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Operation Update Report N° 1

Guatemala: Population Movement

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation N° MDRGT017	
Operation update N° 1: 10 September 2021	Timeframe covered by this update: 29 July to 31 August 2021.
Operation start date: 29 July 2021	Operation timeframe: 4 months (1-month extension) End date: 30 November 2021
DREF allocated: 50,112 Swiss francs (CHF)	
N° of people reached: 210 people	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation per country: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Attorney General's Office, (PGN by its acronym in Spanish), National Council of Attention to Migrants of Guatemala (CONAMIGUA by its acronym in Spanish), El Refugio de la Niñez, Guatemalan Migration Institute, (IGM by its acronym in Spanish), Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (PDH by its acronym in Spanish), International Organization for Migration (IOM), La Casa del Migrante, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).	

Summary of the main revisions made to the emergency action plan:

The GRC is finalizing the procurement processes for the replacement of pre-ordered supplies to respond to the caravans. Some of these supplies were used to provide services to the population that moved from July 25 until the second week of August 2021, where the influx of Honduran migrants remained constant. The flow of people did not occur as expected according to the scenarios proposed. According to the new context, changes in the people's migration strategy have been included. People are traveling in smaller groups gathered in Guatemalan territory. These groups entered the country on different days and not in a massive movement as has been done before.

The change of context has forced the GRC to provide services to migrants who are returning. Approximately 4,000 migrants have returned from August 11 to 20 through the northern border of Guatemala with Mexico called El Ceibo¹.

As of August 18, the GRC began to provide humanitarian assistance to returning migrants, installing a Humanitarian Services Point at the El Ceibo border. Since then, the GRC has sought to change its strategy

¹ [Voz de America -News](#)

and include the services provided to date in this DREF, providing a new response approach according to the context.

In order to extend GRC's coverage to this new situation, the operation will be extended by one month. The new end date is **30 November 2021**. It is expected that flow of returnees will keep going on in November. This request for a one-month non-cost extension is aligned with the current migrant response in Honduras supported by the DREF.²

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Disaster Description

Massive population movement (caravans)

On 23 July 2021, the Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM for its acronym in Spanish) shared information about an alert issued on a possible mass movement ("Caravan") of 12,000 people arriving from Honduras at the end of July. Based on the alert, migration authorities carried out inter-institutional coordination activities to create an approach strategy to address the possible massive population movement. During the days before the possible migrant caravan, the IGM maintained communications with Honduran migration authorities to provide a binational response, as it had done in past mass movements, where the processes of safe return from Guatemala to Honduras were activated.



Agua Caliente border - Humanitarian assistance to migrants, 31 July 2021. Source: GRC

According to social networks and monitoring by the Honduran Red Cross, between 9,000 and 12,000 people were expected to enter Guatemalan territory in mixed flows, including children, adolescents, adults, men and women. Through the communication and coordination mechanism established between the HRC, GRC and the IFRC, in which the ICRC was invited to participate, it was possible to generate a dialogue and coordination between both National Societies since 23 July, where it was agreed to carry out emergency plans of action in preparation to provide a relevant response to the possible migrant's caravan.

The National Society was prepared to assist migrants in transit through the provision of supplies such as hygiene kits, safe water, first aid equipment in the branches of Guatemala City, Chiquimula, Mazatenango, Coatepeque, Tecún Uman, Izabal and Peten (as contemplated in the GRC National Plan of Action). This plan entailed at the same access points of previous caravans can be the same for this potential caravan, that is, through the borders of Agua Caliente and El Florido, in the department of Chiquimula, and the border of El Cinchao, in the department of Izabal. And the access points to Mexico would be the borders of La Técnica and El Ceibo, in the department of Petén, and Tecún Umán, department of San Marcos.

Population movements began on July 25 from Honduras, with small groups leaving San Pedro Sula and entering mainly through the Corinto border in Izabal. The groups that entered Guatemala from July 25 to August 18 joined in groups of less than 30 people, many of them already grouped in Guatemalan territory. The HRC reported that no more than 100 people gathered at the Gran Terminal de Buses, in San Pedro Sula, at the end of July, as had

² <https://adore.ifrc.org/Download.aspx?FileId=433849>

been reported, GRC maintained its 7 Humanitarian Services Points active during the migratory route in the departments of Petén, Izabal, Chiquimula, Suchitepéquez, Quetzaltenango and San Marcos. Until August 1, groups of 15, 20, and 25 people entered the country every day. Currently, the flow of people has decreased, and the number of visits ranges from 5 to 15 per day in some Humanitarian Service Points.

Migrants do not enter Guatemala at the administrative border offices (migration and customs); they travel through irregular places -blind spots- which makes it difficult to register them. The National Society has carried out a count based on the number of migrants who approach the HSPs, where the registers indicate that children represent 15.40% of the people who attended. As of August 18, groups continue to enter using the same dynamics. GRC reports 599³ people were assisted. The presence of security forces has decreased along the northeastern migratory routes. These small groups migrating are a new migration modality, considering that the governments stop massive movements. Since August 18, the NS has continued to provide regular services at its HSPs in Izabal and Chiquimula as an entry and transit migratory route.

Population movements and mixed flows in Guatemala have increased, enhancing the needs and vulnerabilities of people on the move.

Massive return of migrants at the Ceibo border

Based on previous agreements between Mexico and Guatemala, Guatemala has 4 return centers for Guatemalan deportees, officialized and led by the IGM, the return center in Ayutla, San Marcos (return access by land) and the return center in Guatemala City (return access by air), in addition to the two return centers for unaccompanied migrant children, one in Quetzaltenango (by land) and one in Guatemala City (by air).

On 31 July 2021, the U.S. Government restarted implementing immigration restrictions under Title 42, which authorizes immediate public health emergency removals of migrants. Since then, Central American migrants who are in the United States waiting to be returned, others at the northern border of Mexico with the United States, are returned to southern Mexico in airplanes, where they are then transported to the border with Guatemala, specifically to the Ceibo border, in the municipality of La Libertad in the department of Petén, where there is a new access return point.

Since the week of August 10, approximately 5 to 7 buses per day with 25 to 35 migrants per bus, with migrants of various nationalities, mainly Hondurans, Guatemalans, and Salvadorans, have arrived at the Ceibo border post.

Migrants being returned by the Ceibo border cannot be considered part of a deportation process due to the lack of official records from the National Migration Institute in Mexico and the IGM in Guatemala. This border post does not meet the humanitarian standards for a reception center (Conduction as the reception process of deported migrants is called). The main needs are humanitarian assistance, transportation, and communications. Many of these people are family units with children under five years old, which increases their vulnerability to return without an adequate process or the necessary conditions.

According to official information, from August 22 to September 1, 2021, 3,040 migrants entered through the border of El Ceibo, Petén, including nationals of Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, South America, the Caribbean, and Africa⁴

Summary of people who entered through the El Ceibo border according to IGM

by nationality, sex and age range from 22 August to 1 September 2021.

Country	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total	Buses
Guatemala	486	483	245	228	1,442	97
Honduras	587	316	137	134	1,174	
El Salvador	136	66	23	24	249	
Nicaragua	92	50	8	7	157	

³ The services provided by the National Society were with prepositioned inputs and are reimbursed through this DREF

⁴ Prensa Libre – [statistics](#)

Belice	2	0	0	1	3	
Venezuela	2	0	0	0	2	
Colombia	0	1	0	0	1	
Haití	8	1	0	0	9	
Dominicana	0	1	0	0	1	
EE. UU.	0	0	0	1	1	
Senegal	1	0	0	0	1	
TOTAL	1,314	918	413	395	3,040	97

As of 18 August, the Guatemalan Red Cross team mobilized to Petén to provide humanitarian assistance, setting up a mobile HSP outside the Ceibo border post, where there is currently the presence of actors such as the Casa del Migrante-Belén, the non-governmental organization Refugio de la Niñez (RDN), the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office (PDH), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and the Attorney General's Office.

Current Response Summary

Massive population movement (caravans)

As part of the preparedness strategy for the possible migrants' caravan, the NS, with the support of the IFRC, activated DREF preparedness funds, which have allowed for the replenishment of the humanitarian assistance that has been distributed in 6 branches located through the migratory route. GRC, with IFRC support, began planning its response to the population movement reported in July 2021 by the media. GRC started to analyze possible scenarios and to adapt its Operational Response Plan 2021.

Activities began with monitoring the border areas with Honduras on July 19, and the Humanitarian Service Points were stocked with supplies from July 23. Services provided to groups of up to 20 people in the caravan which began on July 25. From August 18, the SN continued to provide services at incoming HSPs in Honduras with a programmatic approach.

The NS activated 45 volunteers and staff, monitored the borders of Corinto and Agua Caliente in the departments of Izabal and Chiquimiula. The NS provided humanitarian assistance to people entering through the Corinto border since 25 July 2021, assisting a total of 599 people with more than 830 services, which included pre-hospital care, safe water, psychological first aid, orientations, and information about the route, hygiene kits and RFL services.

Summary of people reached by nationality, sex and age range

July 25 to August 18, 2021

Nationality	Men		Women	
	Adult	Children	Adult	Children
Honduras	343	84	110	57
El Salvador	4	0	0	0
Guatemala	1	0	0	0
Total	348	84	110	57

Summary of services provided

July 25 to August 18, 2021

Safe Water	Pre-hospital care	Hygiene Kits	Orientation	RFL Services	Snacks	PSS	Masks
210	132	33	207	56	109	52	31

Massive return of migrants at the Ceibo border

In response to the massive number of returnees to the El Ceibo border, to support the team of the Petén branch personnel from GRC in Izabal, have been deployed to provide humanitarian assistance to the migrant population, such as pre-hospital care, RFL services, including mainly internet connectivity and telephone calls, hygiene kits, safe water, snacks, information and orientation, safe referral processes, and coordination with other actors in the field.

The mobile HSP has been activated with adequate space for first aid, psychosocial interventions, and pre-hospital care. An average of 5 to 7 buses arrives daily at the border post with 25 to 35 migrants per bus, where the GRC is the only specialized health organization present. The NS has enough supplies for three weeks, with a daily attendance of no more than 175 per day.



Delivery of face masks and antibacterial gel to returned migrants in El Ceibo – Peten. August 2021. Source: GRC

Overview of Host National Society

Massive return of migrants at the Ceibo border

Humanitarian assistance began to be provided on August 19 when PHC, health, and RFL specialists went to the Ceibo border area. Since this is an area not registered as a return center, the NS did not have an HSP, so a mobile HSP was mobilized, led by personnel from the Peten delegation, who know the context and the host communities in that area.

With the support of the IFRC, the NS has begun to develop an intervention strategy for the following weeks, consisting of a rotation of personnel, inter-institutional coordination to avoid duplication of services, and joint work with the relevant authorities based on the auxiliary role. Three possible scenarios that could be generated have been developed. A plan for each of these scenarios is planned.

With return migrant population From August 19 to 29, 2021, the Guatemalan Red Cross has assisted 2,342 people (59% men and 41% women) with 10,113 services. Children represent almost 30% of the people reached and the maximum number of people per day assisted in the 10-day interval was 286.

People reached with humanitarian assistance per day

Date	Men		Women		Total
	Adult	Children	Adult	Children	
August 19, 2021	39	33	117	59	248
August 20, 2021	126	35	73	52	286
August 21, 2021	129	2	9	12	152
August 22, 2021	115	7	25	3	150
August 23, 2021	86	51	38	25	200
August 24, 2021	59	39	56	37	191
August 25, 2021	119	41	61	34	255
August 26, 2021	121	41	74	37	273
August 27, 2021	129	53	68	31	281
August 28, 2021	31	44	73	41	189
August 29, 2021	78	7	27	5	117
Totals	1,032	353	621	336	2,342

Summary of services provided at El Ceibo border

August 19 to August 29, 2021

Safe Water	Pre-hospital care	Hygiene Kits	Orientation	RFL Services (calls)	Snacks	PSS	Masks	Psychological First Aid	Self-care messages
1962	1918	223	1982	1102	2102	95	640	85	4

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

Massive population movement (caravans)

Specific actions by the IFRC:

- Developed scenarios with the HRC and GRC⁵.
- Developed a national action plan with the GRC.
- Support the bi-national coordination mechanism between GRC and HRC⁶.
- Maintain coordination with Movement's partners (including the ICRC).
- Maintain coordination between the Disaster Manager and the Regional Migration and social inclusion coordinator for Central America Cluster.
- Maintain frequent communication with the migration area with the Mexican Red Cross.

Massive return of migrants at the Ceibo border

Specific actions by the IFRC:

- Developed scenarios with the GRC.
- Accompanying the NS in inter-institutional coordination.
- Mobilization of the Central America migration coordinator to the field to assess needs.
- Maintain coordination between the Central America Disaster Manager and the Regional Migration and social inclusion coordinator for Central America Cluster.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

About the massive return of migrants at the Ceibo border

Actor	Actions
UNHCR	Dissemination of Information on migrants' rights; monitoring observance of migrants' rights and coordination through their local partners
Pastoral of Human Mobility	Through the Casa del Migrante Belen, with the support of IOM, accommodation, food and COVID-19 prevention kits are provided to returned migrants who stay in the community of Ceibo.
El Refugio de la Niñez (The Children's Refuge)	It has delivered hygiene kits, food kits (snacks), telephone call services, psycho-emotional support. Identification of protection needs and international protection.
Human Rights Ombudsman	Issuing proclamations and holding press conferences on migrants' rights
Guatemalan Government	<i>Guatemalan Migration Institute (IGM)</i> has a presence at the border crossing point, but does not carry out a formal registration process, due to the lack of a deportation order. <i>Consejo Nacional de Atención al Migrante de Guatemala (CONAMIGUA)</i> , has carried out a pilot process of

⁵ [Scenario planning 2021](#)

⁶ This mechanism was activated on July 23 and closed on August 3, 2021.

	transporting Honduran and Salvadoran people from Peten to their borders of origin. <i>Attorney General's Office</i> , is working in coordination with the Children's Shelter to identify the protection needs of children.
IOM	Provides humanitarian assistance through the Casa del Migrante and supports voluntary return processes.
OXFAM	It has delivered family hygiene kits, Food and hydration kits for children, Identification of victims of violence and shelter processes for women survivors of violence.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Return migration is one of the most common flows in Guatemala. This country has been characterized as a country of origin, transit, and mainly the return of migrants. The National Society has supported returnees since 2009 within its humanitarian assistance activities.

Need analysis

The National Society deployed a team of 15 migration program staff to the Ceibo border post. As of August 18, 2021, first aid and RFL services began to be provided immediately through the mobile PSH. A follow-up visit and needs analysis (by the NS migration program coordinator and IFRC technical support through the regional migration and inclusion coordinator for Central America) was carried out to identify the current humanitarian needs of the returning migrant population arriving in Ceibo. Information was gathered on the needs of migrants during their transit to provide care that responds to the needs and vulnerabilities of returning migrants.⁷ Likewise, during observation and inter-institutional dialogue, the team sought to identify the services provided by other actors in the field to meet the needs of returning migrants jointly and thus avoid duplication of services.

Needs analysis visit to El Ceibo, between August 25 and 26, 2021, was carried out with the participation of 4 facilitators of the NS. They managed to survey a total of 54 migrants. Of the total number of respondents, 63% were male, 33% female, 4% other genders. 56 percent of respondents were Hondurans.

Shelter

The Ceibo border post is not a structured return center, there is no specific space for the reception of returned migrants, and there is currently no official return registration. In the community of El Ceibo, there is a presence of the pastoral of human mobility of the Catholic Church, and there is a Casa del Migrante, called Belen, which is the only free shelter in the area and can accommodate 15 women and 15 men at the same time. Since August 11, Casa Belen has been sheltering approximately 150 to 180 returned migrants per day, mainly Hondurans and Guatemalans. Casa Belen does not have the conditions to host this number of people since the maximum capacity is 30 people.

Based on the need's assessment visit to El Ceibo, respondents identified 4 main needs for shelter, 46% (14 men, 10 women) identified blankets as the main need, followed by humanitarian transportation services by 31% of respondents, lodging rentals by 28% and tents by 24%.

Health

Based on the needs of returned migrants in Guatemala, it is known that one of the main physical health conditions presented by returning migrants, mainly children, refers to respiratory and broncho respiratory diseases. In addition to some affections in the feet due to their long journey. The Ministry of Health oversees performing COVID-19 tests on migrants returning from a deportation process in the official return centers. However, since the migrants returning to El Ceibo are not under a deportation process, they do not have access to COVID-19 tests or primary health care through the Ministry.

⁷ For more information see the rapid needs assessment summary – El Ceibo

Migrants returning through El Ceibo have mild cases of heatstroke, dizziness, stomach upset, and dehydration; in the case of children, they have more critical cases of respiratory diseases. However, one of the main health needs is the need for psycho-emotional accompaniment, the mental health is essential, accompanied by protection actions, including referral of cases with special protection needs.

For most people returning, the mental health it is essential, most of them don't have relevant information, including information about where they are.

As mentioned, COVID-19 remains a latent risk that increases the vulnerabilities and needs of migrants who do not have the necessary information and prevention equipment. Guatemala has increased the number of positive COVID-19 cases. Migrants are among the most vulnerable profiles to COVID-19, as shown in the report - [Confined and Excluded? Why access to essential services for migrants is critical to our response and recovery from COVID-19](#) - based on research conducted in all regions by the newly established Red Cross Red Crescent Global Migration Lab, hosted by the Australian Red Cross and supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), presented several challenges that the migrant population face. The report shows that while the closures and other measures were designed to control the spread of COVID-19, they inadvertently increased the suffering of migrants in many contexts. The research found that even in situations where migrants had been included in COVID-19 policies, their actual ability to access essential services was often limited. For example, migrants have been unable to access COVID-19 testing or treatment in some countries because they do not have a national identity or social security number. This is also likely to affect access to COVID-19 vaccines, even if eligibility exists in law. In other situations, migrants reported that they were hesitant to consult a doctor, seek treatment or, more recently, enrol in COVID-19 vaccination for fear of revealing private information that could be shared with immigration authorities to arrest, detain, or deport them. In some countries, migrants must register online for COVID-19 vaccination, contributing to exclusion due to migrants' limited internet access or digital literacy and language barriers.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

Some migrants have suffered dehydration due to their exposure to high temperatures and the long hours on the return bus. The conditions force them into unhygienic conditions. Many of the returnees have only one mask given to them at the beginning of the return process. The children do not have masks. The needs analysis surveys mentioned soap and supplies for oral hygiene and sanitation elements such as a mask, antibacterial gel to prevent COVID-19, wet wipes, and sanitary napkins. GRC is the only organization in the field that provides safe water. One of the primary needs, all returnees who approach the HSP seek to obtain safe water.

Children and mothers mostly do not have many belongings, few clothes, including underwear. The assessment identified that baby clothes to maintain hygiene are a priority for mothers and family units.

Protection, Gender, and Inclusion

Many of the women reported that during the process, they had been separated from their children. The separation of families, the difficulties present during their migratory journey, and the uncertainty of what to expect once they reach their destination have affected migrant's mental health (depression, anxiety, and sleep disturbances, among other conditions).

Many of the migrants to whom RFL services were provided indicated that they have a range of 5 to 15 days without communicating with their families. Upon arrival at the border point of return, people seek a phone call where they mainly choose to contact their family in the United States or Mexico. In the need's assessment exercise, the top 3 needs identified were: solar chargers (46%), extra underwear (37%), and sun caps (35%).

The lack of collective centres and reception services for children increases the risks for returned migrants. Many family units and women who return alone do not have a previously defined route to where they will go and how they can return to their countries or communities' origin. Some of them even report that they cannot return to their countries of origin due to violence. Referral of persons in need of protection is indispensable.

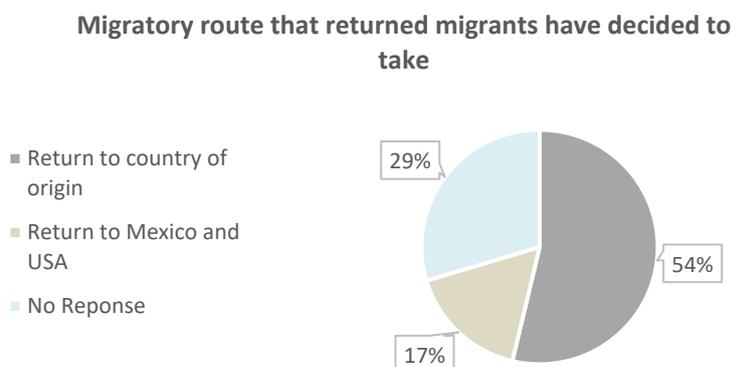
Based on the number of services provided by the National Society and the number of buses of returned migrants that arrived at El Ceibo on August 25, for every 27 adults, there are a total of 21 children, which represents 78% of children, some of the buses arriving at the border are family units.

One of the priority target groups is women. Considering the findings of the recent research called "*Normalizacion y violencia*"⁸ led by UNFPA regarding the risks for migrant women in Guatemala, migrant women are highly exposed to different varieties of violence and vulnerabilities.

Migration

The mobile HSP is located 500 meters from the El Ceibo border, providing RFL, health, and WASH services. As mentioned before, many of the people who arrive at this border do not know their location. It is difficult for them to identify their possible route, as this may be to return to their countries of origin or retake the migratory route. The need for transportation is a priority for returned migrants who are not Guatemalans to return to their countries of origin. CONAMIGUA (National Council of Attention to Migrants of Guatemala) is carrying out a pilot plan to put official buses of the Guatemalan government to help in the return, mainly Honduran and Salvadoran migrants.

When asked what route they will take after arriving at the El Ceibo border crossing point, 54% of those surveyed answered that they have decided to return to their countries of origin, 17% will take the route back to Mexico and the United States, and 29% chose not to answer this question.



Institutional Strengthening

Although the National Society has increased its capacities on migration issues in the last two years, and in the framework of the previous DREF operation of the Population Movement, together with other migration projects, including the Monarch Butterfly Project, constant capacity building to volunteers is necessary. As part of the preparation phase, refresher sessions on key protection and referral messages are conducted with volunteers. The NS will use the lessons learned and knowledge acquired from the Monarch Butterfly Programme, such as using the differentiated care guide for mental health and psychosocial support for migrants.

Targeting

Guatemalan Red Cross provides its services based on fundamental principles and in the case of the returnees, the response is provided to all people who are in mobility, regardless of their nationality, however it is sometimes necessary to prioritize some groups that make up the caravans such as:

- Pregnant women
- People with disabilities
- Older adults' persons.
- Children, unaccompanied/separated children.
- Unaccompanied women
- Members of the LGBTIQ+ community
- Single-parent families

⁸ [UNFPA. Normalizacion y Silencio, violencia contra las mujeres en las migraciones. Noviembre 2019.](#)

- People with chronic illnesses.

Estimated disaggregated data for population targeted.

Category	Estimated % of target group ⁹	% female	% male
Young Children (under 5 years)	2%	50%	50%
Children (5-17yrs)	27%	48%	52%
Adults (18-49 yrs)	65%	38%	62%
Elderly (>50 yrs)	6%	33%	67%

Scenario planning

This scenario planning exercise has been created by the NS and the IFRC, the extended document is in validation.

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
Scenario 1: Ending return flows through unofficial migration posts and increasing official return.	<p>Although the official return centers have the capacity to receive migrants, if the number of returning migrants exceeds 35 per day, they do not have the conditions to provide services to all returning migrants.</p> <p>This situation might trigger the following humanitarian consequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of sanitation conditions. Lack of access to food and water for human consumption. Overcrowded conditions. No access to physical, mental/emotional health. Biosecurity risks. Lack of access to personal protection supplies and COVID-19 tests Temporary housing space needs in cases where Guatemalan families return and their communities of origin are far from the return center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination between the NS of Guatemala and IGM, to provide services inside of the official returnee's centers. Coordination with ICRC, IFRC, and external actors present in the area. Needs assessment inside of the returnees centers (part of the auxiliary role) Mental health and PSS. First aid and pre-hospital transfer. Hydration and hygiene promotion education. Distribution of hygiene kits differentiated by age and gender. Identification and referral of protection cases. Restoring of Family Links. Humanitarian diplomacy to improve conditions.
Scenario 2: Increase in the population of Central American migrants at unofficial border posts.	<p>If migrant returns increase again, through unofficial border points that are not return centers, humanitarian needs increase and are reflected in the current needs described above (this is the scenario that was presented since August 11, 2021).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical injuries No access to communication Separation from family and increased risk to children and especially vulnerable populations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination between the NS with the IGM Coordination with ICRC, IFRC, and external actors present in the area. Needs assessment. Mental health and PSS First aid and pre-hospital transfer. Food and snacks. Hydration and hygiene promotion education. Distribution of hygiene kits differentiated by age and gender.

⁹ Numbers estimated from registration data of services provided since this operation begun.

	<p>Psychological and emotional conditions. No access to physical, mental/emotional health.</p> <p>Biosecurity risks.</p> <p>Lack of information on where they are and the return routes to their countries of origin (in the case of non-Guatemalan returnees).</p> <p>Psychological and emotional conditions. Exposure to climatic conditions causes illness and death.</p> <p>Lack of official records of deportation, as they are not official borders.</p> <p>Increased food and lodging needs.</p> <p>Lack of food and food for babies and nursing mothers.</p> <p>High security risks for groups in vulnerable situations (children and adolescents, LGTBIQ, women, pregnant persons, indigenous people, migrants from outside the continent, older adults, people with incapacities, among others).</p>	<p>Identification and referral of protection cases.</p> <p>Restoring contact between family members.</p> <p>Humanitarian diplomacy to improve conditions.</p>
<p>Scenario 3: Increase of population of Central American migrants at unofficial border posts and an increase in migrants in transit (caravans)</p>	<p>One of the most risky scenarios, but with a medium probability, would occur if the return process through unofficial border points continues to increase and a caravan of migrants is added to it. If the number of returnees is between 90 people per day in unofficial return and a caravan of 5000 people is added (see EPoA of preparation), the NS would not have sufficient resources to provide care to both flows.</p> <p>The conditions of political, economic and health instability would increase the vulnerabilities and needs of the population in transit, as well as the action plans developed by the NS.</p> <p>Militarization of borders (Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico)</p> <p>Clashes between migrants and border military police</p> <p>Family separations</p> <p>Child trafficking and sexual exploitation.</p> <p>High security risks for groups in vulnerable situations (children and adolescents, LGTBIQ, women, pregnant women, indigenous people, migrants from outside the continent, older adults, people with incapacities, among others).</p> <p>Impact on migrants' physical, mental, and psycho-emotional health.</p> <p>Lack of capacity in Guatemala to meet the basic needs of the migrant population.</p>	<p>Coordination between the NS of Guatemala and Honduras to meet needs.</p> <p>Coordination with the State institutions responsible for both flows</p> <p>Coordination with ICRC, IFRC, and external actors present in the area.</p> <p>Needs assessment.</p> <p>Homologated services of the two NS.</p> <p>Mental health and PSS</p> <p>First aid and pre-hospital transfer.</p> <p>Food and snacks.</p> <p>Hydration and hygiene promotion education.</p> <p>Distribution of hygiene kits differentiated by age and gender.</p> <p>Identification and referral of protection cases.</p> <p>Re-establishment of Family Links.</p> <p>Community Engagement and Accountability and feedback.</p> <p>Humanitarian diplomacy to improve conditions.</p>

	<p>Radical decisions by the Governments of Honduras, Guatemala, and Mexico (border closures)</p> <p>Population stranded in one location for several days would lead to xenophobia-related situations among residents, especially in border communities (return and inbound)</p> <p>Stress and despair increase the levels of vulnerability among the migrant population, who become easy targets for common crime, fraud, extortion, others.</p>	
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IMPORTANT: Based on the proposed scenarios and how difficult it has been to predict the flows of migrants transiting through Guatemala, as well as the sudden appearance of new return, flows, as is the current case in El Ceibo, the GRC sees the need to seek an extension of this operation for an additional month. This will allow the National Society to have a margin of time to monitor other borders, such as the border with Honduras (Corinto) or the southern border with Mexico (Tecún Uman). Constant monitoring will be maintained at the El Ceibo border (Guatemala – Mexico), based on the dissipations of the authorities of each State with sufficient supplies in the Santa Elena Peten branch, to respond to an increase again in the flows of returnees through unofficial posts.

There is little certainty of the context, and although possible scenarios have been constructed, mixed flows and increases in mass migration in caravans are challenging to predict. There is a precedent of flow increase in October and November (as happened in the caravans of 2018 and 2019)¹⁰, the largest caravans of migrants have occurred. Therefore, in a dialogue between GRC and HRC, it is sought that both NS can extend their DREF funds until November to be prepared to respond before the possible flows, both of exit and transit and return, to give a cross-border response in an approved and adequate way.

Operation Risk Assessment

2021 Hurricane and rainy Season:

The tropical cyclone season for the Atlantic basin officially started on 1 June and on 15 May in the Pacific, and both conclude on 30 November 2021. Two to five tropical cyclones are expected for the season in the central Pacific hurricane region. These numbers include tropical depressions, named storms, and hurricanes. A near-normal season has four or five tropical cyclones. The rainy season and the probability of hurricanes are always a latent risk, although the Petén area is not prone to this type of natural hazard.

The COVID-19 situation

This DREF operation and its operational strategy considers the risks related to the current COVID-19 pandemic and is aligned with the IFRC global emergency appeal that supports National Societies to deliver assistance and support to communities affected or at risk of being affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. According to information from the World Health Organization (WHO)¹¹, as of August 31, Guatemala reported a cumulative of 465,799 positive cases of COVID-19. As of August 30, the Guatemala government has managed to immunize 11.57% of its population with at least one dose of vaccine against COVID-19¹².

National Society responses to COVID-19 are supported through the [IFRC global appeal](#), which is facilitating and supporting them to maintain critical service provision, while adapting to COVID-19. This DREF operation is aligned with and will contribute to the current global strategy and regional Emergency Plan of Action for COVID-19 developed by the IFRC Americas Regional Office, in coordination with global and regional partners. This means

¹⁰ [OIM-Migrants, Caravans 2018](#)

¹¹ [WHO](#), COVID Explorer.

¹² [Our World in Data](#), Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccinations. 23 July 2021.

that the NS will ensure, even as it responds to the current dengue outbreak, COVID-19 prevention measures are adhered to, in line with regional plan of action and its national COVID-19 country plan.

IFRC continues to assess how emergency operations in response to disasters and crisis should adapt to this crisis and provide necessary guidance to its membership on the same. The NS will keep monitoring the situation closely and revise the plan accordingly if needed, taking into consideration the evolving COVID19 situation and the operational risks that might develop, including operational challenges related to access to the affected population, availability of items, procurement issues, and movement of NS volunteers and staff. For more information, please consult the COVID-19 operation page on the [IFRC Go platform](#).

There is a possibility that deportations through the El Ceibo border may stop, as negotiations have already begun between Mexico and Guatemala, and advocacy has been done through United Nations agencies to stop these unofficial processes. If the returns through El Ceibo are stopped, the NS will modify its strategy to continue providing return services in order to reach the most vulnerable people.

Increased flow of returns

Based on previous experience, returns from Mexico cause a risk to the population due to the emotional impact on their communities. The demand for services in return increases, which may put the operation at risk due to the level of the response capacity needed and the difficulties mentioned in the scenarios.

There are external factors to the NS that could generate a slowdown in the activities. Since it is not an established and official migration reception center, there could be the possibility that the Guatemalan authorities reach agreements with Mexico to control the flows of Central American migrants in El Ceibo. However, according to the IGM, approximately 107,000 Central American migrants are awaiting be return between the U.S. and Mexico centers, which means that the return process will not stop for a long time.

Another external factor is the security of the place. Currently, not having a specific space to provide services has caused the NS to initiate a security plan to ensure the conditions of the staff and volunteers on the ground.

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

Due to the context mentioned above, GRC seeks with this operation update to access the total amount initially assigned to the DREF's Emergency Action Plan in anticipation of caravans to respond to the flow of returning migrants arriving at the El Ceibo border point in the department of Petén.

Based on the rapid change of context and migrant flows, the NS is monitoring on August 28 other borders such as the Tecún Uman border and the Entre Rios border to identify new flows and provide them with assistance both in return and in transit.



HSP in Peten. GRC, August 2021.

Based on the scenario and experience of the past operations in 2018 and 2019 and the long-term projects, the NS provides services to returning migrants, including work at the community and the work coordinated with the Movement and the National Action Plan. The Guatemalan Red Cross aims to continue providing humanitarian assistance in line with its Plan of Action and Health, WASH and Migration services. Through this operation, the National Society seeks to continue providing care and conducting new actions to assist migrants following the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and the Global and Regional Migration Strategy.

All actions are aimed at positioning six branches with the necessary supplies to provide an adequate response. The Guatemalan Red Cross has positioned snacks, safe bottled water, differentiated hygiene kits, shelter kits,

play kits, self-care messages, cell phone airtime for RFL, awareness materials, pre-hospital supplies, and essential medication for pre-hospital care, personal protective equipment for staff and beneficiaries, among others.

- A needs assessment, including consideration of gender and diversity aspects, has been carried out with the support of the IFRC. The findings have been included in the respective sections.
- Procurement for the replenishment of the pre-positioned supplies for the possible caravan is in the process of being finalized and has been procured to NS standards that can respond to current needs.
- Dialogue tables have been set up with the IOM and the IFRC at the field level to allow collaborative work and avoid duplication of services.
- A constant dialogue is maintained with the health referents of the Municipality of La Libertad, including the health program of La Libertad, to refer cases of health care needs.
- Based on the number of returning children, priority will be given to purchasing children's hygiene kits.

Human resources

GRC has informed its 1,680 volunteers of the situation and alerted its 21 delegations. GRC plans to mobilize eight delegations and 27 volunteers and mobilize 24 staff from the GRC migration program.

For the field intervention, due to the current situation of increased number of returnees from El Ceibo, currently the National Society has activated the migration program staff in the branches, with a total of 24 staff and 10 volunteers, who carry out 5-day shifts with a minimum of 8 people per shift.

For HSP care, staffing is as follows (for each shift):

- 2 persons for primary health care and pre-hospital care.
- 1 driver and HSP facilitator
- 2 people for RFL services
- 2 people for psychosocial support
- 1 person for orientation, information and referrals (Protection)

Logistics and supply chain

GRC has logistical positioning and supplies in six delegations to respond to the massive mixed flow of migrant population.

Due to the emergency of massive deportations to the border point El Ceibo, Petén, daily supplies are needed to serve at least 175 people, due to the high demand for services. The main supplies that are planned to distribute (including from other resources) are as follows:

- 2,000 Snack Kits.
- 4,800 units of safe bottled water.
- 400 differentiated hygiene kits
- 200 warm kits,
- 40 PSS kits,
- 1,000 COVID-19 self-care messages,
- 16 recharges to cell phones for RCF for 7 days,
- Pre-hospital supplies (1,000 people).
- Basic medical supplies (1,000 people) for pre-hospital care,
- Personal protective equipment for staff and beneficiaries (1,000 people).

Information Technology (IT)

GRC's delegations use a 2-metre and an 11-metre radio communications system at the national level, which allows for communication and the coordination of all operational and security aspects. GRC has no plans to buy any communication materials for this operation.

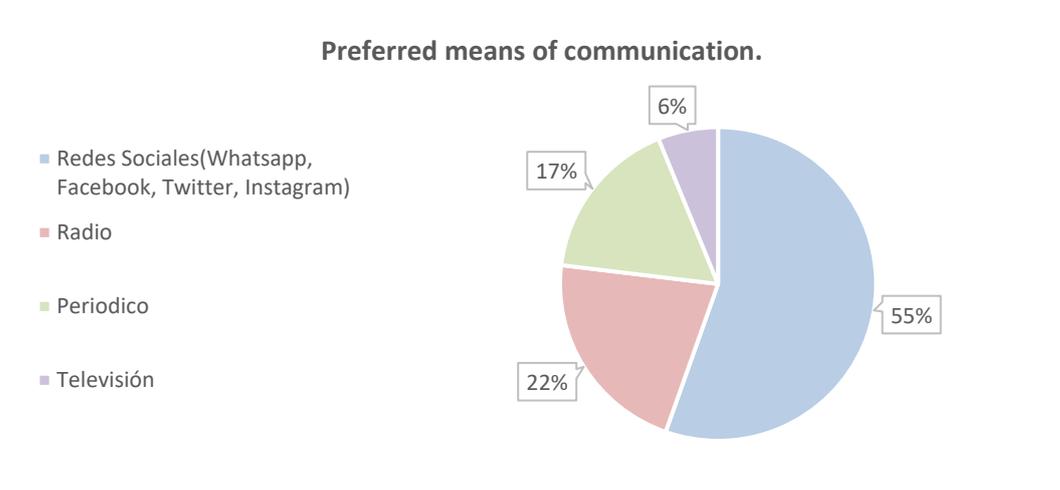
Communications

GRC's organizational structure includes a Communications and Press Department, which is responsible for disseminating operational, institutional, and technical information, and information for donors and the public. The communications team is currently in the field, documenting the work of the NS through the HSP in the field.

IFRC's Communications Department is providing technical support and assistance to the communications strategy, and its communications officer will be deployed as necessary to support these activities.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA)

Through the need's assessment exercise carried out with the returned migrants in El Ceibo, the means of communication they preferred to keep in touch was consulted. 55% indicated that they preferred social networks (Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram), as shown in the graph.



They indicated that they need to receive maps, guidance information on safe routes, and migration services as a priority.

Security

As in the caravan response action framework, for this intervention, the GRC will develop a Mission Security. Contingency Plan based on Stay Safe, the Safer Access framework, and the safety protocols and procedures; all deployed GRC personnel will be aware of these safety guidelines. The National Society is analyzing and creating a specific security plan for the area due to the multiple risk factors in the area, including organized crime. Currently, we are monitoring possible risks in the border area of Ceibo, focusing on the safety of staff and volunteers from the IFRC are in dialogue with the migration referent of the NS on the internal security monitoring of the NS.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER)

To keep abreast of the planned actions' progress and the situation's evolution, IFRC technical staff will also conduct monitoring visits during the operation. The scenario is continuously changing, and constant monitoring will help assess the need to expand intervention. With technical support from IFRC's PMER staff, a survey form was developed using the Kobo tool to collect information on the needs analysis in the field, in addition to database cleaning and analysis.

Previous lessons learned experiences and findings of earlier interventions had stated the need to build volunteers' capacity through the implementation of low-cost, high-impact activities at the local level, including:

- Awareness-raising or refresher activities for hired and volunteer staff in the active branches (as deemed necessary by each).
- Basic knowledge of PGI (briefing sessions for volunteers and staff)
- Update on migratory contexts (Including contingency plans for this type of emergency)
- Mental Health and Psychosocial support through primary PSS for the people in the move.
- Stress management and PSS for volunteer staff.

Administration and Finance

This operation's administrative and financial procedures align with the GRC's quality control procedures. They will strengthen all the GRC's actions in its humanitarian mission, ensuring transparency and adequate accountability. The GRC's Management and Finance Unit will support the operation.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Health

People reached: 132 people

Male: 95

Female: 37

Outcome 1: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with health services	3,000	132
# of people reached through MHPSS actions	500	0
# of ambulances supporting the operational activities	5	2

Output 1.1: Target population is provided with rapid medical management of injuries and diseases

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of active GRC volunteers providing support to operational activities	27	15

Output 1.2: Psychosocial support provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people that receive PSS	500	52
# of volunteers that receive PSS	27	0

Progress towards outcomes

As part of its caravan response action plan and in line with the DREF's EPoA for caravan preparedness, the NS began on July 23 to review medications and first aid equipment. It also conducted inventories of pre-hospital supplies in the delegations of Chiquimula, Puerto Barrios, and Petén. The other three in preparation branches were Mazatenango, Coatepeque, and Tecun Uman. This allowed repositioning the appropriate supplies based on the needs of each delegation. Likewise, all the first aid kits, medicines, and personal protection equipment were distributed among the branches on alert, focusing mainly on the branches with HSP at the entrances from the borders with Honduras.



Repositioning of first aid supplies in Izabal HSP. July 2021. Source GRC

These services were delivered in the HSP in Izabal.

Health services provided July 25 to August 18, 2021		
Pre-hospital care	Snacks	PSS
132	109	52

GRC has implemented mental health and psychosocial support activities in communities based on its Guide to differentiated health care and psychosocial support for migrants.

As of August 18, the NS has continued to provide regular attention to migrants in transit entering through Honduras; the caravan, as expected, did not occur. The services will continue programmatically as usual in these border areas.

Currently, the NS has activated the migration program staff in the branches, with 16 staff and 15 volunteers, who carry out 5-day shifts with a minimum of 8 people per shift.



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People reached: 210 people

Male: 151

Female: 59

Outcome 2: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people that receive safe water distribution services.	3,500	210

Output 2.1.: 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 units distributed for human consumption	8,328	210

Output 2.2: Hygiene-related goods (NFIs) which meet Sphere standards and training on how to use those goods is provided to the target population

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of hygiene kits for adults prepositioned in the prioritized GRC branches.	850	850 ¹³

Progress towards outcomes

The NS provided humanitarian assistance to small groups of people entering through the Corinto border, starting July 25, assisting 210 people with safe water and mask.

It has been necessary to constantly monitor the entry and transit routes of migrants to identify small groups of migrants.

Health services provided July 25 to August 18, 2021		
Safe water	Masks	Hygiene kits
210	31	33



GRC volunteers provide drinking water to small groups of migrants who crossed the Corinto - Entre Rios border, July 2021. Source: GRC

¹³ Prepositioned.



Migration

People reached: 207 people

Male: 149

Female: 58

Outcome 3: Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit and destination)

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with RFL services.	TBD	56

Output 3.1: Family links are restored for people separated from, or without news of, their loved ones as a result of the disaster

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of RFL response teams mobilized to provide RFL services.	5	2

Output 3.2.: Protection and self-care messages are provided to migrants.

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with self-care messages	850	207

Progress towards outcomes

During the days that assistance was provided to people traveling in small groups from Honduras, RFL services were less than those of other larger flows, mainly at service points further away from the Honduran border, such as Km 245 in Izabal and at points in Peten, where the main service provided was telephone calls. However, during the return, the reestablishment of family contact has been one of the most evident needs. As of August 28 alone, the GRC team had provided 1102 telephone calls and connectivity services at the Ceibo HSP.

This service is sought to be maintained through DREF funds and other NS bilateral resources, such as the NS RFL program funded by ICRC and other partners.

Strengthen National Society

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 GRC volunteers deployed	27	10

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

Output S2.1.1: Supply chain and fleet services meet recognized quality and accountability standards

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# Lessons learned workshops	1	0
IFRC monitoring visits	2	1

Progress towards outcomes

Currently the NS has activated the migration program staff in the branches, with a total of 24 staff and 10 volunteers, who carry out 5-day shifts with a minimum of 8 people per shift.

D. Financial Report

The budget will continue to be used in the same way, adapting resources based on the context and the flow of migrants to be served.

Note: The financial report will be issued with the DREF final report.

Contact information

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

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How we work

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief, the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable, to **Principles of Humanitarian Action** and **IFRC policies and procedures**. 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.