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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Americas Region Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF N° MDR42004	Operation start date: 3 June 2018
Date of issue: 4 June 2018	Expected timeframe: 2 months Expected end date: 3 August 2018
Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis: Orange	
DREF allocated: 91,590 Swiss francs (CHF)	
Total number of people affected: Over 1,500,000 people throughout the Americas region since 2014	No. of people to be reached: To be determined
Host National Society(ies) presence (n° of volunteers, staff, branches): Argentine Red Cross, Brazilian Red Cross, Colombian Red Cross Society, Guyana Red Cross, Ecuadorian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of Panama, Peruvian Red Cross, Trinidad and Tobago Red Cross have been affected by population movement. About 600 volunteers and 50 staff members from the National Societies involved have been activated, including National Intervention Teams (NITs).	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), American Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross Society, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM), National authorities,	

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

The Americas region is culturally diverse, geographically large and socially and economically complex. Around 26.6 per cent of the world's migrants (61.6 million people) live in the Americas. Disasters, crises, social exclusion, armed conflict and other situations of violence in countries of origin are the main causes of migration in the region, particularly in the Latin American and Caribbean region, where inter-regional migration has been increasing due to different factors such as political, economic, violence and social changes. In addition, significant increases in extra-continental migration have also taken place in recent years, especially due to migratory flows from Africa and Asia into Latin America. Also, irregular migratory flows from the Caribbean have increased substantially in the same period, particularly from Cuba and Haiti, albeit for different reasons¹.

Migration between countries is a growing challenge that affects the continuity of health care provision and the management of communicable diseases through immunization programs, treatment and education on prevention. Migrant populations and internally displaced people significantly impact their communities of origin and their host communities.

The evolving situation is spreading across the Americas region. Based on conservative government figures, over 1.5 million migrants have left their country since 2014 for different reasons, which is demonstrated by a 900 per cent increase of migrants in other South American countries from 2015 to 2017 (89,000 Venezuelan nationals in 2015; and up to 900,000 in 2017). In Central America and the Caribbean, the number of Venezuelan nationals doubled from around 50,000 in 2015 to almost 100,000 in 2017².

In many of the destination countries in the region, migrants are only able to regularize their status or legalize their stay either under the host government's national immigration and other legal framework. Considering the extraordinary situation, some of these countries have established special mechanisms to facilitate various forms of regularization and even protection; however, the migratory status of a significant number of migrants is irregular because they have neither

¹ [Irregular Migration Flows to/within the Americas Report](#). OAS. 2016.

² [IOM Regional Action Plan](#)

the documentation nor permission to remain, including those not able to apply for asylum due to bureaucratic obstacles, long waiting periods or high application fees.

To varying degrees, they can access relevant national services, including health care, education and even social security; nevertheless, across the region, many migrants are unable to secure their status and/or stay under any of these frameworks or mechanisms, making them vulnerable to exploitation, abuse, manipulation and a wide range of other protection risks, including racism, discrimination and xenophobia.

Summary of the current response

Through their operational team, all the affected National Societies have participated in meetings (at the local and national level), and they continue to coordinate with their relevant National authorities and various humanitarian organizations to avoid duplication and to maximize the impact of the humanitarian action for migrants throughout the region.

Across the region the National Societies have assisted migrants through:

- **Health:** Through promotion and prevention activities, first aid, psychosocial support (PSS), medical consultation and transfer of patients to first and second level care centres (in some specific countries).
- **Water and Hygiene:** Through the distribution of water at border crossings, delivery of personal hygiene kits and the dissemination of key messages.
- **Restoring Family Links (RFL):** This allows the migrant population to communicate with their relatives; the Red Cross facilitates communication through cell phones, access to Wi-Fi points and electrical outlets so that people can charge their cell phone and the management of information and advocacy with public bodies, making use of the "Restoring Family Links" platform.
- **Food Security:** The distribution of snacks for travel and the delivery of groceries to families.
- **Shelter:** The Colombian Red Cross Society will provide support to this sector depending on the need as included in the [Colombia: Population Movement Emergency Appeal](#).

About 600 volunteers and 50 staff members from the National Societies involved have been activated, including National Intervention Teams (NITs).

All the affected National Societies have maintained communication with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)'s country cluster offices and its regional office for the Americas (ARO) in Panama. Meanwhile, the ICRC has helped assess the need for RFL actions and other humanitarian activities focused on protection throughout the region.

Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

Needs analysis

The array of destinations for the migrants combined with an increase in numbers indicates that the current mobility situation is fluid and unpredictable. Air routes were initially preferred by migrants to migrate outside the country; however, land and maritime routes have now become more significant given the high cost of air fares and the limited availability of flights. Short distances facilitate maritime mobility to neighboring Caribbean islands such as Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Migrants needs in the region are related to: (i) access to basic services such as health, education, housing and humanitarian assistance; (ii) access to socio-economic integration, livelihoods and labour opportunities; (iii) inclusion in national and local social welfare programmes; and (iv) protection during their migratory journey

Migrants are facing widespread rejection due to rising xenophobia, preventing the access to the local labour market, school system and health services; consequently, the Red Cross needs to conduct more detailed need assessments to determine the humanitarian and operational needs as the number of people affected is increasing. Priority will be considered for a detailed plan for Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Ecuador, and Peru.

B. Operational strategy

Overall Operational objective: Deploy a surge team (including a head of emergency operations [HeOps]) to carry out more detailed needs assessments and coordinate with the affected regional National Societies to develop an EPoA.³

³ The assessment costs will be covered when an operation is launched in response to the situation. In case no operation is launched, the DREF will assume all costs as a grant.

DREF OPERATION

03.06.2018

Americas Regional Population Movement

MDR42004

Budget Group	DREF Budget CHF
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	0
Teaching Materials	0
Ustensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Emergency Response Units	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	0
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	0
International Staff	86,000
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	0
Volunteers	0
Other Staff Benefits	0
Total PERSONNEL	86,000
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	0
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	0
Travel	0
Information & Public Relations	0
Office Costs	0
Communications	0
Financial Charges	0
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	5,590
Total INDIRECT COSTS	5,590
TOTAL BUDGET	91,590

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.

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

1. Save lives, protect livelihoods, and strengthen recovery from disaster and crises.
2. Enable healthy and safe living.
3. Promote social inclusion and a culture of non-violence and peace