

www.ifrc.org
Saving lives,
changing minds.

DREF Operations Update

Americas Region: Population Movement



DREF operation n° MDR42004	Operations Update n° 1
Date of issue: 6 August 2018	Timeframe covered by this update: 3 June to 3 August 2018
Operation start date: 4 June 2018	Operation timeframe: Initially a 2-month operation; extended by one month. The new operation end date is 3 September 2018
Overall operation budget: 91,590 Swiss francs (CHF)	
N° of people being assisted: To be determined based on the assessment's results	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), 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	
Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action: The operation is requesting a one month no-cost timeframe extension to be able to finalize the secondary and primary needs assessment results and identify the next steps to be taken on how to respond to the situation. The head of emergency operations (HeOps) continued to work closely with the participating National Societies to coordinate a comprehensive approach to the migration situation	

[<Click here for the contact information>](#)

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

The American continent is culturally diverse, geographically large and socially and economically complex. The total number of migrants worldwide according to the United Nations is 258 million (2017), and around 26 per cent of the world's migrants (68 million people) are 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 Americas region. Within the Americas region, inter-regional migration has been increasing in the Latin American and Caribbean region due to different factors such as political, economic, violence and social changes; migration between countries in this sub-region and the Americas in general 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 persons significantly impact their communities of origin and their host communities.

The current situation in South America is triggering an influx of migrants into countries such as Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and Peru. This large-scale migration flow in South America is demonstrated by a significant increase of migrants in the sub-continent, a 900 per cent increase from 2015 to 2017. Moreover, as many migrants are not using official border crossings, it is likely that the actual numbers are higher. Official figures from UNHCR indicate that more than 300,000 migrants are currently sheltering in Peru, with increasing numbers of migrants entering the country from Ecuador daily. UNHCR reports that 80,000 migrants are seeking asylum in Peru alone, more than 340,000 migrants have entered Ecuador, almost 100,000 migrants are seeking refuge in Caribbean island nations and around 50,000 migrants have entered in Brazil in 2018 alone.

The migratory flow through Colombia has been steadily increasing over the past few years, and the Colombian-Venezuelan border has been experiencing an increased mixed migratory flow of people since 2017 that use Colombia as a transit zone, temporary shelter or a supply point.

The effect of the population movement crisis is broad, complex and not restricted to issues of nationality. All groups of people in need face different types and levels of vulnerability, which mainly includes access to essential services such as basic health care and sanitation facilities. Other groups have had their livelihoods diminished or destroyed and require external support to restart them. Almost all migrants at some point require access to food and clean water and in some cases, special supplements for children at risk or suffering from malnutrition.

Factors affecting migrants' vulnerabilities along migratory routes are numerous: family separation, impoverishment and socio-economic hardship, unsafe journeys through hostile environments, especially increasing xenophobia and the criminalization of migrants. Gender and other indicators of diversity (e.g., age and disability) play a crucial role, exacerbating these vulnerabilities in many cases. Additionally, there have been reports of increased tensions between host communities and migrants.¹

Summary of current response

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

- Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) approved for surge deployment
- DREF approved for Ecuador
- Needs assessments conducted
- Ongoing coordination/communication with affected National Societies
- Ongoing coordination with the ICRC

Needs analysis and scenario planning

According to the preliminary conclusions of the conducted needs assessment conducted, the lack of collective centres, especially in rural areas along the borders, is exposing the migrants to extremely vulnerable living conditions since access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, garbage management systems and toilet drainage systems is not guaranteed in informal accommodations. Migrants in the various countries are forced to seek informal and inadequate shelter due to high prices and the large demand for adequate housing compared to the actual supply .

Low incomes and unavailability of savings make it difficult to access food, even to simply meet the basic needs and requirements of the migrant population. In addition to this, food prices have largely increased, and the variety and quantity of food products has decreased, especially in rural areas.

The population on the move travels long distances and arrives in host countries with medical issues related to the transit process itself and the conditions existing prior to their departure from their home communities. In addition, migrants often do not have access to vaccinations or have not completed their vaccination schedule, exposing the migrant population and their hosting communities to health-related risks. Furthermore, historically eliminated diseases (e.g., measles) are appearing in border areas due to the arrival of migrants that have not been reached by prior vaccination campaigns. In addition, the public health system is overwhelmed, and access to the migrant population is not guaranteed due to (language barriers for some groups of migrants in the English-speaking Caribbean region, cases of the part of the migrant population.

The conditions of insecurity, mainly in urban centres, the lack of community ties in host countries, the fear of the repercussions for being irregular migrants and the absence of official government protection is highly impacting the migrant population's mental health. Children are at particular risk of isolation due to language barriers and the inability to access the educational system, which heighten the harmful effects on their mental health.

There is a high risk of exposure to labour exploitation, especially for men, and of sexual exploitation, particularly for women. Reports state that human trafficking for sexual and labour purposes of migrants is increasing on a daily basis, and children and women are particularly exposed to these protection concerns.

Operation Risk Assessment

There are no risks associated with this operation. The regional emergency appeal will contain a risk matrix, including a mitigation measure.

¹ For further information see the [International Migration Report by UN 2017](#).

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Overall Operational objective: Deploy a surge team (including a HeOps) to carry out more detailed needs assessments and coordinate with the affected regional National Societies to develop an emergency plan of action (EPoA) for a regional emergency appeal.

The plan includes the deployment of up to eight surge personnel, comprised of a team leader (HeOps) and specialists from different technical sectors and support areas.

Under the HeOp's direction, the surge team is finalizing the regional plan's strategic plan to respond to the migration situation. Based on the conducted assessments and secondary information collected, the establishment of a migration coordination cell is envisaged to address migration -related issues and contribute to the advancement of a regional planning and advocacy agenda for migration; the cell will build on existing migration, disaster management, advocacy and communication expertise at the regional level, ensuring its work is fully integrated with ongoing plans and practices.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

International Disaster Response		
Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Revised EPoA published before the end of the first surge rotation</i>	Document published	in progress
Output S2.1.1: Effective response preparedness and National Society surge capacity mechanism is maintained		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of surge deployments on ground in a timely manner</i>	8	8
Progress towards outcomes		

In addition to the HeOps , nine people have been deployed on missions . The sectors covered by the team included disaster management, information management, community engagement and accountability (CEA), psychosocial support (PSS), health and logistics.

Additionally, the IFRC met the ICRC in Brazil and Panama, and there has been continuous coordination between relevant Movement actors on further support and the development of a strategic approach to the operation.

To date, the surge team has visited Trinidad and Tobago, Brazil, Peru, and Guyana to assess the situation related to migratory flows in each country, to ascertain the affected National Societies' capacity to respond , and the current gaps in addressing the needs of the migrants in each visited country.

The surge team supported the Ecuadorian Red Cross on its request for DREF funds to provide basic assistance in health and water and sanitation and other services to people in ; this DREF is also supporting the activities that are already being implemented by Provincial Boards to assist the population in movement.

The surge and Geneva information management teams' missions to Panama were primarily to support the HeOps, Field Assessment Coordination Team (FACT)/Regional Intervention Teams (RITs) and the regional office for the Americas (ARO) on a multi-country analysis of needs arising from the massive population movement in the region.

Contact information

Reference documents

Click here for:

- [DREF Plan of Action](#)

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

In the IFRC regional office for the Americas:

- Iñigo Barrena, Head of the Disaster and Crisis Preparedness, Response and Recovery (DCPRR) department; email: ci.barrena@ifrc.org
- Alberto Monguzzi, Head of Emergency Operations, email: alberto.monguzzi@ifrc.org

For Resource Mobilization and Pledges:

- Marion Andrivet, Emergency Appeals and Marketing Officer, phone: +507 317-3050; email: marion.andrivet@ifrc.org

For Performance and Accountability (planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting enquiries)

- Paula Martes; planning, monitoring and reporting team coordinator; phone: +507 317-3050; email: paula.martes@ifrc.org

In Geneva:

- Ruben Romero, acting Response and Recovery Lead, programme and operations focal point; phone: +41.22.730.4529, email: ruben.romero@ifrc.org
- Antoine Belair, Operations Coordinator (Americas and Africa regions) +41 79 708 3149; email: antoine.belair@ifrc.org

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**.