

Operation Update No. 2

Hurricanes Eta & Iota: NICARAGUA

Emergency appeal n° MDR43007	GLIDE n°: TC-2020-000218-NIC
Operation update n° 2: 20 January 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 25 November 2020 to 31 December 2020
Operation start date: 8 November 2020	Operation timeframe: 18 months to 31 May 2022
<p>Funding requirements (CHF): Total Operation (3 Emergency Appeals): 22 million Swiss francs (CHF).</p> <p>For more details on the funding coverage of the Emergency Appeal, check the Donor Response. Federation-wide, more than 292K Swiss francs in cash and 410K Swiss francs in in-kind goods have been received from The Canadian Red Cross Society, Italian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, ICRC and IFRC through the EA or bilateral contributions.</p> <p>NICARAGUA: IFRC funding requirements: 5,013,270 Swiss francs (CHF) National Society Response Plan funding requirements: 14,000,000 US dollars (USD).</p>	<p>DREF amount initially allocated for total operation: 1 million Swiss francs (CHF)</p> <p>DREF allocated for Nicaragua: 440,000 Swiss francs (CHF)</p>
<p>Total N° of people being assisted: 102,500 (20,500 families) in total for Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua NICARAGUA: 42,500 people (8,500 families).</p>	
<p>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation in Nicaragua: International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Spanish Red Cross (SRC) and Italian Red Cross (IRC).</p>	
<p>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation as it pertains to response in Nicaragua: National System for the Prevention, Mitigation of, and Attention to Disasters (SINAPRED), Ministry of Health (MINSAs), World Vision, Nestle, Walmart, Fideicomiso Juntos Vamos a Superarlo, American Nicaraguan Foundation (ANF), Walmart Foundation (Banco de Alimentos), World Food Program, Banpro, Aceitera de Nicaragua.</p>	



Summary of major revisions made to emergency plan of action:

Revisions were made to the [EA and published on 22 December 2020](#). The changes reflected emergent needs as assessments yielded new information.

*Food distribution in municipality of Tola, Rivas department
Source: NRC, 22 December 2020*

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Description of the disaster

One month after hurricanes Eta and Iota hit Central America and Colombia, affecting more than 7.5 million people, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) warns that millions are still in need of immediate humanitarian support in what has become one of the most challenging disasters faced by the region in recent history.

The IFRC and National Red Cross Societies are currently addressing the most urgent needs of over 100,000 people through seven simultaneous humanitarian operations in Colombia, Belize, Costa Rica, Panamá, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Honduras. The situation is especially severe in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala, where over 7 million people have been affected by heavy rains, floods, and landslides. Results from in-depth damage and needs assessments paint a bleak humanitarian picture in both the short and medium term.

Nicaragua was exposed to two major meteorological events within a period of 14-days. Hurricane Eta, a category 4 storm, impacted the Northern Caribbean coast on 3 November, and Hurricane Iota, a category 5 storm, impacted the same area on 16 November and extended to the Pacific region, leaving severe damage in the region, including loss of lives.

Hurricane **Eta** hit the Northern Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua on 3 November as a category 4 with winds of 240 kilometers per hour, with a lifespan of over 30 hours it had a strong impact in the community of Wawa Bar in the Southwest of the city of Puerto Cabezas, Bilwi. After Eta, SINAPRED estimated that over 2 million people were exposed to this storm¹.

As a preventive measure, SINAPRED and the different response mechanisms in the country, including the Nicaraguan Red Cross evacuated nearly 70,000 people and opened 325 collective centres. A red alert was activated for the Caribbean region, a yellow alert for the departments of Wiwili, Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, Matagalpa, and Chinandega. The rest of the country was in green alert. The Pacific region was also affected by torrential rains that caused landslides and more than 300 collective centers and foster or host homes were activated to shelter families.

On 16 November, Hurricane **Iota** rapidly evolved from a category 4 to a category 5 on the Saffir Simpson scale. Hurricane Iota made landfall on Nicaraguan soil in the community of Halouver (350 families with 1,750 people, mostly indigenous of Miskito origin) at 10:40 pm, with winds of 260 kph 45 kilometers south of Puerto Cabezas. During that same night, it was downgraded to a category 2 and impacted the municipality of Siuna as a category 1 with winds of 130 kilometers per hour, moving west to 15 kilometers per hour.

As a result of the impact of Hurricane Iota, the Northern Caribbean region was left isolated, without telephone and internet connection, electricity and drinking water supply service. The city of Puerto Cabezas showed severe devastation, homes were destroyed, the seaport was destroyed, the temporary hospital that was functioning had to be evacuated to the regional government headquarters since the building was beginning to give way to strong winds and the Bello Amanecer regional hospital suffered even more severe damage.

Iota, degraded to a tropical storm, then impacted the Nicaraguan Pacific region, leaving destruction of bridges, loss of homes due to landslides and winds, falling trees, and flooding in the departments of Rivas, Managua, Carazo, Jinotega, Nueva Segovia, Wiwili.

Summary of damage

The official report from the government following Iota was presented on 24 November with the following information (no further updates are available):

SINAPRED figures after Eta and Iota²:

- A total of **56 municipalities** were affected, with an estimate of **3 million people exposed**³ to both events.
- **Housing sector:** this is the sector with the most relevant impact, since most of the affected population lost their home or sustained significant damages, which amounts to USD 126,171,000. There are 5,818 houses completely damaged and 39,600 with partial damages.
- **Education sector:** there is a very strong impact on the number of damaged classrooms and schools, with preliminary data amounting to USD 41,032,000. Damages are reported in 261 schools, 2 technology centers and 2 university campuses.
- **Health sector:** there is severe damage to the public health network, representing USD 12,629,000 including the impact on Bilwi hospital. A total of 16 SILAIS (Local Integrated Health Care Systems) were affected in 13

¹ [EI 19 Digital, November 9, 2020](#)

² [EI 19 Digital, November 24, 2020](#)

³ [OCHA Central America, Humanitarian Snapshot for TS Hurricane Eta and Iota](#) of December 4th, it is mentioned 1,8 MM people affected in Nicaragua.

departments and in the two regions of the Northern and Southern Caribbean. Between regional, departmental, and primary hospitals, 15 buildings were affected. 19 health centers, 45 health posts, 5 maternity waiting homes and 11 logistical support structures such as warehouses for medical supplies and others, were also affected. In summary, a total of 95 structures that provide health services at national level were affected.

- **Livelihoods / Productive sector:** a full assessment on the agricultural losses is not ready yet. Losses on the fishing sector represent USD 19,649,000, agricultural sector USD 20,300,000 and tourism sector USD 7,100,000.
- **Private sector:** the mining sector has been affected with losses amounting to approximately USD 1,882,000.
- **Infrastructure:** 98 per cent of damages are focused on the road network and land transportation which amounts to USD 350,000,000. The total damages in infrastructure amounts to USD 361,911,000.
- **Water transport:** USD 2,000,000 in losses and damages.
- **In Water and Sanitation,** the damages are quantified in USD 6,604,000.
- **Energy sector:** USD 6,500,000.
- **Telecommunications:** USD 1,887,000.
- **Environmental damages:** USD 141,000,000, with 1,185,820.44 hectares of forest coverage exposed.

According to Plan International, in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala there were more than 130,000 people living in official shelters, including more than 53,000 children as of December 15. Many of the approximately 1,200 official shelters in Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras lack adequate space and toilet facilities, leaving children without private spaces to wash, sleep and play and placing girls in particular at risk of harassment and gender-based violence⁴.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The **Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC)** is an 86-year-old National Society (NS) that works as an auxiliary to the Government as established in its legal framework; it is comprised of 32 branches of which 17 are municipal in the 15 departments that constitute the nation. As of today, the NS has 1,520 volunteers assigned in all the national territory to respond to the ongoing emergency.

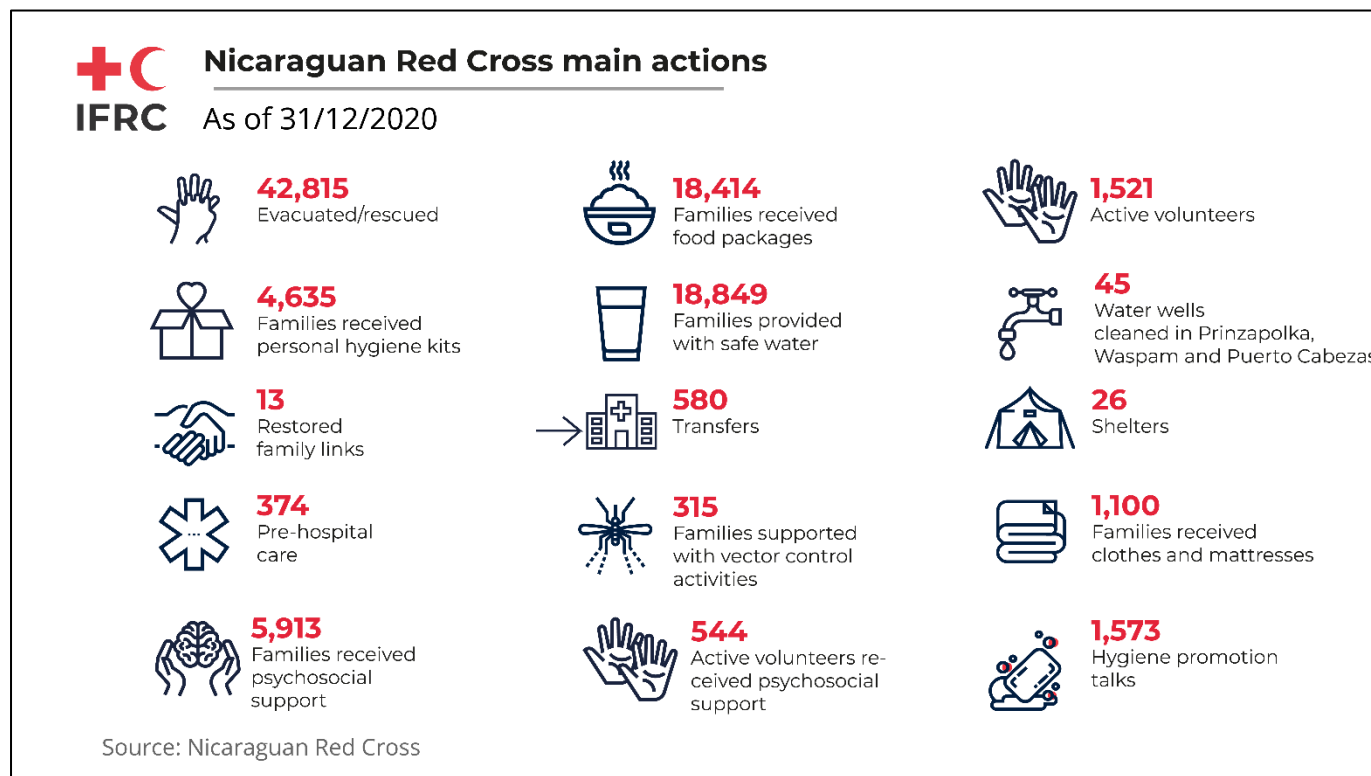
The NRC has established strategic guidelines for actions targeting the most vulnerable people aiming to strengthen their resilience through the development of services, programs focused on reducing vulnerability, risk reduction and disaster relief.

In the last few years, the NRC has responded to different disasters that have endangered the lives of the population, such as Hurricane Felix in 2007 in the Northern Caribbean Region and one of the most recent in 2017, Storm Nate, which caused severe damage in various areas of the country. The NRC mobilized DREF funds to provide assistance to the affected population, and Nate's experience has strengthened the National Society and has brought experience in managing and dealing with this type of disasters.

NRC carried out a significant amount of Damage and Needs Assessments (DANA) during the first weeks of the operation, in addition, the staff and volunteers played a role contributing to official information that has been produced so far. Beyond that, NRC has identified the staff that will be part of the response team to implement the proposed intervention. Most of the identified staff have been trained in different areas of expertise and some of them have been deployed abroad to support other emergencies in the Americas.

⁴ [Plan International, December 15, 2020](#)

Summary of the National Society's response actions



Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) is present in the country, through the COVID-19 Regional Operations Manager (ROM), who coordinates and supports the different IFRC actions in country. This ROM also supported the National Society during the emergency response, called for the activation of DREF funds, emergency appeal and other types of support that the National Society required in response to contingencies. The ROM is also responsible for COVID-19 projects at the country and regional level.

The IFRC's Americas Regional Office in Panama (ARO) has a pool of specialized team members that manage emergency funds and projects and provides support according to the programs' sectoral needs: Water and Sanitation, Health, logistics, disaster risk reduction, shelter among others. This technical team assists the Nicaraguan Red Cross to identify priority needs according to the status of the damage assessment and needs analysis for the implementation of response and recovery actions to the population.

In Nicaragua, the Italian Red Cross (IRC), the Spanish Red Cross (SRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) are operating bilaterally. For the response to the emergency, both Partner National Societies (PNSs) have been accompanying NRC in the evaluation of damages and assessing the immediate needs of response to the population, for this purpose ICRC has allocated emergency funds to cover the operational costs represented by the displacement to the affected areas to provide humanitarian aid. The SRC, taking into account the priorities identified, is managing funds with its traditional partners such as Humanitarian Aid Office of the European Commission (ECHO) and its own funds. The ICRC continues to strengthen the areas of Safer Access in emergency operations and Restoration of Family Links actions developed in the framework of response and recovery.

The NRC as the lead responder in its territory, through its National Response Plan, is organized according to the following sectors of work: Operations Committee, Health Commission, Monitoring and Follow-up Commission and Logistics Commission. The NRC has 32 branches nationally, all of which occupy a chair in the COMUPRED of each Department, as well as they belong to nine commissions that are part of the National CODE.

The NRC is implementing its National Response Plan, including the strategic levels and decision makers coordination with the different movement partners for the actions that will be developed to meet the needs of affected people. For this, a global action plan was developed and contains the different lines of action and aims to respond to 12,000 families (60,000 people) with a requirement of USD 14,000,000. As progress is made with the damage assessment and the needs of the most vulnerable populations are prioritized, the Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA), which aims to reach 8,500 families in Waspan, Puerto Cabezas y Prinzapolka, Rivas, Jinotega, Bluefields and Managua and has a funding requirement of CHF 5,013,270 is being further detailed and will be coordinated under the Federation Wide Approach. This allows for the areas of intervention to be defined according to the prioritized needs.

The plan of action is guided by the population's needs and it offers the response and support that can be offered by the different partners of the RC Movement. There is a coordination mechanism which are the daily meetings with Movement partners to visualize needs and priorities. From that level, funding managements are coordinated, firstly DREF funds of an amount of 440,000 CHF were made available, and now through the current Emergency Appeal, and

other bilateral contributions. The NRC provides information on its response actions and local coordination with partners and donors.

The IFRC is engaged in active membership coordination in Nicaragua. It is encouraging a coordinated and harmonized response through shared leadership initiatives, in which one or more National Societies present in the country co-lead with the local National Society in a technical response area, according to capacity and expertise. There are other membership coordination mechanisms such as Country Support Teams, through which the local National Society can, if needed, call on other National Societies in the country for assistance in areas such as development of response plans, data collection and reporting. The IFRC is also collecting Federation-wide data for monitoring and reporting, outlined in more detail under the PMER section.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

As soon as the alerts for both events were issued, the NRC started coordinating with SINAPRED for a response based on needs and to ensure good planning. The SINAPRED coordinated the zones of intervention with the NRC areas of focus, based on the locations most affected and on population's needs. Meanwhile, the NRC provided a priority response to the population that experienced the compounded effects of Hurricane Iota in Waspan, Prinzapolka, Puerto Cabezas, Rivas and Jinotega. Some more details of other actors involved in the current response are available below:

Private companies receive or collect aid in country. Some deliver the collected aid by their own means directly to communities and others deliver it to the NRC's national collection center. The companies Nestlé, Grupo Promerica through BANPRO, ANF, Food Bank, Walmart, have established alliances with NRC and have made donations of food and hygiene kits which have been distributed by NRC in the affected areas.

Some NGOs such as Word Vision, Governmental agencies such as COSUDE (Swiss Development Cooperation), AECID (Spanish Development Cooperation), USAID, have also carried out meetings with the NRC to support the response and recovery of the affected people.

United Nations organizations coordinate with the government to implement their response actions. The World Food Program, for example, provides food aid to SINAPRED and UNICEF coordinates with the Ministry of Education to address the needs of children in schools, as well as infrastructure needs.

To continue meeting the needs of those most affected by Hurricane Eta and Iota, these coordination mechanisms with the private sector, Government and other NGO's are being prioritized with corporate and international donors to channel aid, which the NRC can deliver to the affected population.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

Shelter

In response to Hurricane Eta and Iota, preventive evacuations were carried out for the high impact of rain, winds, and storm surge on the mainland on the North Caribbean Coast, and flooding and landslides in the pacific region. Families were relocated to collective centers, which created the need to ensure that evacuees have basic items to meet their immediate needs and that measures are in place to implement physical distance safe measure against COVID-19.

Affected persons, who are in collective centers as well as those who have taken refuge in their relatives' homes, will need assistance to cover or repair affected areas of their homes. People will also need a supply of tarpaulins, shelter kits, blankets, kitchen appliances and cots to help meet some of their needs.

Livelihoods and basic needs

The population of the communities of the North Caribbean are mostly engaged in artisanal fisheries and agriculture, with the passage of the hurricanes livelihoods have been affected, with floods of the cultivation areas, as well as with the entry of the salt water into agricultural land, as well as destruction of pangas, cayucos fishing nets, and the destruction of crops, especially in the coastal communities of both Puerto Cabezas and Prinzapolka, and the communities of the Coco River downstream. The storms also caused extensive damage to crop and farmland, livestock and fishing assets, and infrastructure, which will result in the reduction of critical food and income sources in both the short and medium term. Furthermore, many roads and bridges were either destroyed or temporarily made inaccessible, altering the food commodity supply flow and driving market functioning to below normal levels. Although local governments and humanitarian actors are responding with assistance, the need is expected to surpass the current capacity to respond. A scale up on food assistance is urgently required to meet the food needs Given that the hurricanes hit the Nicaragua at a time of year when poor and very poor households typically earn most of their annual income, and these income earning opportunities have been undermined, atypically high needs are expected to persist through the 2021 lean season.

In addition, according to the regional ministries of agriculture, much of the postrera bean production, which is highly susceptible to moisture damage, has been lost. The postrera harvest typically provides bean stocks for 3 to 4 months for poor households and offers some income from crop sales and local harvesting labour, particularly in the areas of northern and eastern Guatemala, north-eastern Nicaragua. The Northern Autonomous Atlantic Region, Matagalpa and

Chontales departments in Nicaragua, where livestock comprise an important source of income for some very poor households. Along the Caribbean coasts of the three countries, many households are also expected to lose access to fishing, with the destruction of fishing equipment, such as nets and boats; fish sales and fish products are a significant source of income and food for very poor households in these areas.

Below-average production and damaged infrastructure, such as collapsed roads and bridges, are disrupting trade flows, which will result in higher prices and subsequent reduced food access for many poorer households. Alongside speculation and hoarding of goods, higher transportation costs are expected to lead to sustained price increase. In addition to the likely increase in acute food insecurity in hurricane-affected areas, there is heightened concern for negative health outcomes due to damaged water infrastructure and sewage systems.

Taking into account these needs, it is proposed the replacement of tools for fishing, delivery of seeds and fruit plants to rehabilitate crops, promotion of other sources of income such as the rehabilitation of small businesses through cash transfers, which will be accompanied by an appropriate investment management training process.

It is proposed to support families to access food for a period of three to six months until families, selected for their vulnerability status, can achieve stability. The modality (whether food kits or CVA) and the length of the support will be adjusted according to the level of vulnerability of each beneficiary and resources available.

Health and Psychosocial Support (PSS)

Eta destroyed or damaged 16 health facilities, the so called SILAIS (Local Integrated Health Care Systems) and 81 other health posts, among them one regional hospital, 3 departmental hospitals, 7 primary health hospitals, 15 Health Centres, 42 health posts and 5 maternity houses. The estimated damages in the health sector go beyond 12.6 Million US-Dollar according to the Nicaraguan Government⁵.

More than 40,000 people had to move into 250 government shelters, according to Nicaraguan Vice-President Rosario Murillo⁶. Living in crowded conditions, increases the risk for transmission of diseases and particularly for COVID-19 as physical distancing is very difficult. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, basic epidemic prevention and increased control measures are necessary including the distribution of personal protective equipment such as masks. Handwashing facilities should be provided, as well as hand sanitizers. Many shelters are not equipped with sufficient resources to house displaced populations for a longer period. Therefore, they should be supported with hygiene kits, medicines, and safe drinking water to prevent the outbreak of other infectious diseases which are transmitted easier under difficult sanitary circumstances such as cholera or other gastrointestinal infections.

Coordination mechanisms and referral pathways will be built to provide the adequate support to people in higher risk of suffering the impact of the natural disaster. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, basic epidemic prevention and increased control measures are necessary including the distribution of PPE.

Malaria is endemic in the Moskitia area along the Atlantic coast in the north western part of the country. Between January and August 2020 Nicaraguan Health Authorities have reported a total of 12,640 cases of Malaria in the region of Bilwi alone. This is already an increase of 161% in comparison to 2019 according to the MoH. Due to the heavy rains and floods cases are likely to increase further if no preventive and responsive measures are being conducted. Before Eta and Iota, Nicaragua had lowered the number of confirmed and suspected cases of Dengue and Chikungunya with a percentage change of around 40%; by epidemiological week 21. With a new prone environment for vector proliferation, it is most likely that an opposite situation will develop in the country.

In addition to the likely increase in acute food insecurity in hurricane-affected areas, there is heightened concern for negative health outcomes due to damaged water infrastructure and sewage systems. Furthermore, there is the potential for an increase in COVID-19 cases due to overcrowding in shelters and lack of access to clean water and proper sanitary measures.

The National Society will ensure that all building codes are considered as well as the climatic conditions of the region. A risk analysis of the area will be done by the local construction staff including architects, engineers, and construction coordinator.

Physical, mental/emotional health is greatly affected after being exposed to two catastrophic events that put lives at risk and disrupted the daily lives of the affected population. In Nicaragua more than 6,900 houses were destroyed and nearly all parts of the country agriculture, livestock and rural livelihoods were heavily damaged. Emotional health is required to address grieving processes or loss of loved ones, housing and livelihood. It is also required to address people with post-traumatic stress or anxiety crises experienced after the events. In addition to the impact on communities, there is a disruption of the normal service provision and damages to existing infrastructures dedicated to providing mental health care to people with pre-existing conditions.

The National Society offers regular services in the provision of control of chronic diseases (blood pressure measurement or glucose control), which will also be considered as part of the provision of services through this operation.

⁵ [EI 19 Digital, November 24, 2020](#)

⁶ [EI 19 Digital, November 16, 2020](#)

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion

With the passage of the two hurricanes, the company of aqueducts and sewers company (ENACAL) reports that some 98,000 families (close to 500,000 people) in 30 cities of the country were left without access to drinking water, due to the damage caused to the electrical energy system and for damages to the drinking water network, contamination of wells and the contamination of surface waters caused by floods⁷.

Additionally, the Bilwi power plant is powered by fuel, which is not available in the region since the Port has not yet been rehabilitated, making it difficult for the governing entity ENACAL to quickly re-establish service.

In the municipality of Prinzapolka there is no network of drinking water supply, the population is supplied from natural sources (rivers, pipes, wells). The water that is usually destined for human consumption comes from the Prinzapolka river. In some communities there are wells, but in most cases the water is not suitable for human consumption, due to the level of contamination from the mines that come from the Bambana river which is an affluent of the Prinzapolka River.

It is necessary to evaluate the quality of water for human consumption and promote access to it and preventive health actions (Sanitation), for populations that return to their homes and those that have to stay in collective centers because they have lost their homes. This will prevent outbreaks and epidemics caused by post-flood conditions.

At the same time, sanitation actions will be promoted by promoting hygiene in emergencies, the construction and / or rehabilitation of latrines, in the communities that are required. It is important to inform the population about solid waste management and garbage treatment to create healthy environments in the affected population.

One of the institutional needs is to equip the water treatment plants. It is also necessary to strengthen the Nicaraguan Red Cross in enabling the stock of water treatment plants and can provide a rapid response to the existing water needs, on the other hand, renew the plants that have been damaged to the continuity of this humanitarian service in future processes.

Protection, Gender and Inclusion

During emergencies, women, girls, vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities, and children are most at risk. Gender-based violence can be exacerbated during emergencies by the lack of law and order, the lack or limitation of support services, and the temporary disappearance of social networks. Crowded spaces, such as evacuation centers and shelters, can increase protection risks, such as sexual abuse, harassment, neglect of specific needs (e.g., for the elderly and/or people with disabilities), and sexual exploitation and abuse. Therefore, meeting minimum standards of protection, gender and inclusion are key to these settlements. One way of doing this, is ensuring the presence of security personnel who can prevent women and children from becoming victims of violence and to adapt these physical spaces to their needs. Regarding gender-based violence, it is necessary to establish preventive measures in the evacuation centers and to continue applying these measures throughout the intervention. Disaster Risk Reduction Activities will be needed to build communities resilience to better face any other event, as well as protect the goods and livelihoods of communities.

According to ACAPS briefing note (November 2020), in terms of protection risks the rates of domestic violence, gender-based violence (GBV), underage pregnancies, and femicides are high in Puerto Cabezas compared to other regions in Nicaragua; risks to girls and women are likely to increase during this emergency, particularly in overcrowded, mixed shelters and isolated communities.

The population in Prinzapolka and Puerto Cabezas along with the other communities affected, are composed of ethnic indigenous populations (Miskita and Mayagna) and non- indigenous populations. The population of Puerto Cabezas is very heterogeneous, due to its multi-ethnic character, where 72.3% belongs to the Miskito ethnic group, 21.7% to the mestizo ethnic group, 5.7% to the Creole ethnic group and 0.3% to the Sumu ethnic group; there is a total of 46 indigenous communities in the municipality.

According to UNICEF's latest situational report (December 9), 720,000 children have been affected and from the 59,664 persons sheltered 40% are children⁸.

More than 380 educational centers, to date, have been reported as affected by the emergency and a total of 2,085 educational centers have suspended their classes (out of 9,105 centers nationwide). Classes have been suspended because they are located near rivers, streams or affected by falling trees in the vicinity located in the areas of Triangulo Minero, Costa Caribe Norte, Costa Caribe Sur, rural communities of Jinotega, Morrito, Rio San Juan, San Rafael del Sur in Managua. In addition, 22 educational centers are functioning as shelters for 4,900 people from Puerto Cabezas Rosita, Bonanza, Siuna, Desembocadura del Rio Grande and Waspam⁹.

Migration - Restoring Family Links (RFL)

Taking into account that one of the potential risks to disasters of great magnitudes is the loss of contact with families, it is proposed to carry out an initial diagnosis to assess existing needs, identify the hostel centers that deserve greater attention and prioritization of cases and subsequently proposes to implement actions such as establishing calls to

⁷ [El 19 Digital, November 20, 2020](#)

⁸ [Unicef.org, December 9, 2020](#)

⁹ [Radio La Primerisima, November 4, 2020](#)

family members through Cell Phones that were located in the hostel centers, in distant communities this will be done through HF radios or satellite phones, this will allow the family to reduce stress by knowing that their family member is safe and allow them to resume their activities and start the recovery phase.

Disaster Risk Reduction

According to the Global Climate Risk Index (Germanwatch, 2019), Nicaragua in recent years has been on the list of the 10 countries with the highest level of exposure and vulnerability to extreme weather events between the periods 1998-2017, currently ranking sixth. Considering the extreme events that have occurred both in frequency and intensity to which Nicaragua has been exposed, it is necessary to continue with actions to prepare for the response for communities, actions to adapt to climate change that allow better conditions to deal with emergencies, as well as actions to inform and raise awareness of risks to generate greater perception of risk and promote changes in behaviors.

Telecommunications

Communication in the North Caribbean region, at the institutional level in recent years has been limited by the lack of a Repeater Self-supported Antenna that allows to maintain radio signal with the region and interconnected between branches in the Zone. In the face of climate events such as tropical storms, hurricanes that are more frequent on the Caribbean Coast, because of their geographical position on the hurricane route, it is necessary that the Nicaraguan Red Cross as a response entity and part of the National System of Prevention, Mitigation and Disaster Care have this equipment functioning and thus provide a timelier service to the population affected by these phenomena.

Training volunteers and staff

Nicaraguan Red Cross to improve its response needs to continue to strengthen itself in the management of knowledge of human talent, in specialized and important issues for emergencies, especially taking into account that in recent years it has had to respond to different crises in which both volunteers and staff members are exposed (Epidemiological Alerts, Zika and Dengue have had to be prepared, Civil Riots 2018, COVID-19 Pandemic) and now disaster response caused by two major hurricanes IOTA and ETA. The strengthening will be directed to Knowledge Management and Operational Capacity Building through various workshops for staff and volunteers in health in emergencies, water, and sanitation, use and management of water pumps, emergency shelter assistance, restoring family contacts, strengthening psychosocial support and damage assessment and needs analysis.

Planning according to scenarios

Scenarios	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rains persist, causing flooding Overcrowding in collective centres prevails or increases. People stay in informal settlements. Proliferation of vectors and related diseases. Increased COVID-19 outbreaks. The fundraising needed to develop the Plan of Action is not sufficient. The deterioration of schools used as collective centers is exacerbated. The NS cannot meet the current needs of the population, despite its capacity. Due the Socio-political context around the Presidential election the tensions will go up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increases need for rescue and first aid. Increased levels of food insecurity. Water and sanitation crisis. Collapse of the health systems. Increased levels of poverty and extreme poverty. School dropout, increased rates of illiteracy. People again suffer from the on slating of extreme weather events (drought cycles followed by hurricanes). Reputational risk to the Movement. Riots or conflicts between civil groups. Loss of human life Arrested or imprisoned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the readiness and response capacity of the NS. Address population basic needs (food, water and sanitation, health, shelter). Livelihood recovery activities. Support the rehabilitation of basic infrastructures. Support community in disaster risk reduction plans related to safe shelter and settlement, through PASSA. A unique National Response Plan is used by the NS and the Movement partners to maximize the efficiency of the resources gathered. Implementation of the contingent plan in the face of civil unrest and 2021 elections.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rains decrease, floods and minor landslides. People gradually return to their homes. Disease outbreaks in isolated areas. Capacity of the health structure is maintained Funds are generated to partially develop the Action Plan. The basic needs of most of the population are met. Restart school activity in some schools. The NS can partially address the current needs of the population, at its scale to capacities. There will be any minor social and political issues out of the operational area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Malnutrition tables are generated in some sectors of the population. Sectors of the population with unmet basic needs. Sporadic disease outbreaks. Wear and tear on support and health personnel. Medical services cannot be completely re-established. Schools, housing, and other basic infrastructure require immediate rehabilitation to restore services. Unemployment and loss of livelihoods, which push negative adaptation mechanisms. Need to accompany communities to build resilience and prepare for new multi-threat events. Accompaniment in development of adaptation measures to climate change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the readiness and response capacity of the NS. The basic needs of a large part of the population are met, sanitation and hygiene promotion activities are carried out. Health and health care services are provided in the affected areas. The livelihoods of people in the most critical situation are recovered, strengthened. Some basic health and education infrastructures are rehabilitated, multi-threat disaster community preparedness plans are developed. A unique National Response Plan is used by the NS and the Movement partners to maximize the efficiency of the resources gathered.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sporadic demonstrations around the presidential elections. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of some specific measures of the contingent plan in the face of civil unrest and 2021 elections.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rains stop. People receive medical care and see their basic needs met, returning much of the population to their homes. Disease infections decrease. The local economy is restored and unemployment declines. International humanitarian funds are obtained to support the operation beyond the emergency phase to recovery. Funds are enabled for resilience development and adaptation to the CC. There will not be any social political issues around the general elections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary needs for care and medical services. Basic population needs require temporary support. Accompaniment for livelihood recovery. Accompaniment to develop risk management and community preparedness plans. Accompaniment in development of adaptation measures to climate change. People require assistance to get their basic needs, but only for short spaces of time. No demonstrations either civil unrest related issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the readiness and response capacity of the NS. Basic needs are temporarily met, health and health care services are provided and restored for the long run, people's livelihoods are recovered and strengthened, health and education infrastructures are rehabilitated. Community preparedness plans are developed for multi-threat disasters in all communities, plans for climate change awareness and adaptation are developed and implemented for communities. A unique National Response Plan is used by the NS and the Movement partners to maximize the efficiency of the resources gathered for the 24 months of the operation. No need to implement any contingency plan.

There is a risk analysis that was produced within the COVID-19 EA context during the month of July and August 2020. There will be a review and adjustment to the COVID – 19 Risk Analysis within the Eta/Iota context. There is full time risk management focal point that will lead this process to ensure proper analysis and mitigation measures.

Operation Risk Assessment

1. Hurricane season

The hurricane season last year was especially active, and the northern part of Nicaragua is vulnerable to high storm activity. Technically, the hurricane season 2020 ended on 30 November, however, storms may continue beyond this date. From the NRC operational security measures are taken so as not to endanger the lives of staff or communities, however, the NRC facilities, equipment, and staff and volunteers were directly impacted by the events and suffered damages of different degrees. The staff and volunteers are showing signs of tiredness after weeks of intense activity, long routes, and emotional challenges. The NRC in its National Response Plan is prioritizing the recovery of the facilities and equipment lost as soon as possible to be back to its capacities to respond nationally.

The area in which the operation will be carried out is one of the most vulnerable in the country, it is in the jungle and access is limited, thereby rapid response operations are practically impossible. The North Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua is one of the most vulnerable in the country and emergency operations are complex and costly. Access is only possible by air on small aircrafts that fly only three times a week on a one trip-per day schedule. Access to many of the affected communities has to be via Waterways by means of local pangas, which could limit the operation and complicates quick access to the area. When road access is possible, it is very limited and often impeded by floods. Additionally, the area has known risks of assaults on humanitarian aid trucks, obstructed access to roads by flooding rivers and poor road conditions.

2. COVID-19 Pandemic

The situation of COVID -19 is also an aggravating factor for the operation given infection risks for the technical team and targeted population. Malaria is prevalent in the region and there is a risk of Dengue outbreaks. As NRC, the Security Plan is being implemented for safer access and risks are expected to be minimized.

The operational strategy considers the risks associated with the current COVID-19 pandemic. As of 31 December, a total of 4,829 cases have been reported in the country, with 165 deaths, according to figures reported by the World Health Organization¹⁰. With this indicator of the presence of the virus at community level and given the levels of overcrowding in collective centers, the risk of contamination is high. However, these risk factors have also been taken up in this proposal and actions are proposed to reduce exposure to the contagion.

Another element of risk is the occurrence of cases of dengue and Malaria. The latter has had increased rates of cases in recent months, especially in the municipality of Waspan, where the MINSA detected 202 cases on November 8th.

The National Society will continue to monitor the situation closely and review the current Plan of Action if necessary, considering developments in the COVID-19 situation and the operational risks that could develop, including operational challenges.

3. Sociopolitical context:

¹⁰ [WHO, December 31, 2020](#)

The year 2021 is an election year and the likelihood of tensions and conflicts is high, which could affect the development of the intervention. Nicaraguan Red Cross has developed a Contingency Plan for elections where it will implement security measures for the development of the operation and Safer Access measures will be considered.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

General Operational Objective

This plan of action will attend a total of **8,500 families (42,500 people)** in the heavily affected communities of Puerto Cabezas, Waspan, Prinzapolka, Jinotega, Rivas and Managua. Note: Total National Society response: 60,000 people (12,000 families).

Overall goal

Contribute to the reduction of the effects of the humanitarian crisis left by the passage of Hurricane Eta and Hurricane Iota by supporting response, care and early recovery by meeting vital needs for their survival to families in the communities of Puerto Cabezas, Waspan, Prinzapolka, Jinotega, Rivas and Managua meeting the immediate needs and supporting the recovery of **8,500 families (42,500 people)** for a duration of **18 months**, in the areas of Shelter, Livelihoods and Basic Needs, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Protection, Gender, and Inclusion, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Migration. Note: Total National Society goal is 12,000 families and 60,000 people.

The proposed strategy will maintain the coordination established with SINAPRED from the central base to the departments where the NRC will implement activities operations. In this way the NRC will obtain official data and reports that allow a continuous monitoring and evaluation system that effectively provides the identification of particular needs. One of the strengths that the Nicaragua health system has is an updated population census, where it is disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, disability and age groups, in this way the NRC will ensure actions considering factors for protection, gender and inclusion.

To ensure the involvement of national and local government actors, a letter-of-agreement or MOU may be signed to further formalize the commitments made by the parties.

The response will adopt a Community Engagement and Accountability approach, committing to integrate communities and facilitating participation to help them apply their local knowledge. For that, the NRC will establish community assemblies that will enable the NRC to listen and understand communities' concerns, suggestions, and complaints to achieve a proper and informed response. The NRC will evaluate the results of the action plan while at the same time ensuring that the population is empowered and is part of the decision-making process to adapt the interventions and mitigating risks.

It is crucial to highlight that CEA is about committing to integrate communities and facilitating participation to help them apply their local knowledge. It is also about listening and understanding communities' concerns, suggestions, and complaints to achieve a proper and informed response. Activities seen across EPOAs are focusing mainly on the development of IEC materials, health promotion campaigns but more needs to be seen in including local stakeholders in informing decision making.



Nicaraguan Red Cross Resources

Resources

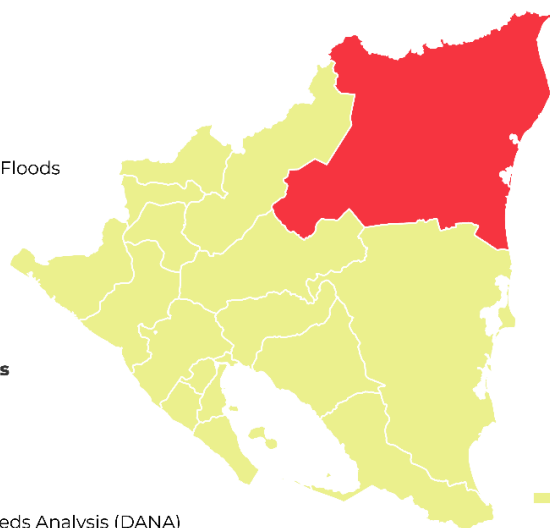
National EOC (32 Branches)

- 8 Ambulances
- 2 Rescue Units
- 5 Pre-Hospital Care
- 12 Technical Rescue Units for Floods
- 4 Drivers
- 1 Radio officer

Services provided

National Intervention Teams

- General
- Logistics
- Water and Sanitation
- Psychosocial support
- Pre-hospital care
- Restoring Family Links
- Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA)
- Technical Rescue Units for Floods (TREP)



Yellow Alert
Red Alert

Resources

- 63** National ambulances
- 13** Trucks
- 3** Vehicles
- 1,520** Volunteers
- 3** Boats

Source: Nicaraguan Red Cross

The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities

Human Resources

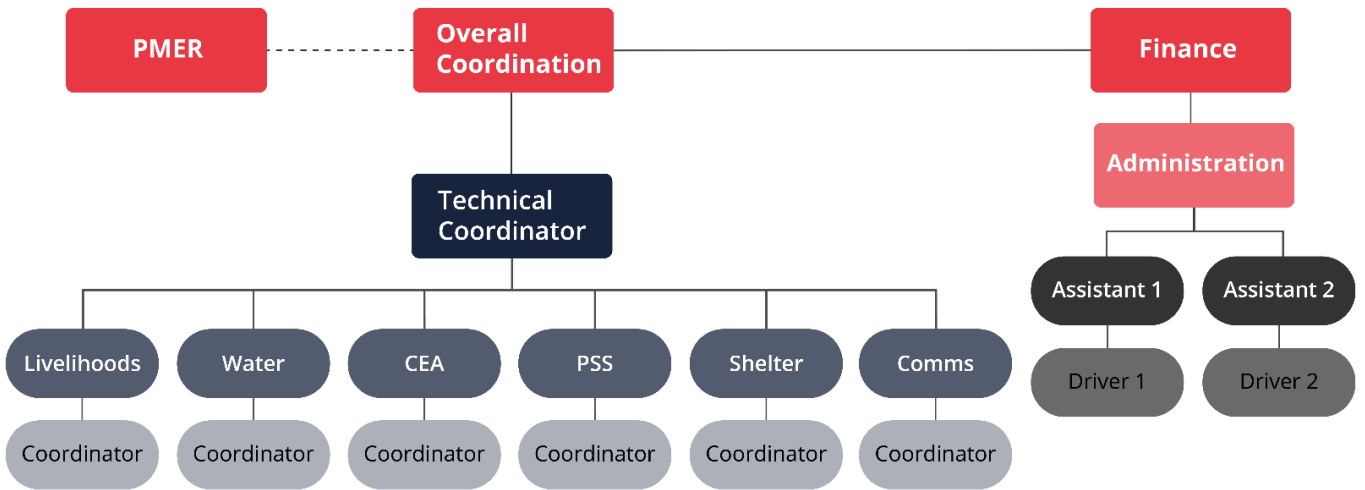
To implement the operation, the NRC is comprising a team made up of staff and 1,520 volunteers. There are specialized volunteers trained to develop activities focused in all the areas included in this operation, from first response services to early recovery processes. However, additional operational resources may be necessary to provide support to vulnerable groups. The proposed actions are possible with NRC staff and volunteers who have specialized training in the following technical areas: National Intervention Teams (NIT), in Emergency Health and Epidemic Control, Health and Community First Aid (CBHFA) Water and Sanitation, Participatory Transformation methodology for Health, Hygiene and Sanitation (PHAST) and a technical and management team that ensures the functional operation of the project.

The Federation-wide approach will also be applied to providing surge support to the National Society, when requested. When required, priority will be to consult with PNSs with a presence in-country whether they can second any of their existing personnel to support the response. Surge alerts for personnel from outside of the country will be sent via the ARO or Geneva only if none of the in-country partners have the requested profile locally.

Specific to the response to Eta-Iota, NRC has a dedicated task force with technical experts for each sector of intervention and with support from the finance and administrative areas.



**Nicaraguan Red Cross:
IFRC ETA-IOTA Task Force Organizational Chart**



Source: Nicaraguan Red Cross

NRC has existing material capacity with vehicles, i.e., a fleet (trucks, pre-hospital units -ambulances, light vehicles), and it has a few water treatments plants and specialized equipment, however, given the remote location of the intervention, equipment and vehicles will require a complete maintenance. The water treatment systems will require maintenance including parts and materials that are required for water quality tests, among others. Additional operational resources are necessary to provide support to vulnerable groups.

Proposed strategy

The intervention strategy defines first-response actions to meet the basic needs of the affected population and subsequently proposes actions to enable the recovery of communities and the family in the longer term.

First-response actions will include delivering food kits, personal hygiene items, and COVID-19 prevention supplies, to families and collective centers, selected by municipality authorities and community leaders. At the same time, the distribution of safe water for the population will be supported by disinfection of the communities' own water sources, for this purpose the NIT team specialized in NRC water will be activated, as well as water treatment plants will be put into operation.

A quick evaluation of families requiring temporary accommodation will be carried out for the delivery of tarpaulins, subsequently the families who will need to be provided with materials for the construction of their home and / or rehabilitation of it will be assessed.

Aware of the emotional impact on the population given the stressors they have been exposed to, as well as the impacts on their physical health, as part of the first intervention a psychosocial care team led by mental health specialists, doctors, and National Intervention Team members in Psychosocial Support, have been deployed to meet the psychosocial and medical needs of the affected population. These activities are being coordinated with the Ministry of Health. Another key element is the Restoring Family Links (RFL) since this contributes to the good emotional state of the families. Having news of their relatives who have been in the impact zone where communication has been suspended is essential and the NRC can respond in this sense, due to its presence in the zone, by establishing communication channels to enable the connection of separated family members.

Once the basic needs of the affected population have been met, a medium-term plan will be implemented with actions for the prevention of diseases of vectorial and water origin, basic sanitation and an information and awareness campaign with key issues associated with the intervention such as dengue fever prevention, malaria, COVID-19. Support for the recovery of livelihoods will also be included, using cash assistance where feasible. Disaster risk reduction actions will also need to be developed considering the importance of preparedness and mitigation, as well as increasing risk perception with a focus on climate change and ecosystems and behavioral changes that focus on self-care and community protection.

To address the emergency, NRC requires strengthening operational capacity by improving the communications with branches and Headquarters, which will involve improving telecommunication in the Caribbean region, as well as needing to strengthen staff capacity for emergency care and the development of operational actions itself.

Logistics

Coordination actions are being carried out with the logistics unit of the Regional Office of the IFRC in Panama to strengthen the logistics capacity of the National Society for the distribution of humanitarian aid to the affected areas.

From the beginning of the operation, the purpose of activities in logistics is to effectively manage the supply chain, including mobilization, procurement, customs clearance, fleet, storage, and transportation to distribution sites, in compliance with the requirements of the operation and in line with IFRC's logistics standards, processes and procedures.

Prior every importation process, the National Society needs to get the approval from the National Government, specifically the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All the procedures need to be strictly followed and all the shipments need to be closely coordinated. The Regional Logistics Unit will manage all the coordination with the counterpart of the NS and will advise the next steps for any coordination. Additional Watsan equipment have been sent by road from Panama, to support the needs in the field.

A mobilization table is published and updated periodically, according to the operation needs.

Communications

From the communication area, newsletters have been generated about the actions that have been developed by the NRC since the beginning of the response, which are disseminated through social media and shared with the different partners and donors, as part of the accountability mechanisms. Media coverage is available nationwide to publicize all the response actions that the organization is carrying out.

Community engagement and accountability (CEA)

Community Engagement and Accountability approaches will ensure that participation of local people and communities are at the center of the response. Through appropriate and culturally tailored activities, NS will ensure understanding and uptake of protective measures to increase healthy behaviors at household and shelters level. Activities to promote and understand barriers and enablers of personal hygiene, self-care and environment care, risk reduction and restoration of family contacts as a product of the disaster will need to be understood and responded to.

CEA assessment to identify what are the most trusted, accessible, and preferred channels will be an essential step to guarantee efficient dialogues with communities, and their involvement in the decision-making processes. Channels can range from social media platforms, national and local television channels, WhatsApp, radio, or educational materials. The CEA approach is crosscutting and considered for the activities implemented as part of the different intervention strategies. It seeks to integrate communication and participation for the affected and targeted communities. The activities proposed as part of the CEA approach include: Establish two-way communication dialogues with communities to support community preparedness and primary response actions, promote physical and mental health during and after the flooding emergency through social networks, small group sessions, newsletters other actions. Similarly, establish a mechanism for complaints, consultations, and recommendations during the emergency. CEA support will be provided to other areas such as Shelter, Health, WASH, Livelihoods, PGI, and in the case of Cash interventions, the CEA toolkit for cash programs will be used.

From the early actions of response, it is intended to include the CEA approach, for which it is important to work with the teams that are doing the needs assessments to incorporate some key questions to develop community participation activities in the intervention. Additionally, information as aid actions will be reinforced the public awareness messages not only for the emergency response, but to emphasize the protection messages for COVID-19 and Dengue.

The regional CEA team will support the National Society in implementing feedback mechanisms, as well as support the process of collect, analyze, interpret, and use the feedback data to address questions, doubts and identify rumors that are circulating in the communities. The information collected through these mechanisms will feed into the intervention areas to improve, change, or improve the intervention.

The reinforcement and institutionalization of community engagement and accountability is a key deliverable of the EA considering the necessity to raise the National Society's standard when planning, consulting, and delivering aid to affected populations. In the recovery phase, the CEA team will work with the NSs to define clear standard.

Security

NRC is responding to the emergency and providing much-needed support and assistance. Volunteers and staff have been deployed to remote locations following safety protocols to protect communities and resources. Activities are being supported by the Americas Regional Office and working together with Red Cross Movement partners, authorities, community organizations, and other organizations. Damage assessments were completed, and aid distributions have begun, the National Society has comprehensive security protocols in place and are being supported by the local IFRC Security focal point.

At the regional level, a security surge is responsible for supporting deployments and compliance with pre-travel requirements. Additionally, he supports in the coordination with units, departments and PNS for the clarification of security procedures in Central America and supports in the process of guiding the updating of the MSR. This process has continued and expanded with over 60 pre-travel briefings performed virtually and 83 on arrival to operations areas by the on-ground security delegate.

Progress is being made in the coordination with the National Society and the IFRC Regional Security team, collecting security documents and protocols, which will pragmatically help to ensure the duty of care of our staff and volunteers in

the region. The MSR collection of data and contacts for the MSR documents has finalized and final documents have been sent to Geneva for approval process.

Regional Security Unit, in support of the Head of Country Cluster, continues to coordinate the regional **Business Continuity Plans Team** of the offices and missions in the Americas region, guiding offices and personnel in procedures, based on the global instructions of the Business Continuity Plans Team in Geneva and through constant evaluation in coordination with the heads of our offices and clusters. *These protocols have been adapted and updated as the pandemic progresses.*

The Regional Security Unit has contributed to the coordination of **BCP in Nicaragua** and an IFRC Emergency Plan was approved during the COVID-19 and the pass of hurricanes by ensuring synergy with the National Society and to promote the duty of care and biosecurity. All related documents have been formulated along with the proposals for BCP in country tailored exclusively to the characteristics of the country.

In terms of Operational Security, the technical team involved in the operation, in coordination with the NSs Security Focal Point and IFRC Security guidance will prepare a Security Plan in Nicaragua to ensure the physical integrity of the Volunteers and management team. The IFRC works hand in hand with the National Society to strengthen its Civil-Military Relations (**CMR**), which will allow for the continuity of the relationship with civil and military entities in the humanitarian sector, leading to the development of strategic allies.

More training in operational security is necessary and would promote greater protection to those who protect the communities. This requires an initial training in operational security that covers the basic parameters necessary to keep an installed capacity to improve the processes of how to make briefings, debriefings, what are the situations of insecurity that can be faced in the field, how to report a security incident and create a monitoring mechanism, Civil-Military Relations (CMR), among others. Understanding the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC Office required a review of the Minimum-Security Requirements (MSRs) on site and an articulation of the different support areas and units part of the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) Team to support the emergency while ensuring the duty of care of the personnel, the people we serve, and the partners we are working with. At the regional level, a security surge is responsible for supporting deployments and compliance with pre-travel requirements. Additionally, support in the coordination with units, departments and PNSs for the clarification of security procedures in Central America and support in the process of guiding the updating of the MSR. *This support is in effect and expediting awareness of the special security environment of Nicaragua, the funding for the trainings is being sought for and once secured the trainings will be executed to improve the local capacity of the NRC and mitigate risks and enhance "Due Care" for all staff involved.*

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER)

In response missions to impact zones, a person from the NRC is designated to guarantee the communication of activities to the NRC's Monitoring Commission (planning, monitoring and evaluation unit within the NRC), whose actions are recorded in situation reports that are disseminated daily internally by the Red Cross network, movement partners and donors. Reports are also kept on the actions carried out at the branch level and in the planning and project area.

The Federation-wide approach will be maintained in PMER. In this regard, the IFRC Central America Country Cluster Support Team (CCST) and ARO in Panama will support the National Society in ensuring a coordinated approach with all National Societies with presence in the countries and National Societies supporting without a presence in the countries and region. The IFRC Secretariat will ensure Federation-wide reporting on financial and operational indicators, as well as an updated 3Ws report (showing who is doing what, where in support of the operation.) Support channeled via the IFRC Emergency Appeal will be included in the [donor response](#) list that will be available publicly.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Shelter

People reached: 40,010

Male: 16,004

Female: 24,006

Shelter Outcome 1: Families in communities in the municipalities of Waspan, Prinzapolka and Puerto Cabezas affected by Hurricane Eta restore and strengthen their safety, well-being and recovery through shelter and settlement solutions

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance.	42,500	40,010

Shelter Output 1.1: Short-term and mid-term shelter and settlement assistance is provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families are provided with emergency shelter and settlement assistance.	8,500	8,002

Shelter Output 1.2: Technical support, guidance and awareness raising in safe shelter design and settlement planning and improved building techniques are provided to affected households

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families receiving Technical support, guidance, and awareness	8,500	N/A*
# of trainings for volunteers and staff on PASSA	2	0

Progress towards outcomes

* N/A: no progress to report on this Operational Update

Needs analysis and population assisted:

In the initial phase of humanitarian assistance, teams of volunteers, in coordination with SINAPRED structures, carried out evacuations to safe areas in temporary shelters in different parts of Nicaragua, due to the high impact of the winds, especially on the North Caribbean Coast. In addition, due to the saturation of the soil, flood zones and landslide zones were foreseen, and people from these areas were housed in the various temporary shelters provided by the authorities. Another reason why it was necessary to support evacuations was to safeguard the lives of people at risk who had very vulnerable housing.

During the event, support was also given to evacuate people who could not leave in time to the collective centers. After the event, support continued to be provided for the evacuations in the area of the northern Caribbean coast, since their homes had been partially or totally affected. Some shelters exceeded their capacity, thus activating the solidarity houses to provide shelter to the affected families.

According to the damage analysis, the most affected area of the country is the Northern Caribbean, especially the communities on the coasts and near the river valleys of the municipalities of Prinzapolka, Waspan and Puerto Cabezas. The NRC's interventions are at the national level, but with special attention to the northern Caribbean zone.

Activities already carried out:

- Coordination with the authorities to assist the sheltered families
- Provision of food kits to families
- Safe water supply
- Provision of hygiene kits
- Fumigation for vector control
- Provision of mats
- Provision of blankets



Volunteers from the Rivas branch carrying out evacuations in San Roque. Source: NRC, November 17, 2020

- Psychosocial support activities have been carried out from the shelters that have been set up with children and adults.

Challenges and actions taken to overcome them:

It has been a challenge not having a sufficient supply of temporary roofing kits and sufficient sanitation kits. Another difficulty has been accessing the temporary shelter areas. Part of the actions to face these challenges is the search for donors and strategic partners for the acquisition of equipment and materials.

Accumulated figures as of 31 December 2020				
Municipality	Evacuations		Rescues	Mats
	People	Families		
Waspam	8,529	1,937		100
Puerto Cabezas	13,535	3,414	1,988	
Prinzapolka	6,359	924	1,885	
Bluefields	7,708	882		
Rivas	1,010	268	1,800	
Managua			2	
Total	37,141	7,425	5,675	100



Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 18,414

Male: 7,366

Female: 11,048

Livelihoods and Basic Needs Outcome 2: Families in hurricane-affected communities recover and strengthen their livelihoods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people whose livelihoods are <restored to/ improved from> pre-disaster level	5,000	N/A*

Livelihoods and Basic Needs Output 2.1: Families have received cash, voucher or in-kind assistance to meet their basic needs and regain their livelihoods.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# Families who have received technical assistance to recover their livelihood	1,000	N/A*

Livelihoods and Basic Needs Output 2.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households that have enough food to meet their survival threshold for a month	5,000	18,414

Livelihoods and Basic Needs Output 2.3: Household livelihood security is improved through food production, increased productivity and post-harvest management

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households whose livelihoods are <restored to/ improved from> pre-disaster level	1,000	N/A*

Progress towards outcomes

* N/A: no progress to report on this Operational Update

Needs analysis and population assisted:

According to preliminary assessments by government entities and by NRC staff in the field, it was observed that the effects on livelihoods and subsistence would affect safe access to the population's daily food diet, which would put food security at risk by affecting the most vulnerable groups identified in the communities (pregnant women, children, the elderly, people with disabilities, breastfeeding women, among others). The loss of subsistence crops in the community production area would generate difficulties for families in the following weeks and possibly in the following months. The risk of shortages of traditional consumer products in the food diet would also cause greater migration to other areas in search of these products, bringing other collateral impacts.

As part of the damage analysis, it was identified:

- To complement the food diet through packages or food kits to the affected families.
- Complement the damaged kitchen utensils through deliveries of kitchen kits to families.

- Assessment of impacts on their livelihoods for planning of actions to protect and improve their livelihoods through technical guidance.

Activities already carried out:

- Coordination with the authorities of the SINAPRED from the national level to the municipal level, in order to coordinate the areas to intervene and identify the families to be benefited.
- National activation of volunteers with a focus on livelihoods and CEA for the organization, planning and execution of the distribution plan.
- Organization of the CEA teams for the elaboration of the food packages/kit in the central warehouses of the NS.
- Organization and promotion of the collection points in the branches at national level.
- Transfer of food from the collection points to the national headquarters.
- Mobilization of specialized volunteers to the distribution areas.
- Coordination with the regional authorities of the Caribbean coast, as well as with the departmental authorities of the Pacific area for the execution of the distribution plan.
- Organization of the logistic systems of the NRC for the safeguard, transfer and distribution assurance of the food kits at national level.
- Distribution of food kits has been achieved in the northern Caribbean region (Puerto Cabezas, Prinzapolka and Waspan) reaching affected families in more than 30 main communities such as: Camoatla, Aukumango, Cilibila, Cabo Gracias a Dios, Utlamahtay Boom, Living krid. Distribution was also made to communities in the Pacific area, including Rivas, Jinotega, Wiwili, Ocotal, Yali, Managua, Carazo and also to the southern Caribbean area of Bluefields (Desembocadura de Rio Grande: Pratara, La Esperanza, Guadalupe, Campani Crik, La Cruz de Rio Grande; Anglo America, Betania, Macantaca, Macantakita, Cansa City, Siaguat, La Ceiba, El Gallo and the urban area of La Cruz de Rio Grande).
- Coordination with the authorities of the area for the identification of warehouses and the temporary safeguarding of the products.

Challenges and actions taken to overcome them:

- During the journey for distribution, the NRC found some difficulties such as: difficult land access to some communities, roads inaccessible due to weather conditions, areas still flooded by saturated soils and overflowing rivers. There was also a lot of tree debris on the roads and landslides on certain sections of the roads and highways. These caused temporary road closures and damage to heavy and light four-wheel-drive vehicles transporting food, making it a challenge to provide assistance in the hurricane impact zone.
- Another challenge encountered was the water access routes to the communities on the seashores and riverbanks, since the transport of personnel and cargo is limited, since the boats did not have enough capacity and all the material was not available for personal protection safety equipment to travel to these communities.
- Another difficulty is that some water access communities are not close to riverbanks or the coast, so when the road ends, animal transport continues to load and continue on foot for more than 10 kilometres to reach and distribute.
- Another difficulty is not having safe warehouses in the areas for the adequate protection of the food and to be able to reposition them in the closest areas. Also, the small vehicle fleet that the NRC has for the stowage and transport of cargo and personnel were part of the challenges to be solved in the operation.

Accumulated figures as of December 31, 2020	
Municipality	Food kits distributed
Waspan	5,522
Puerto Cabezas	546
Prinzapolka	3,313
Bluefields	2,000
Carazo	22
Rivas	5,757
Wiwili	100
Managua	854
Ocotal	300
Total	18,414




Health

People reached: 29,565

Male: 11,826

Female: 17,739

Health Outcome 3: *The immediate risks to the health of the affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment*

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households have improved access to medical treatment	8,500	N/A*
Health Output 3.1: The health situation and immediate risks are evaluated according to established parameters		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
Assessed the health needs of the population in the selected communities	1 report	N/A*
Health Output 3.2: The target population is offered disease control and health promotion at the community level		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
NRC Volunteers and population gain knowledge and skills on epidemic prevention and control and basic health services related to chronic diseases during emergencies in the affected areas	1,200	N/A*
Health Output 3.3: Improved access to health care and emergency health care for the targeted population and communities.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families that have improved the access to health care and emergency health care	8,500	954
Health Output 3.4: Transmission of diseases of epidemic potential is reduced		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of mosquito nets delivered to affected families	8,500	N/A*
# of people reached through a health promotion and disease prevention campaign	1,200	N/A*
# of people and volunteers who receive PPE kits in health promotion and disease prevention days	1,000	N/A*
# of people reached with activities aiming to control vector-borne diseases	4,000	1,575 (315 families)
Health Outcome 4: Diminished psychosocial impacts on affected population		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
#of people reached with psychosocial support	3,000	29,565 (5,913 families)
Health Output 4.1: Psychological support provided to the target population and to NRC volunteers		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people who received psychosocial support	2,500	29,565 (5,913 families)
# of volunteers and staff reached with psychosocial support	500	544
Progress towards outcomes		
* N/A: no progress to report on this Operational Update		
<p>Needs analysis and population assisted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical, mental/emotional health is greatly affected after being exposed to two catastrophic and life-threatening events especially when they disrupt the daily life and living conditions of the population. It is important to attend to emotional health in order to address grief or loss processes (especially families who lost loved ones, their homes), post-traumatic stress management and anxiety crises that can be experienced after the event. Other intervention needs are to keep track of the actions related to the pandemic and vector control and with these affectations can increase the level of vulnerability in the affected population. It is necessary to increase the levels of protection for families, both physical and psychological, focusing on vulnerable groups in the affected areas of the northern Caribbean and some Pacific municipalities that have suffered the effects of the passage of the hurricanes. <p>Activities already carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the execution of the operation, coordination has been made with the structures of the disaster response system at different levels of coordination for the opening of the emergency services. Patients have been transferred from shelters and hurricane impact areas. Pre-hospital care has been provided. 		
		 <p><i>PSS session in the Walpasiksa community, more than 130 Km downstream from Alamikamba, Prinzapolka. Source: NRC, December 21, 2020</i></p>

- Psychosocial care has been provided during humanitarian assistance.
- The NRC has carried out post-event recreational activities for emotional support with the following vulnerable groups: children, women, elderly people, and volunteers.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 91,990

Male: 36,796

Female: 55,194

WASH Outcome 5: Families reduce the risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in selected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people provided with safe water services that meet agreed standards according to specific operational and programmatic context	15,000	91,990 (18,398 families)

WASH Output 5.1: A continuous assessment of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation is carried out in the selected communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers trained in WASH	200	20

WASH Output 5.2: Target populations are provided with daily access to safe water that meets Sphere and WHO standards for quantity and quality

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of water wells cleaned and disinfected	300	45
# of people trained in safe water storage, use of water treatment products	15,000	N/A*

WASH Output 5.3: The target population is provided with adequate sanitation that meets Sphere standards for quantity and quality

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of latrines installed	3,000	N/A*

WASH Output 5.4: Hygiene promotion activities that meet Sphere standards for the identification and use of hygiene items provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with key messages to promote personal and community hygiene	15,000	1,573

WASH Output 5.5: Items (NFI) provided to beneficiary families, hygiene-related goods that meet Sphere standards and training is provided on how to use these goods

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# families reached with hygiene items	8,500	4,635

WASH Output 5.6: Cleaning, fumigation, well disinfection, waste management activities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with days of fumigation, cleaning, well disinfection and waste management	15,000	1,575

Progress towards outcomes

* N/A: no progress to report on this Operational Update

Needs analysis and population assisted:

- Affected people in collective centers as well as families who have taken refuge with their relatives will need assistance to cover basic sanitation both for personal hygiene and for their homes such as repair or rehabilitation of latrines, cleaning and disinfection of wells, vector control, emergency hygiene promotion and protection from the COVID-19 pandemic and safe water supply and distribution.
- The passage of the hurricanes caused serious damage to the water, sanitation and hygiene promotion systems at both the structural level of the supply systems and the water sources. Similarly, soil saturation and flooding have caused the flooding and overflowing of contaminated latrines in community wells, also increasing the proliferation of vectors.
- During the rapid assessment made by the EDAN teams, it was identified that the municipal water units and the water regulator did not have the technical and operational capacities to respond to these impacts, and therefore their response capacities were exceeded.
- The most serious effects are recorded in the communities of the three municipalities of the northern Caribbean coast compared to the rest of the country, so the response of this component is more focused on the municipalities of Prinzapolka, Puerto Cabezas and Waspan.
- It is necessary to evaluate the quality of water for human consumption and to promote access to it and preventive health actions (sanitation), for the populations that return to their homes and those that have to stay in shelters. This will prevent outbreaks and epidemics caused by post-flood conditions. At the same time, sanitation actions will be promoted through emergency hygiene promotion and the construction and/or rehabilitation of latrines in the communities where they are needed.
- It is important to train the population on solid waste management and garbage treatment to create healthy environments in the affected population. One of the institutional needs is to equip the water treatment plants. It is also necessary to strengthen the NRC in enabling the stock of water treatment plants to provide a rapid response to existing water needs. On the other hand, to renew the plants that have been damaged in order to continue this humanitarian service in future operations.



Well cleaning in affected communities on the Northern Caribbean Coast. Source: NRC, December 18, 2020

Activities already carried out:

- Activation and mobilization of human resources with a focus on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.
- Preparation of intervention teams.
- Talks on hygiene promotion and vector control in community shelters and solidarity houses.
- Inter-institutional coordination for interventions in WASH.
- Safe water supply to the population and institutions of Prinzapolka, Waspan and Puerto Cabezas.
- Vector control (fumigation) in Waspan and Puerto Cabezas collective centers.
- Cleaning of wells in Puerto cabeza and Prinzapolka.
- Basic training workshop for volunteers from Puerto Cabeza, Bonanza and Rivas in the management of water treatment plants.
- Technical orientation in the management of well sanitation equipment to institutional staff of the municipal and regional water and sanitation units of Puerto Cabezas.
- Support in the monitoring of water quality in the community wells of the southern coast of Puerto Cabezas.
- Evaluation of water sources.
- Delivery of family hygiene kits.
- Purchase of materials, equipment and supply for repair, maintenance and start-up of water and sanitation equipment.
- Organization of the warehouse for WASH equipment.



Safe water distribution in Prinzapolka. Source: NRC, December 16, 2020

Challenges and actions taken to overcome them:

- Mobilization of specialized water treatment equipment.
- Difficult access to the impact zone.
- Damage to some water treatment plants during transfer.
- Limited availability of sanitation chemicals and water quality monitoring.
- Maintenance of the equipment for potabilization, well cleaning and vector control.

- Limited local stock of spare parts for water treatment, well cleaning and vector control equipment.
- Limited personal and specialized protective equipment for drinking water and sanitation.



Protection, Gender and Inclusion

People reached:

Male:

Female:

Protection, Gender & Inclusion Outcome 6: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.

Protection, Gender & Inclusion Output 6.1: Programmes and operations ensure safe and equitable provision of basic services, considering different needs based on gender and other diversity factors.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of trainings for staff and volunteers in Code of Conduct related Gender	20	N/A*

Progress towards outcomes

* N/A: no progress to report on this Operational Update



Migration

People reached: 65

Male: 26

Female: 39

Migration Outcome 7: Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those who assist migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination)

Migration Output 7.1: Family contacts are re-established for people separated from their loved ones as a result of the disaster.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families who have successfully re-established contact with their families	200	13

Progress towards outcomes

Needs analysis and population assisted:

Considering that one of the potential risks in the face of disasters of great magnitude is the loss of contact with families, an initial diagnosis is proposed to assess existing needs, identify the shelters that deserve greater attention and prioritize cases. Subsequently, it is proposed to implement actions such as establishing calls to the families through cell phones that will be located in the shelters; in remote communities they will be made through HF radios or satellite phones, this will allow families to reduce stress by knowing that their relatives are well and will allow them to resume their activities and begin the recovery phase.

Activities already carried out:

- Organization and mobilization of RFL teams to hurricane impact zones.
- Enabling cell phone equipment for family contact calls.
- Search and location of separated families in the evacuations in the shelters and solidarity houses.

Challenges and actions taken to overcome them:

- Part of the limitations is that the NRC does not have satellite equipment to make calls in areas where there is no cell phone coverage.
- HF radios were not available for communications between the shelters and impact zones.
- The interruption of cell phone coverage in the affected areas.
- Electrical service outage.
- Lack of power bank for the supply of autonomous charge of the functioning equipment.
- Lack of 12-volt to 110-volt electrical converters for charging the autonomous equipment supplying power for cell phones.

Accumulated figures as of December 31, 2020

Municipality	Family links restored
Puerto Cabezas	1
Managua	12
Total	13



Disaster Risk Reduction

People reached: N/A

Male:

Female:

DRR Outcome 8: Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of communities prepared to respond to disasters	20	N/A*
# of people prepared to respond to disasters	1,000	N/A*

DRR Output 8.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of communities that have community contingency plans	20	N/A*

DRR Output 8.2: Community awareness programs on climate change risks and environmentally responsible practices are carried out in the target communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# people trained in climate change adaptation	1,000	N/A*

Progress towards outcomes

* N/A: no progress to report on this Operational Update

Implementation Strategies

S1.1: National Society capacity building and organizational development objectives are facilitated to ensure that National Societies have the necessary legal, ethical and financial foundations, systems and structures, competences and capacities to plan and perform

Output S1.1.1: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers insured	1,500	N/A*

Output S1.1.2: National Societies have the necessary corporate infrastructure and systems in place

Indicators:	Target	Actual
NS completes repairs to the Bilwi branch (Yes/No)	Yes	N/A*
NS has necessary vehicles, EOC equipment and systems in place (Yes/No)	Yes	

Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured

Output S2.1.1: An effective and respected capacity increase mechanism is maintained

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of field monitoring missions carried out	5	N/A*

Output S2.1.3: Coordinating role of the IFRC within the international humanitarian system is enhanced.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
Federation-wide reporting mechanism developed (Yes/No)	Yes	Yes

Outcome S3.1: The IFRC together with National Societies, uses its unique position to influence decisions at local, national, and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Output S3.1.1: The IFRC produces high-quality research and evaluations that serve as the basis for promotion, resource mobilization and programming.		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i>Lessons learned workshop developed (Yes/No)</i>	Yes	N/A*
Outcome S3.2: The programmatic reach of the National Societies and the IFRC is expanded.		
Output S3.2.1: Resource generation and related accountability models are developed and improved		
Indicators:	Target	Actual
<i># of narrative reports submitted</i>	5	N/A*
Progress towards outcomes		
<i>* N/A: no progress to report on this Operational Update</i>		



Click here for:

- [Revised Emergency Appeals](#)
- [Emergency Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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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**.