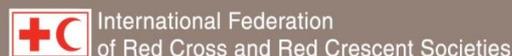


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## Operation Update no. 1

### Colombia: Floods related to La Niña



<b>DREF Operation N° MDRCO018</b>	<b>Operation update:</b> April 2021
<b>Period covered by this update:</b> 17 January to 13 April 2021	<b>Operation start date:</b> 17 January 2021
<b>Operation timeframe:</b> 6 months (two-month extension) <b>New end date:</b> 30 June 2021.	<b>DREF allocated:</b> 173,715 Swiss francs (CHF)
<b>N° of people assisted:</b> This report provides updates on the current readiness phase, so no people have been assisted during the operation as of 9 April; 102 Colombian Red Cross volunteers were trained.	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> <b>Unidad Nacional:</b> National Disaster Risk Management Unit (UNGRD) and public institutions attached to the National Disaster Risk Management System (SNGRD), including the Colombian Armed Forces, National Police, Civil Defence and the Institute for Environmental and Meteorological Studies (IDEAM).	

#### Summary of the main revisions to the Emergency Plan of Action:

The Colombian Red Cross Society (CRCS) with support from IFRC, has been carrying out preparedness actions throughout this period that will enable the CRCS branches to provide Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Livelihoods and Basic Needs services to 1,000 families (4,000 people) that could be affected by a potential emergency due to the rainy season in the departments of La Guajira, Magdalena, and Norte de Santander.

Based on ongoing monitoring of the country's weather conditions, this operation's timeframe will be extended for two months, with no revisions to the budget.

The original Emergency Plan of Action (EPOA) includes two triggers. The actions carried out as of the date of this report fall under trigger 1, which correspond to this DREF's preparedness and readiness phase. With this extension, CRCS will move the trigger activation period to end of June, in line with weather forecasts predicting the imminent onset of a rainy season associated with the La Niña phenomenon from 15 March to the second week of June 2021.<sup>1</sup> With this change, the National Society will keep trigger 2 active based on IDEAM weather forecasts and the bulletins issued by UNRGD. These two additional months will allow CRCS to count on this DREF's resources for the preparedness phase after April during a period in which higher volumes of rainfall increase the likelihood of an emergency that may require activating trigger 2.

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

The Colombia Red Cross Society (CRCS) created an Emergency Plan of Action to prepare and respond to the likely effects of the 2021 La Niña phenomenon in Colombia. As a preventive activation plan, it entails actions that the National Society conducts before a potential emergency related to the La Niña phenomena during the 2021 rainy season. The CRCS will be ready to respond when the likely emergency event occurs.

<sup>1</sup> UNGR National Bulletin 010 on the rainy season; 19 March 2021.



Figure 1. Floods in the municipality of Tibú, Norte de Santander department, March 2021. Source: alertasantanderes.com.

## Forecast-based trigger mechanism

The National Society will do conduct a staggering trigger mechanism that is forecast-based. The first trigger was met with the January 2021 IDEAM forecast (monthly bulletin no. 11) that indicated a 60 per-cent probability of rainfall above average values in the Caribbean and Andean regions. The second trigger would be the UNGRD and the IDEAM issuing a red flood risk alert for flooding in La Guajira, Magdalena and/or Norte de Santander departments. This second trigger initiates the early response activities.

La Niña is a phenomenon composed of positive weather anomalies in some places and negative weather anomalies in others. In Colombia, the positive anomalies usually manifest as an increase in rainfall in the Andean, Caribbean, and Pacific regions, as well as the Plain Foothills of the Eastern Plains, while the negative anomalies present by a decrease in the sea surface temperatures in the eastern areas of the Orinoquía and Amazonia. The latest forecasts for 2021 made by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO)<sup>2</sup> regarding rainfall behaviour in Colombia during the first quarter, indicated a 65 per cent probability that La Niña conditions would continue from February to April 2021, and a 57 per cent probability that conditions will worsen due to increased precipitation throughout the first half of 2021. This increase in rainfall and its impact on the rise in emergencies is beginning to be seen in various departments. In the Pacific Region, specifically, the departments of Nariño, Cauca, Valle del Cauca, and Chocó, the significant increase in rainfall seen from the last week of February to the second week of March has led to several declarations of public calamity. Almost 80 per cent of Valle del Cauca department has been affected by higher-than-historical-average rains. In Antioquia, three heavy rainfall events have caused landslides with damaged roads, bridges, and aqueducts.

The IDEAM models for March and April coincide with international forecasts predicting higher-than-average precipitation levels in the western Caribbean region, some areas in the central Andean region, and the central-western Eastern Plains by 10 to 40 per cent. In the longer term, rainfall above average by 10 to 20 per cent is forecast for May in most of the country.

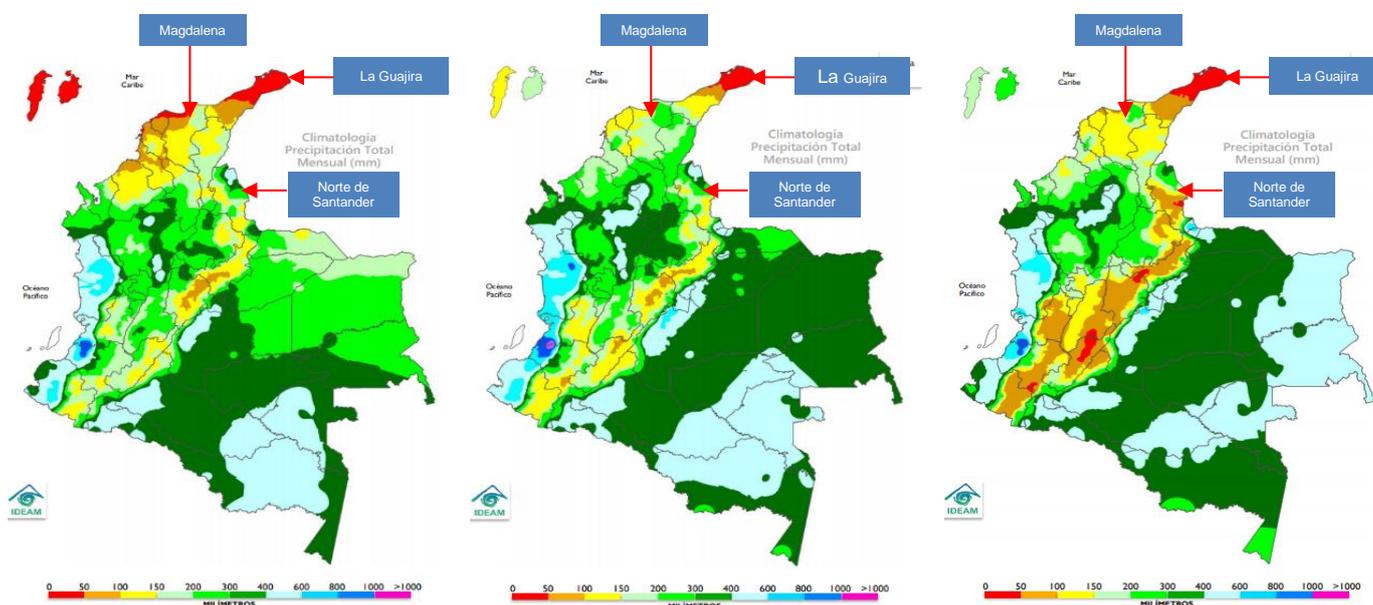


Figure 2. Precipitation forecast maps for April (left), May (centre) and Jun (right) 2021. Lighter shades indicate precipitation above the normal levels. We can see that some affected areas are La Guajira, north of Norte de Santander and Magdalena, among others. Source: IDEAM [Special Communication # 17 La Niña. 2021 First Rainy Season Update](#).

Projections suggest that the first rainy season in Colombia will likely affect many people in April and May. During this period, population centres in La Guajira, Magdalena, Norte de Santander departments, and many others across the country are affected by increases in rainfall, mainly because they are located in areas at risk of flooding or landslides. There is a risk that homes will be destroyed, which generates the need for sites to accommodate or shelter people, and

<sup>2</sup> <https://public.wmo.int/es/el-ni%C3%B1a-ni%C3%B1a-hoy>

that people's ability to move will be restricted because of the damage to highways, bridges, and roads. Flooding directly affects food security, as it affects the crops that provide food to the areas affected and reduces food availability both in markets and for households. The floods also disrupt work activities in communities within affected areas, cutting off families' income. Communities are exposed to hazards associated with decreased access to safe water, which can cause illnesses and an increase in insects that are vectors for disease.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society Response Action

The CRCS monitors seasonal weather forecast issued by the IDEAM in coordination with the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and the branches, through CRCS' Information and Telematics Centre (CITEL), in coordination with UNGRD and CRCS.

The CRCS has a decentralized operational structure at the national, departmental, and municipal levels, enabling it to respond to emergencies related to the first rainy season of 2021. The National Society has staff and volunteers in the various humanitarian areas of focus and vehicles for the transport of personnel and equipment, warehouses, HF and VHF telecommunications networks and equipment, water treatment supplies. The use of these human and technical resources is earmarked in the National Contingency Plan for the First Rainy Season 2021. The La Niña Phenomenon was prepared and updated by the CRCS's Disaster Risk Management Team's.

To coordinate and prepare the national response starting with the second rainy season in 2020 and the La Niña phenomenon during early 2021, the CRCS activated its National Response Plan. This plan entails the alert to all its branches for preparation early actions to reduce possible response times. During this reporting period, the CRCS has updated its Rainy Season National Response Plan. The national level has coordinated with branches to update and build this planning instrument, which describes the CRCS's human, operational and administrative capacities to respond to events caused by this phenomenon, coordinate with government guidelines, and other previously established agreements, protocols, and procedures. This plan aims to undertake preparedness actions to provide timely, effective, and secure humanitarian assistance to the population at risk of situations derived from an increase in levels of rivers or torrential rains, following local government and National Society planning.

The Colombian Red Cross holds a weekly National Crisis Room meeting with its departmental or branch Disaster Risk Management directors. It is coordinated by CRCS's Disaster Risk Management national team to monitor any developments regarding emergencies, disasters, or situations in the country, any operational actions conducted, and the relevant technical requirements.

CRCS participates in an articulated and coordinated manner in technical and operational meetings of SNGRD's National Disaster Management Committee to assess the current context, establish the actions to be carried out by each entity and define intervention or support requirements for events related to emergencies and disasters.

Regarding the emergencies caused by the rains in Huila, Valle del Cauca, and Antioquia, the respective CRCS branches carried out coordinated response actions from the National Directorate and Risk Management areas, including distribution water and food and cleaning kits. They also arranged for machinery to remove landslide debris from roads and recover bridges and aqueduct intakes. Section C provides further information on these actions.

The following table lists CRCS's current lines of intervention and capacities.

Line of intervention	Total	Unit
Human talent	10,506	Volunteers, staff, and Management
Telecommunications	1,014	Equipment and tools
Equipment and tools	974	Equipment, accessories, and supplies for CRECEL
Branch warehouses	22	Warehouses
Shelter	535	Tents for temporary shelter
Health	410	First response equipment and supplies
Transport	332	Vehicles for personnel and equipment transport
Heavy machinery	4	Lift truck
Water, sanitation and hygiene	176	Water treatment equipment, accessories and supplies

### Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions in country

The IFRC is assisting CRCS with this DREF operation through its programme office in Colombia, its Andean cluster in Peru, and the Americas Regional Office (ARO) in Panama. The IFRC has provided technical guidance and financial support to CRCS through its DREF fund to prepare and implement the National Contingency Plan for the First Rainy Season 2021 and the La Niña Phenomenon. This emergency operation aims to prepare the CRCS to provide services to 1,000 families (4,000 people) that could be affected by a potential emergency due to the rainy season in the

departments of La Guajira, Magdalena and Norte de Santander, through the implementation of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene and Livelihoods and Basic Needs actions.

### **Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions in country**

The UNGRD, as the main disaster authority in Colombia, is responsible for the National Disaster Risk Management System that coordinates delivers aid, mobilizes personnel during emergencies. The CRCS maintains a permanent presence at the local level through the Territorial Councils for Disaster Risk Management, including the Committees for Disaster risk Management, the National Unified Command Post (PMU) PMU situation rooms led by UNGRD. Should the La Niña phenomenon become stronger or rain-related events occur, the Crisis Rooms will be activated, from which intervention actions are monitored and coordinated.

UNGRD has updated its National Contingency Plan for the Rainy Season, through which it coordinates with the entities belonging to the SNGRD. This includes CRCS, which by government mandate is part of the system.

The CRCS is also part of the Country Humanitarian Team's Food Security Cluster, Cash Transfer Group, and Water and Sanitation Cluster. These spaces are used to socialize capacities and coordinate the actions of participating agencies, which allows articulating responses and prevents the duplication of response actions in the field.

### **Needs analysis**

The CRCS's plan of action consists of preparing for and responding to potential emergencies caused by the 2020 La Niña phenomenon in the country. The goal is to reach at least 4,000 people living in areas that could potentially be affected by increased rainfall in March and June 2021 in the departments of La Guajira, Magdalena, and Norte de Santander. The specific targeting of communities and families will be based on forecast reports and the levels of vulnerability that can be extrapolated from said reports and will be selected by CRCS in coordination with SNGRD entities. Based on the projected impact under the trigger 2 scenario of a high probability of emergencies due to rains, the main humanitarian needs identified involve livelihoods and WASH.

### **Livelihoods needs**

A participatory community assessment exercise was carried out to assess Livelihoods' needs, with a focus group integrated by community leaders from the three prioritized neighbourhoods in each department using the Vulnerability, Capacity, and Assessment tool (VCA). VCA results revealed high levels of physical, social, and economic vulnerability to risks of torrential rains and floods, a high historical recurrence of emergency events associated with the rainy season, and communities' lack of preparedness to deal with, respond to and recover from these types of events.

Eight community leaders from three community action boards participated in the activity, 28 surveys were applied to the same number of households, and three surveys were conducted with local merchants to monitor markets. Given the occurrence of events associated with the rainy season, priority is given to meeting basic needs such as food security, non-food humanitarian aid, and protection and restoration of livelihoods, which can be addressed through cash transfers.

### **WASH needs**

WASH needs will be assessed in the event of a potential emergency that activates trigger 2. Branches are monitoring the situation with support from the Risk and Disaster Management area. The needs assessment will begin with an assessment of WASH-related damage and needs caused by the emergency. The information obtained will help provide an overview of the situation and the impact, which will be used to determine the needs and the available resources to achieve the most appropriate intervention.

### **Operation Risk Assessment**

In addition to physical (noise, temperature, radiation), biological (viruses, bacteria, stings, bites) and biomechanical risks (effort, handling loads); security conditions (mechanical, locative, traffic accidents, theft); and psychosocial issues (stress, loss of concentration, exhaustion, irritability) that are typical in this type of emergency, the current COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest, increasing and ever-present risks.

In order to reduce the risk of contagion, responders were provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) such as face masks, gloves, face shields, and liquid alcohol, gel and soap for hand washing, previous trainings have been undertaken with volunteers to explain their correct use and adequate behaviours to prevent COVID-19 transmission. Furthermore, response guides were prepared that instruct on how to conduct various interventions in a COVID-19 context and PCR tests were given to institutional personnel returning from the field. In terms of MHPSS, a National Society-wide system of Psychosocial support for volunteers has been established in order to ensure mental health well-being and adequate stress management.

Current epidemiological conditions have led the Colombian government to implement protection measures, including severe restrictions on people's movement and meetings, that have created conditions that may make it necessary to rethink the dates for Trigger 1 activities, limiting the availability of volunteer personnel in the field. Self-protection measures are needed for actions that require contact with the community in order to ensure the risk of COVID-19 transmission is controlled.

Colombia is currently experiencing its third peak of COVID-19 infections. Deaths attributed to the disease began to increase in mid-March and continue to rise - up to 5,000 cases per day are reported. This situation is affecting the Colombian Caribbean most of all, which is where Magdalena department is located. Local authorities issued restrictive and confinement measures for the department's population, so CRCS decided to postpone activities here until the first or second week of May, hoping that the number of cases will have fallen by then in order to be able to approach the community and carry out planned activities with institutional personnel.

Another major risk is the public order situation in several areas, including in target departments. The occurrence of armed incursions, attacks and other types of events by state and non-state armed groups put at risk all personnel and volunteers responding to emergencies on the ground. In this regard, CRCS has been monitoring and assessing security conditions in these areas prior to deployments, as well as defining safer access mechanisms.

This plan describes the preventive activation of activities before the potential emergency is likely to occur; therefore, there is still no disaggregated data on the total impact on the population. This information will be consolidated through SNGRD tables at the local level once the second trigger is reached.

## **B. Operational strategy**

### **Proposed strategy**

#### **Overall Operational objective:**

To prepare the Colombian Red Cross Society to respond to potential emergencies to serve 1,000 families (4,000 people) that will be affected by the rainy season in the departments of La Guajira, Magdalena and Norte de Santander through the implementation of WASH- and Livelihoods and Basic Needs-related humanitarian assistance. CRCS has designed the operational strategy below for this preparation that is presented below.

#### Trigger 1: Preparation

##### Livelihoods and Basic Needs:

- Cash transfer feasibility study and rapid market assessment
- Quick training in cash transfer programmes
- Mobilization of staff and volunteers

##### WASH:

- WASH training for volunteers
- Preventive maintenance of WASH infrastructure

##### Operational support:

- Provision of personal protective equipment

#### Trigger 2: Emergency response

##### Livelihoods and Basic Needs:

- Delivery of 1,000 unconditional cash transfers to cover shelter, hygiene and food needs based on the prioritization of families to be reached.

##### WASH:

- Initial assessment of WASH needs and coordination with local actors
- Hygiene promotion activities

##### Operational support

- Human resources

CRCS has identified a management and technical team to carry out preparedness and response activities. This team is composed as follows

- 1 Operation Coordinator

- 1 Administrative coordinator
- 1 Finance Officer
- 1 Cash transfer technician

20 volunteers will be deployed to support the implementation of the activities directly. If the operation requires scaling up, there CRCS has more than 20,000 volunteers at the national level preventively on call and ready, depending on the magnitude and scope of the emergency in each department.

Red Cross will provide volunteers with the necessary visibility and personal protection elements to enable them to carry out humanitarian work in the safest conditions possible, reducing exposure to COVID-19 infection and other operational risks. If necessary, PCR testing will also be available for volunteers to prevent them from spreading COVID-19 to the target population. All volunteers participating in activities will be covered by insurance, which has already been funded through the Colombia COVID-19 Appeal.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan



### Livelihoods and basic needs

People reached: 45  
 Female: 28  
 Male: 17

**Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods**

**Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.1: Households are provided with cash and voucher assistance to address their basic needs**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of cash feasibility studies and one rapid market assessment	1	in progress
# of families reached with unconditional cash transfers	1.000	N/A

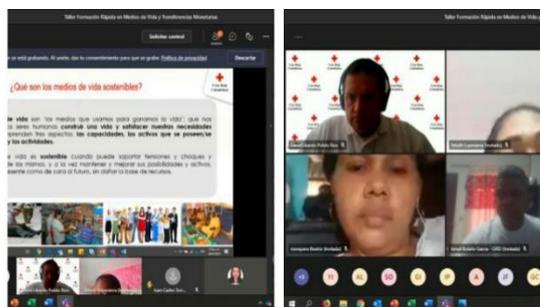
#### Progress towards results:

##### Livelihoods

A cash transfer programme has been proposed as a humanitarian assistance strategy for the Livelihoods and Basic Needs component to enable the affected community to cover some of the needs that may arise due to emergencies caused by floods and other phenomena. These would be unconditional, unrestricted cash grants, in other words, multipurpose cash transfers that would enable people to meet needs such as food, shelter, household items, medicines, or transportation, among others.

#### Cash flow feasibility study and rapid market assessment

One feasibility study and one market assessment have been conducted to date in the Norte de Santander department. The information obtained on households' cash use included access to cash, decisions on how money is spent, and mobile phones to access cash. Regarding the market study, information was obtained on the products most purchased by target communities, their level of access to said products, price variations, the likelihood of a shortage of these products, and a mapping of financial services. This information is being analysed and will be used to inform the feasibility study in Norte de Santander. This same exercise will be carried out in the Magdalena and La Guajira branches in the first weeks of April.



3. Virtual livelihoods and cash transfer trainings in the Norte de Santander, Magdalena and Guajira branches on 20 and 21 March.



3. Needs Assessment: livelihoods, markets and financial providers - Norte de Santander 8-11 April.

### Training on the rapid cash transfer programme

A training workshop on livelihoods and cash transfers was delivered in two phases: the theoretical aspects were delivered virtually, and practice was face-to-face. Forty-five individuals (28 women and 17 men) from three targeted branches participated in the virtual phase, held 20-21 March over the Teams platform. Ten volunteers participated in the workshop's practical phase in Norte de Santander, the information used to inform the feasibility study. This activity was held 8 to 11 April 2021.

Regarding the cash transfer activities for 1,000 affected families, the design and application of an awareness-raising plan, the implementation of CEA, and the performance of a satisfaction survey fall under trigger 2 according to the plan. Implementation will begin once it is activated by the strengthening of the La Niña phenomenon, so there is no progress to report at this time.



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 53

Male: 35

Female: 18

**WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities**

**WASH Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# Initial assessments conducted in WASH	1	Not planned in this period

**WASH Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of water treatment plants maintenance and preparation procedures performed	6	6
# of face-to-face workshops for volunteers on WASH in emergencies and maintenance, operation and deployment of drinking water treatment plants	3	3
# of volunteers trained in the virtual WASH workshop	500	47
# of people reached with water-related services	3,400	Not planned in this period
# of people reached with water that is fit for human consumption	3,400	Not planned in this period
# of water treatment plants operating in priority communities	5	Not planned in this period

**WASH Output 1.4: Hygiene promotion activities which meet Sphere standards in terms of the identification and use of hygiene items provided to target population**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with hygiene promotion activities	850	Not planned in this period

**Progress towards results:**

In terms of WASH, the preparedness phase under trigger 1 seeks to consolidate response capacities repositioned to be implemented if necessary, allowing for equipment that can provide safe, suitable water to the affected population. The WASH preparedness strategy with branches establishes:

- Review of basic quality and quantity parameters according to what the Sphere project establishes
- Establishment of the required water quality and the strategies to achieve ideal parameters in line with national standards.
- Identification of certified laboratories for water quality testing that carries out quality controls according to the intervention strategy.
- Definition, during municipal Disaster Risk Management Council meetings, of how this coordinated work will be established.

The CRCS's planning of WASH actions is governed by response parameters *vis-à-vis* the needs of affected communities, including:



4. WASH workshop in the La Guajira branch

- A plan is in place to record parameters daily by a CRCS portable laboratory and periodically by a certified external laboratory.
- These interventions include a mechanism that records the number of litres of water supplied and its transportation method to the communities, whether at distribution points or transported in tanker trucks under agreements with the Disaster Risk Management Unit's authorities.
- Implementation of WASH actions that involve the Ministries of Health and the municipalities' utility companies.

As for activities: 1) carry out an initial assessment of WASH conditions in targeted communities; 2) coordinate the WASH needs of the target groups with other participants, and the appropriate response; and 3) hygiene promotion planning. These activities will be implemented when

trigger 2 is activated.

#### **Maintenance and tuning of six water treatment plants.**

Maintenance of six drinking water treatment plants in three branches (Magdalena, La Guajira y Norte de Santander)

Magdalena branch:

Technical assessment of two type A drinking water treatment plants including: polypropylene filter membranes and activated carbon, in-line chlorine dispensers, one motor pump for each plant, one electric generator, four Fast Tanks, one bladder and suction and discharge hoses.

Technical assessment of one type B drinking water treatment plant with a 175,000 litre/day capacity including: transport trailer, one electric generator, one 2-inch motor pump, one Fast Tank, two chlorine and coagulant dosing pumps, one electrical panel and suction hoses.

La Guajira branch:

Technical assessment of two type A drinking water treatment plants with a 30,000 litre/day capacity able to work for eight hours non-stop including: polypropylene and activated carbon filter media, chlorine dispenser and the electric generator.

Norte de Santander branch:



5. Preventive and corrective maintenance in the Norte de Santander branch.

The following was checked in one type A drinking water treatment plants with a 30,000 litre/day capacity: the UV light was replaced with chlorine disinfection with a chemical dosing pump, and provided maintenance to the electric generator, two motor pumps, one 8,000-litre Fast Tank and a 10,000-litre bladder.

A procurement process was carried out to acquire the spare parts for the plants' maintenance, as well as for the acquisition of uniforms and PPE to stock up on these items in preparation for deployment and response to any emergency due to the La Niña phenomenon.

Three workshops on WASH in emergencies and deployment, operation and maintenance of drinking water treatment plants were held in all three branches. The workshop at the Magdalena branch was attended by 20 individuals, the workshop in Norte de Santander

was attended by 25 individuals and the workshop in La Guajira was attended by 12 participants, for a total of 57 individuals trained in WASH. A virtual training workshop on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in the Community aimed at volunteers was also held on the CRCS Education Team's Virtual Platform. A total of 780 participants have enrolled to begin their WASH training process.



6. Preventive and corrective maintenance in the La Guajira branch.



7. Workshop on water, sanitation and hygiene in emergencies in the Norte de Santander branch.



8. Preventive and corrective maintenance in the Magdalena branch.

## Strategies for Implementation

**S 1.1: 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 S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
% of volunteers with personal protective equipment	100%	100%

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

**Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of monitoring visits by IFRC:	3	0

# of lessons learned workshops held	1	Not planned for this period
<b>Progress towards results</b>		
<p>All active volunteers supporting CRCS's efforts within the framework of this plan of action are insured.</p> <p>Safer Access protocols are applied, and compliance with security policies is promoted, including briefings on the role of volunteers and the risks they face.</p> <p>This operation includes distributing personal protection items, uniforms, and COVID-19 PCR testing to protect volunteers.</p> <p>Epidemiological conditions in the country have prevented IFRC from conducting any monitoring visits, as only essential missions are allowed, and other security policies stipulated in the business continuity plan of the IFRC office in Colombia.</p> <p>The lessons learned workshop would be held at the end of this operation and reported in the final report.</p>		

## Reference documents

Click here for:

- [DREF 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.