. Additionally, it mobilizes a unit, equipment and communications experts, to optimize the situation monitoring and to provide communication and coordination channels in case they are necessary.

Communication and Information

The National Direction of Communications and Institutional Image has done permanent monitoring to the situation at the Hydroelectric Project in the Ituango municipality, in coordination with the Antioquia Branch. Since May 16, internal memorandums have been issued, to inform the National Society and the international components of the movement on the situation, and the humanitarian responses developed by the CRCS in the affected zone.

On May 17 coordination is established between the Communication Coordination areas from de Antioquia Branch and the National Direction of Communications and Institutional Image, for the development of a Communication in Emergencies Plan. It includes key messages, press releases for the media, and press lines in case the emergency occurs.

Stand by to further situation development to activate the emergency plan and to begin information on the institution's actions at the affected zone.

Security

We will work within the Safest Access action framework, as well as following the guidelines contained in the CRCS Security Manual, which must be applied and followed by all the components of the Red Cross Movement present in Colombia and in the region, as well as the directors, officials and volunteers from all the areas of the CRCS. There will also be coordination with the CRCS in relation to security issues.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

The CRCS's National Relief General Directorate, in coordination with other National Society directorates, is responsible for implementing this plan and providing the appropriate monitoring. Throughout the plan's implementation, the National Society will ensure compliance with established monitoring procedures.

The IFRC disaster management coordinator for South America will continue providing technical support, guidance, and monitoring to this operation.

Admin and Finance

Administrative and finance procedures are framed within CRCS's quality process and support all the National Society's humanitarian mission actions, thereby ensuring operational transparency and accountability.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Shelter

People targeted: 4,000

Males: 2,000 (50%)

Females: 2,000 (50%)

Requirements (CHF) 103,946

Needs analysis: Currently, the population is being evacuated to safe areas, shelter demand is higher than the ones currently used. Aid provision needs at collective centres among other safe spaces require greater support, especially in the case of a dame collapse.

Population to be assisted: At least 4,000 people receive a non-food item kit in the department of Antioquia.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The individual bedding material kits are based on the response regulations for the Colombian Red Cross Society in accordance with the Integrated Disaster and Risk Management System (SIGERMED) and consist of the following products.

P&B Output Code	Shelter Outcome 1: 800 non-food kits are pre-positioned in the area to meet a potential emergency								Number of pre-positioned non-food kits Target = 800															
	Shelter Output 1.1: 800 non-food kits are available to be distributed immediately to affected families								Number of blankets Number of light mattresses Number of plastic rolls.															
	Activities planned Weeks								1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP005	Preposition non-food kits (4,000 mattresses, 4,000 blankets, and 800 rolls of plastic sheeting.																							

Within the prepositioned materials it is contemplated to consider a blanket and a light mattress per person; and one roll of plastic per family in case of installation of temporary shelters for the emergency.



Health

People targeted: 4,000

Males: 2,000

Females: 2,000

Requirements (CHF): 38,480

Needs analysis: Given the scenario of a potential flood and avalanche, the population is exposed to a danger to their physical and emotional integrity. Likewise, the people who are evacuating have relatives who suffer from chronic diseases that cannot give continuity to the treatment of their chronic diseases, or they can present water diseases due to the conditions of climate change and rains. Also, the families that are evacuating are going through a moment of great uncertainty and emotional affectation.

Population to be assisted:

- The CRCS is prepositioned with first aid materials, medical attention and psychosocial support to provide care to 4,000 people.
- Psychosocial care is provided to at least 4,000 people in emergency collective centres

Standards / Parameters of reference of the program: The health action area will follow the standards developed by Colombian Red Cross Society through its ISO 9001-2008 quality management system, which consists of protocols, forms and procedures.

Similarly, the standards issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection will be considered. For the specific case of mental health and psycho-social support, both the CRCS and IASC guidelines will be taken into account.

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 2: The negative impact on the health of affected migrant populations are reduced									Number of people that receive health assistance.								
	Health Output 2.1: There is pre-positioned material for first aid and medical attention for 4,000 affected people.									Number first aid kits prepositioned Number equipment and medications procured for the CRCS								
	Activities planned	Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP023	Preposition 20 first aid kits																	
AP023	Preposition of elements, equipment and medications for 1 Mobile Health Unit																	
	Health Output 2.2: Individual and group psychosocial support is provided according to the needs of the affected population.									Number of prepositioned PSS kits Number of people that receive psychosocial services to strengthen a healthy mentality.								

P&B Output Code	Activities planned	Week																	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP023	Preposition 5 psychosocial support kits																		
AP023	Carry out psychosocial support sessions with first response teams and people in collective centres																		



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 4,000

Males: 2,000

Females: 2,000

Requirements (CHF) 36,481

Needs Analysis: Currently the drinking water service has not been affected; However, given the potential collapse of the dam, the level of impact would have repercussions on the water supply to the population, which is why the repositioning is key to provide a timely response to meet the needs of the population.

According to the level of impact that we could have in this area of the country, the Colombian Red Cross Society will pre-position a water treatment plant with a capacity of 25,000 thousand litres to assist 4,000 people, as well as the acquisition of 1600 Jerrycans (2 per family) and hygiene kits these elements will be held in the warehouses of the Antioquia branch to have them available for adequate and rapid attention.

Population to be assisted: At least 4,000 people in the Cauca river basin in the department of Antioquia.

Standards / Parameters of reference of the program: Regarding the distribution of water that is fit for human consumption, the Sphere Project standards. The individual hygiene kits will be prepared under the parameters of the Colombian Red Cross Society Integrated Disaster Risk Management System (SIGERMED).

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcomes 3: Reduction in risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in the risk population, considering the prepositioning of essential articles	Number of pre-positioned in water and hygiene Number of families who receive hygiene items															
	WASH Output 3.1: Pre-positioning of materials, equipment and supplies in water and hygiene	Number of jerrycans 20 litres Number of hygiene kits Number of water treatment plant															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

DREF OPERATION

19.05.2018

Colombia Avalanche & Flood Risk

MDR0015

Budget Group	DREF Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	103,946
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	25,487
Medical & First Aid	22,988
Teaching Materials	15,492
Ustensils & Tools	7,996
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	175,909
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	9,995
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	9,995
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	3,998
Volunteers	22,988
Other Staff Benefits	0
Total PERSONNEL	26,986
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	0
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	1,999
Information & Public Relations	500
Office Costs	400
Communications	3,298
Financial Charges	500
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	6,697
Partner National Societies	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	14,273
Total INDIRECT COSTS	14,273
TOTAL BUDGET	233,859

Contact information

Reference documents



Click here for:

- [DREF budget](#)

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

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



Save lives,
protect livelihoods,
and strengthen recovery
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion
and a culture of
non-violence and **peace.**