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# Operation Update no. 1

## Costa Rica: Population Movement

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>DREF Operation N° MDRCR020</b>  | <b>Date of issue:</b> 24 November 2021                          |
| <b>Operation start date:</b> 22 August 2021  | <b>Operation end date:</b> 28 February 2022 (3-month extension) |
| <b>Host National Society:</b> Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC)   | <b>Operation budget:</b> 101,814 Swiss francs (CHF)             |
| <b>Total number of people affected:</b> 6,000  | <b>Number of people to be assisted:</b> 3,000                   |
| <b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b>  |   |
| The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Americas Regional Office (ARO) and its Country Cluster Delegation (CCD) for Central America.   |   |
| <b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b>   |   |
| National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Care (CNE), 911 Emergency System, Firefighters Brigade, Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Transportation (MOPT), Traffic Police, National Meteorology Institute (INM), Costa Rican Energy Institute (ICE), Costa Rican Aqueduct and Sewerage Institute (AyA), Municipal Emergency Committees (CME), General Directorate of Migration and Foreigner Affairs (DGME), Migration Police.   |   |
| <p>This operation update includes a 3-month extension to continue to respond to the current migratory flows and to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants that are expected to cross the Panamanian border with Costa Rica in the upcoming weeks.</p> <p>The rationale behind the extension is to respond to the migrants' needs in the upcoming months. Just in October, 29,604 migrants crossed the Darien, which is the highest monthly number of migrants crossing the border that has been reported over the last years. Based on the reported number of migrants crossing Darien and the experience from previous years, it is expected that the migrant flows will continue or even increase during the months of December through February 2022.</p> <p>Currently, the migrants are crossing the border between Panama and Costa Rica from different entry points, CRRC has proposed to respond to the pressing needs of migrants in different geographical locations. The proposed actions will be focused on the border with Nicaragua, specifically in Las Tablillas, Los Chiles, Alajuela province and Peñas Blancas, La Cruz, Guanacaste province. Both entry points are in the northern border with Nicaragua. In addition, there will be complementary actions in Corredores, Punta Arenas province on the southern border with Panama where CRRC will be supported by UNICEF to respond to the migration crisis.</p> <p>In addition, this timeframe extension includes an increase in the geographical areas to respond to migrants' pressing needs. The official figures have not changed over the last weeks, however, informal data shared by the CRRC shows that the number of migrants crossing the border daily is increasing. There are no changes on the initial support included in the original EPoA; the same programmatic activities will be implemented during the duration of the operation.</p> <p>As mentioned above, there are two new included municipalities in two of the provinces that were initially identified: Las Tablillas, Los Chiles, Alajuela province and Peñas Blancas, La Cruz, Guanacaste province. Therefore, it was decided to request a timeframe extension for an <b>additional 3 months, with a new end date of 28 February 2022</b> (and revised strategic approach), to allow the operation to hire two Field Project Assistants to be responsible for</p> |   |

implementing the proposed actions and assistance to migrants through mobile posts at different identified points along the borders.

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

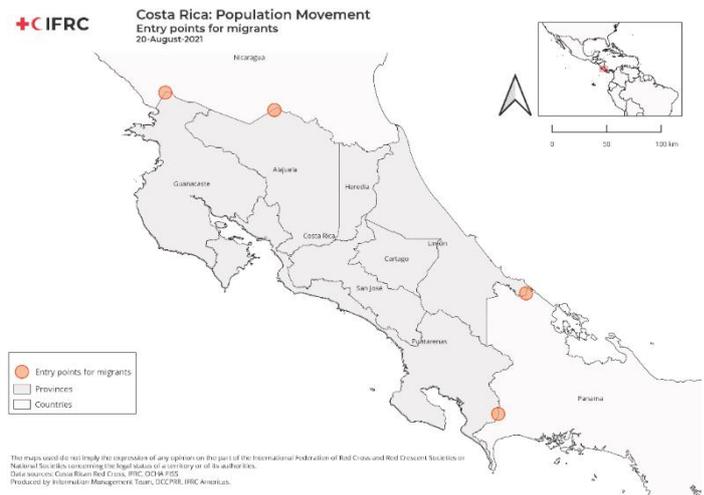
Between June and October 2021, the population movement across the Darién Gap crossing increased considerably. According to information provided by National Migration Service from Panama, some 700 to 1,000 people are arriving in Panama every day. Once migrants arrive in one of the three Migration Reception Stations in Panama, migrants continue to experience harsh travel conditions and difficulties generating situations of extreme vulnerability.

Migrants continue to arrive in Darién, most of them heading to North America, facing all kinds of risks during their journey across the Darién jungle and along the migration route in Central America and Mexico. The main factors driving increased migration flows include the socio-political and economic conditions in the migrants' countries of origin, violence, unemployment, racism, unequal opportunities, increased poverty, and extreme weather conditions.

Since 2016, Costa Rica has become a frequent passage route for Haitians, Cubans, Venezuelans, and migrants from other countries. Numbers have been increasing in recent months as borders in the southern cone have begun to open after being closed due to the pandemic.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Costa Rican government has temporarily restricted the entry of foreign nationals classified as non-residents. This has also affected the humanitarian bridge that had allowed them to cross the country in "transit". These actions are based on Executive Decree 42238-MGP-S of 17 March 2020 and 30 October 2020, which forbids the entry of foreign nationals planning to cross the country from north to south and vice versa except for humanitarian reasons, as authorized by the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigner Affairs (DGME) and after coordinating with the relevant authorities in Panama and Nicaragua.

Despite the restrictions and the DGME's routine border controls, a significant number of people manage to slip past and enter irregularly to continue their way.



Migrants entering through the Paso Canoas border in southern Costa Rica.  
Source: [Nacion](#).

In the last five years, the country has experienced a significant increase in people applying for refugee status, mainly from Nicaragua and Venezuela. In 2020, Costa Rica took in 121,983 persons of concern, of whom 9,613 are refugees, and 89,770 are persons applying for and waiting to be granted refugee status.

In addition, there is a major social crisis in neighbouring Nicaragua that has been ongoing since May 2018. The political situation is expected to deteriorate further, given the upcoming presidential elections in Nicaragua in November 2021.

Costa Rica has been experiencing various migration flows from Nicaragua and other Central American countries since the 1980s due to the armed conflicts in the region, and migration from Nicaragua increased in the 1990s because of the economic crisis. According to the census conducted by the National Institute of Census and Statistics, 385,899 immigrants were living in the country by 2011, accounting for 9 percent of the total population. Most immigrants continue to be from Nicaragua (more than 287,000), accounting for 74.6 percent of resident immigrants. These numbers include all migrants irrespective of their migration status, which are counted by the census. Another segment (some 100,000 individuals) comprises the floating migrants who come to Costa Rica to work with border areas. Their stay is based on agricultural cycles and do not remain in the country permanently and are therefore not counted in censuses; however, they need to be considered when analysing migration flows from Nicaragua.

## **Summary of the response**

### **Overview of Host National Society Response Action**

- The CRRC is currently monitoring the issue nationally and internationally to identify the required actions and provide the most appropriate response.
- National Directorates and Headquarters have been informed of the situation that may arise to commence a requirement analysis.
- The National Society is working on a migration flow scenario matrix that includes preparedness and response actions to establish each actor's actions.

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

The National Society has been coordinating the response with the IFRC Regional Office's Disaster and Crisis Prevention Department.

Through the Disaster Management Unit, the National Society maintains constant communication with the Movement supporting the situation. The IFRC has a regional office for volunteering and youth in Costa Rica, so there is an internal coordination mechanism.

The IFRC has held and led four coordination meetings with the National Societies involved in this response in the last month (Colombian Red Cross, Red Cross Society of Panama, Costa Rican Red Cross, Honduran Red Cross, Guatemalan Red Cross and the International Committee of the Red Cross). The same meetings are held bi-weekly, and open communication and coordination channels are maintained with operations to share information relevant to the regional context of extracontinental and other flows in the region from Chile to Guatemala. Also, following the earthquake in Haiti, Restoring Family Links (RFL) and information services have been increased along the route.

Additionally, since the onset of the crisis, the ICRC has supported the Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) with RFL services.

The National Society has signed a bilateral agreement with UNICEF to implement actions focused on the migration flow in Corredores canton in the country's southern border, Punta Arenas Province.

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

- There is no information yet on actions by government institutions. The Migration and Foreign Affairs Directorate delayed the opening of the Bicentennial Stations planned for October.
- IOM Costa Rica is currently implementing human security projects for migrants, labour migration, linkages with the diaspora, migration and development, and protection and assistance to vulnerable migrants.
- UNHCR's operations in Costa Rica focus on the displacement caused by conditions in northern Central America, Nicaragua and Venezuela. UNHCR also helps strengthen the government's capacity to determine refugee status through technical cooperation and dedicated staff for the Refugee Unit and supporting government child protection and sexual and gender violence prevention and response initiatives.
- Through a bilateral agreement with the Costa Rican Red Cross, UNICEF Costa Rica will implement actions with the migrant population in Corredores, hiring a Field Assistant and two French-speaking translators to listen to migrants' doubts and distribute the various supplies they require.

## Needs analysis and scenario planning

### Needs analysis

The Costa Rican Red Cross (CRRC) is responding to two migration modalities:

1. Transit migration: the migrants who use Costa Rica as a transit country come from several countries, which has caused several challenges over time:
  - Language barrier: this was mitigated through the translators hired by the DGME.
  - Cultural barrier: it is necessary to train Migrant Care Centre staff to deal with the different cultures. This will help reduce situations that may be considered offensive or even enable them to detect situations that they would not have recognized otherwise.
  - Religious barrier: migrants need to have places to worship; therefore, staff must be made aware of the different religious practices to provide these spaces and avoid incurring any disrespect or other issues.
  - The short time spent in the country means that activities or projects cannot be implemented effectively, which is a significant challenge.
  - Human trafficking: all migration flows are vulnerable to human trafficking in all its manifestations, so it is important to properly recognize the signs to protect all migrants.
2. Migration with Costa Rica as a destination country: several countries<sup>1</sup> (e.g., Colombia, Venezuela, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, which according to the DGME are the most representative in terms of the number of migrants) currently see Costa Rica as a final destination. In this case, the challenge lies in the country's capacity to absorb this migrant population into its labour, education, and social spheres. Specifically, the challenge is to find ways to minimize the impact on the country as much as possible. Hence, the approach used by state structures and different service providers in the country needs to be comprehensive.

### Health

Some of the problems caused by the migration flow across borders are public health issues, mainly due to COVID-19. While everyone is at risk of contracting the virus, migrants are among the most vulnerable, often traveling in conditions with limited or no access to hygiene and sanitation facilities, soap, or other means to protect themselves. Under these conditions, the risk of poor outcomes is high.

To mitigate and prevent these situations, the CRRC proposes to provide migrant groups with key messages and information including a PPE kit to minimize risks.

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<sup>1</sup> At least 35, according to [Panama's National Migration Service](#).

## Water, sanitation and hygiene

Women and men experience different needs and challenges. In emergency contexts, such as the one caused by COVID-19, migrant women and girls face higher vulnerabilities. Therefore, the CRRC wants to focus on menstruating women and provide them with a hygiene kit that offers the appropriate supplies.

## Migration

Migrants travelling through Costa Rica during their migration journey come from different countries and face barriers such as the ones mentioned before. This makes it easy for families to become separated during the trip or lose contact with relatives back home.

The CRRC is in constant coordination with the ICRC and IFRC to provide Restoring Family Links (RFL) services to migrants. This will help them re-establish contact with loved ones, which will improve their psychosocial situation. They will also be assisted with information that will guide them across the country, relevant information on security measures, etc. These information products have been developed as a Movement with the approval of the different components and National Societies in the region.

This is a relatively new area for the National Society, so it will be necessary to strengthen the staff and volunteers' knowledge regarding migration and its challenges.

## Targeting

The conditions to temporarily receive people entering as part of mixed migration flows are improved, and adequate referral of the most vulnerable cases in need of international protection is ensured.

- Provide pre-hospital care and humanitarian assistance in line with the minimum standards of humanitarian assistance, in addition to creating a permanent structure for handling migration issues within CRRC.
- Improve adequate access to international protection and referral processes to care services for migrants and refugees entering as part of mixed migration flows through Costa Rican borders.

### Estimated disaggregated data for population targeted.

The aim is to assist 3,000 migrants on their journey across the country, prioritizing:

- Children and adolescents, including unaccompanied and separated minors who require interventions to ensure their rights and family reunification.
- Elderly adults who are vulnerable because of their age or other external factors.
- People with disabilities.
- Women who are menstruating, pregnant, and women at risk of sexual exploitation, human trafficking and migrant smuggling.
- Families with children under two years of age.
- Single-parent families.

| Category                       | Estimated % of target group | % Female | % Male |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------|
| Young Children (under 5 years) | 23%                         | 8.28%    | 14.7%  |
| Children (5-17 yrs.)           | 3%                          | 1%       | 2%     |
| Adults (18-49 yrs.)            | 73.7%                       | 36%      | 37.7%  |
| Elderly (>50 yrs.)             | 0.3%                        | 0.1%     | 0.2%   |

\*Data from Red Cross Society of Panama

## Scenario planning

Because of conditions worldwide, the COVID-19 pandemic, the measures taken at the border level (which have become more flexible) and the constant flow of migrants, the following scenarios are proposed to enable assisting populations such as: migrants, refugees, people in need of protection, minors (accompanied or separated) and pregnant women:

### Scenario 1

According to DGME, the flow of migrants is as usual; however, monitoring of the situation in Nicaragua and Panama and complementary information from IFRC indicate an increase in migration flows in those countries.

#### Trigger

Panama (Red Cross Society of Panama) takes action because of the presence of migration flows at its borders through the current DREF operation [MDRPA015](#) (Information sources: Red Cross Society of Panama and IFRC) and/or a social crisis ensues in Nicaragua.

#### Actions to be conducted:

1. Field assessments
2. Meetings with institutions and other NGOs:
  - a. National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Care (CNE)
  - b. General Directorate of Migration and Foreigner Affairs
  - c. Law enforcement
  - d. Ministries of Health
  - e. IOM
  - f. UNHCR
  - g. Others
3. Establish an Alert Level for auxiliary committees on the country's northern and southern borders.
4. Increase the Alert Level for auxiliary committees at the country's northern and southern borders.
5. Activate the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme.
6. Deliver talks and trainings for staff working with migrants.
7. Purchase supplies to assemble migrant assistance kits.
8. Preposition PPE kits for migrants (3,000).
9. Preposition hygiene kits for female migrants (600).
10. Purchase and distribute PPE to staff and volunteers.
11. Design and print informational materials for migrants.

### Scenario 2:

#### Trigger

This trigger could be activated by any of the following situations:

- The flow of migrants increases to more than 400 per day.
- Migrant Care Centre capacity is above 75 per cent.
- An express request for help from the government or its institutions.
- Trigger 2 conditions are maintained for more than one month.

#### Actions to be conducted:

1. Request funds for response (DREF/Appeal)
2. Increase the Alert Level for auxiliary committees at the country's northern and southern borders.
3. Implement Restoring Family Links (RFL) actions
4. Hire staff to implement activities with migrants.
5. Distribute PPE kits for migrants
6. Distribute hygiene kits for female migrants
7. Distribute informational materials for migrants

Considering the above, the following phases are proposed for Costa Rican Red Cross actions:

| Scenario 1   | Humanitarian Consequence  | Potential Response  |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The flow of migrants entering Panama from the south and heading to the northern border continues.</li> <li>• Election results in Nicaragua may cause an increase in migration to Costa Rica.</li> <li>• Pressure continues to build at the border, either in Nicaragua or Panama, and more than 300 migrants are entering per day.</li> <li>• The current political situation in Nicaragua could trigger significant migration to Costa Rica.</li> <li>• There is a flow of migrants from outside the region and the continent entering through the southern border (Panama), who, given the usual mechanics, are expected to request entry to Costa Rican soil at any time.</li> <li>• Some 2,000 migrants are expected to enter legally - and many illegally - via the northern and southern borders, who will halt their normal transit across the country, i.e., they will remain in a one overcrowded location.</li> </ul> | <p>Alert humanitarian services to prevent them from collapsing and enable them to provide an adequate response.</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Field assessments.</li> <li>2. Meetings with institutions and other NGOs</li> <li>3. Establish Alert Level for auxiliary committees at the country's northern and southern borders.</li> </ol>  |
| Scenario 2   | Humanitarian Consequence  | Potential Response  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Migrants continue to enter via the border with Panama and more than 300 migrants enter illegally each day. Tensions continue along the border with Nicaragua.</li> <li>• The current political situation in Nicaragua could trigger significant migration to Costa Rica.</li> <li>• There is a flow of migrants from outside the region and the continent entering through the southern border (Panama), who, given the usual mechanics, are expected to request entry to Costa Rican soil at any time.</li> <li>• Some 2,000 migrants are expected to enter legally - and many illegally - via the northern and southern borders, who will halt their normal</li> </ul>  | <p>Have the necessary supplies to provide an adequate response to the most vulnerable migrants</p>                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase the Alert Level for auxiliary committees at the country's northern and southern borders.</li> <li>2. Activate the Restoring Family Links (RFL) programme</li> <li>3. Deliver talks and trainings for staff working with migrants.</li> <li>4. Purchase supplies to assemble migrant assistance kits.</li> <li>5. Preposition PPE kits for migrants (3,000)</li> <li>6. Preposition hygiene kits for female migrants (600)</li> <li>7. Purchase and distribute PPE to staff and volunteers</li> <li>8. Design and print informational materials for migrants</li> </ol> |

| transit across the country, i.e., they will remain in a one overcrowded location.  |   | 9. Include an assessment to address the concerns of the situation described in the scenario #2   |
|--|---|--|
| Scenario 3   | Humanitarian Consequence  | Potential Response   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panama grants transit to migrants stranded in the country, who begin to apply pressure along Costa Rican borders. They enter the country through formal border points, but also through informal points given the porous nature of the borders. Detection becomes difficult under these circumstances.</li> <li>Significant migration of Nicaraguan nationals is triggered by the political situation.</li> <li>More than 2,500 people from Nicaragua and from outside the region and the continent apply for entry to Costa Rica via land borders.</li> <li>People enter illegally through both the northern and southern borders of the country.</li> </ul> | Take the necessary steps to increase National Society responsiveness and improve care to migrants, as auxiliaries to authorities. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyse potential response beyond the current DREF</li> <li>Increase the Alert Level for auxiliary committees at the country's northern and southern borders.</li> <li>Implement Restoring Family Links (RFL) actions</li> <li>Hire staff to implement activities with migrants.</li> <li>Distribute PPE kits for migrants</li> <li>Distribute hygiene kits for female migrants</li> <li>Distribute informational materials for migrants</li> </ol> |

## Operation Risk Assessment

Based on the [COVID-19 Contingency Plan](#) prepared by the CRRC, the following risks are considered:

| THREAT                                       | RISKS  |
|--|--|
| Pandemics                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Shortage of water and sanitation and disinfection products in border areas.</li> <li>Increase in morbidity and mortality due to lack of care capacity in hospital centres.</li> <li>Shortage of PPE to deal with and serve migrants in a timely manner.</li> <li>Staff exposure to illnesses.</li> <li>Social tension and discrimination.</li> <li>Dead body management.</li> <li>Non-compliance with health measures.</li> </ul>   |
| Increased migration flows                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unknown number of migrants entering the country.</li> <li>Massive and uncontrolled migration flow.</li> <li>Lack of health controls because of unawareness regarding migrants' health.</li> <li>Lack of PCR tests to perform COVID-19 swabs.</li> <li>Mass deaths on site.</li> <li>Social panic due to xenophobia.</li> <li>Non-admittance of migrants to hospitals due to saturation of installed capacity.</li> <li>No support from medical personnel in migrant care centres to perform COVID-19 swab tests.</li> </ul> |
| Regional/Global social and political context | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Socio-political instability in Nicaragua.</li> <li>Socio-political instability in Afghanistan.</li> <li>Earthquake in Haiti.</li> </ul>   |

## B. Operational strategy

### Overall Operational objective.

To ensure humanitarian assistance for at least 3,000 migrants in need and housed in Temporary Migrant Care Centres, or elsewhere, through disseminating information on humanitarian assistance for migrants and distributing different kits (food, hygiene, among others) as required.

Through its auxiliary committees at the northern and southern borders, to enhance the National Society's capacity to provide humanitarian assistance to migrants in the country and promote the restoring of family links.

### Proposed Strategy

To implement this project, meeting with Red Cross auxiliary committees located in northern and southern borders was suggested to learn about their reality and needs with respect to migrant populations. This activity has been carried out.

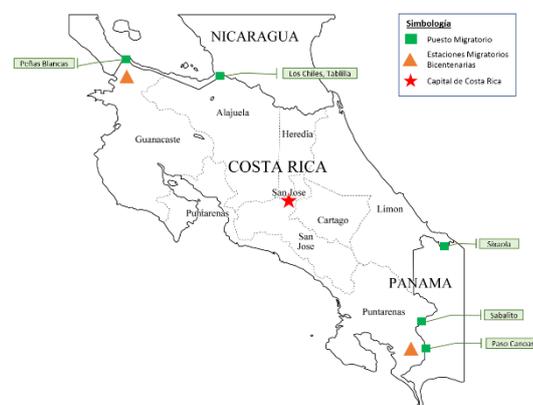
Meetings were held with institutions and organizations (General Directorate for Migration and Foreigner Affairs, IOM, UNHCR, WVC, UNICEF and the National Institute for Women (INAMU)) that are currently addressing migration in the country, in order to join forces and build partnerships.

Assistance will be given in the form of two kits: a PPE kit (masks, alcohol gel and bag) and a Dignity Kit for women (alcohol gel, wet wipes, roll-on deodorant, sanitary napkins, protectors for daily use, women's razor, comb, hair ties, band-aids, moisturizing cream). The kits will contain flyers with information on personal care for women, hand washing, COVID-19 information and information for migrants. Additionally, posters with information for migrants will be placed at strategic points along their route, such as bus terminals and borders.

The Restoring Family Links (RFL) team is strengthened through five kits that will make it possible to strengthen the RFL team actions in the field and potential charging stations for migrants.

Given the porous nature of the borders with both Panama and Nicaragua, a change in strategy is being proposed to address migrant populations on Costa Rican soil. The southern border (with Panama) has three official migration posts and only one migration station, while the northern border (with Nicaragua) has two official migration posts and only one migration station; therefore, the rest of the border - generally terrain that allows passage and in some sectors is marked by a fence and mostly just by a landmark - gives migrants the opportunity to cross illegally into Costa Rican territory.

Therefore, both the five official border points and the unofficial points that migrants use to enter Costa Rica need to be addressed. This could be achieved by allocating vehicles and hiring two Project Assistants to travel the long distances between the points identified to provide assistance to migrants. At the same time, a bilateral agreement with UNICEF is being worked on, through which one vehicle will be assigned and one Project Assistant will be hired to address the migrant population in Corredores canton. One of the assistants hired would focus on northern areas and the second assistant would provide support to both borders as required.



Source: CRRC.

## C. Detailed Operational Plan



### Health

**People reached: 0**

Male: N/A

Female: N/A

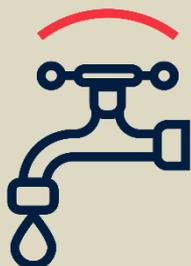
#### Indicators:

|                                     | Target | Actual |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| # of migrants who receive a PPE kit | 3,000  | 0      |
| # of PPE kits distributed           | 3,000  | 0      |
| # of first aid kits delivered       | 10     | 0      |

#### Narrative description of achievements

The National Society has a warehouse for PPEs, as auxiliary committees generally do not have adequate space for storing supplies. Given the short distances within the country, kits can be prepositioned for distribution at the Operations warehouse. Since the second trigger has not been activated, the PPEs have not been distributed yet. Distribution can be done quickly once the second trigger is activated.

The First Aid Kits are in the process of being purchased. The field team is waiting for the supplier to deliver them to commence their distribution.



### Water, sanitation and hygiene

**People reached: 0**

Male: N/A

Female: N/A

#### Indicators:

|  | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # of female migrants who receive a hygiene kit | 600    | 0      |
| # of hygiene kits distributed                  | 600    | 0      |

#### Narrative description of achievements

The National Society consulted on the kits' content with the IFRC Senior PGI and WASH Officer to have an appropriate kit, who made recommendations on what the kits should include. A specific dignity kit for female migrants has been set up. The kits have not been delivered because the second trigger has not been activated.

The kit contains the following supplies, delivered in a backpack-type bag for the migrants' convenience.

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Alcohol gel        |
| 2  | Wet wipes          |
| 3  | Roll-on deodorant  |
| 4  | Sanitary napkins   |
| 5  | Daily protectors   |
| 6  | Women's razor      |
| 7  | Comb               |
| 8  | Hair ties          |
| 9  | Band-aids          |
| 10 | Moisturizing cream |



## Migration

People reached: 0

Male: N/A

Female: N/A

| Indicators:  | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # of RFL stations strengthened to serve migrants   | 4      | 5      |
| # of meetings held                                 | 5      | 6      |
| # of RFL stations strengthened                     | 4      | 5      |
| # of trainings received by NS staff and volunteers | 2      | 0      |
| # of RFL cases served                              | N/A    | 0      |
| # of people hired for implementation               | 2      | 0      |

### Narrative description of achievements

Several meetings were held with institutions and organizations working on migration in the country to discuss the possibility of supporting the project, to present the National Society's Migration Strategy and Policy and to build potential partnerships:

- **General Directorate of Migration and Foreign Affairs:** They were very interested in the subject, and told us that they will be setting up two migrant care centres:
  - o Northern Bicentennial Migration Station, with capacity for 300 people
  - o Southern Bicentennial Migration Station, with capacity for 50 people
 According to what CRRC was informed, these stations would begin operations in October 2021 because of budget issues; however, these have yet to open.
- **International Organization for Migration (IOM):** They are interested in working together with CRRC, as they have several migrant assistance points in various parts of the country.
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR):** They explained the areas that they work on with refugees.
- **World Vision Costa Rica (WVCR):** The possibility of support in terms of children was discussed, although they said that they are not addressing this issue at this time.
- **UNICEF:** Meetings were held to present both institutions' efforts. UNICEF, using funds from another donor, decided to work with Costa Rican Red Cross on a bilateral basis, so a project will begin in the coming weeks focused on children in mixed migration flows entering Corredores.
- **National Women's Institute (INAMU):** They showed interest in activities involving the women's kits and are arranging for other meetings with United Nations actors to join forces.

Five kits were acquired to strengthen the RFL stations through materials and supplies to improve charging stations for migrants.

There is an ongoing dialogue to schedule some sessions with the IFRC Americas Regional Office (ARO) to address migration concerns. Virtual meetings were held by to disseminate the National Society Migration Policy and Migration Strategy.

No RFL cases have been served because the trigger has not been activated.

## National Society Strengthening

| Indicators:  | Target | Actual |
|--|--------|--------|
| # of committees that receive PPE for their volunteers.     | 10     | 10     |
| # of volunteers who increase their visibility in the field | 30     | 0      |

|  |    |    |
|--|----|----|
| # of field assessments performed.  | 10 | 10 |
| # of monitoring tours conducted.   | 4  | 4  |
| # of lessons learned sessions  | 1  | 0  |
| Narrative description of achievements  |    |    |
| <p>The bibs to be distributed to auxiliary committees are in the process of being purchased. Given that it is an article of clothing, delivery is not immediate, so the purchase process has not been completed.</p> <p>On-site visits have been made to auxiliary committees located in the country's northern and southern borders. They were consulted on the issue of migration and their needs in this regard. Not all committees deal with a significant flow of migrants or interact with this issue, while other committees mostly focus on pre-hospital care.</p> <p>Monitoring visits have also been made to Los Chiles in northern Costa Rica. There is a discrete flow of migrants, and the auxiliary committees report that there is a network that transports migrants from San Jose to the north and then on to Nicaragua.</p> <p>Two monitoring visits were organized by CRRC to assess the situation migrants on both borders (Panama and Nicaragua), as well as a joint visit (with the IFRC and Red Cross Society of Panama) to the Migrant Centre in Los Planes, Panama to scope out the migration flow dynamics and see the possibility of coordinating actions between National Societies.</p> <p>The points visited include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Northern border</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí</li> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in Pital</li> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in Santa Rosa de Pocosol</li> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in Los Chiles</li> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in Upala</li> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in La Cruz</li> <li>○ Northern Regional Office</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <u>Southern border</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in Ciudad Neily</li> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in Laurel</li> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in Agua Buena</li> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in San Vito</li> <li>○ Auxiliary committee in Golfito</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Virtual meetings were held with National and Regional Operational Coordination, Auxiliary Committee Administrators, Emergency Care Department, Project Unit, and Risk Reduction and Community Services Department. The goal was to socialize the possible migration conditions on both borders.</p> <p>The National Society is working on a matrix for migration flow scenarios that includes preparedness and response actions to establish each actor's actions.</p> <p>Each auxiliary committee that deals with migration flows conducts monitoring to identify risks, possible needs, the places where migrants stay and means of transport, among others, to identify possible points of assistance.</p> |    |    |

## International Disaster Response

| Indicators: | Target | Actual |
|-------------|--------|--------|
|-------------|--------|--------|

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| # of monitoring visits   | 2 | 1 |
| Narrative description of achievements  |   |   |
| <p>There has been a joint monitoring visit between CRRC and PCR together with IFRC migration team to assess the situation of the migrants in northern Panama, close to the border with Costa Rica.</p> <p>There have been a few sessions between the CRRC team and the IFRC regional office in terms of information sharing and gap analysis. The following monitoring visit is scheduled on the first week of December.</p> |   |   |

## D. Financial Report

See [Annex](#) attached.

## Contact Information

### Reference documents

Click here for:

- [DREF Plan of Action](#)

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

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## How we work.

All IFRC assistance seeks to adhere to the **Code of Conduct** for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) in Disaster Relief and the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in delivering assistance to the most vulnerable. The IFRC's vision is to inspire, **encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities** by National Societies, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering**, and thereby contributing to the maintenance and promotion of human dignity and peace in the world.

# DREF Operation

| Selected Parameters |                 |           |          |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2021/08-2021/10 | Operation | MDRCR020 |
| Budget Timeframe    | 2021/08-2021/11 | Budget    | APPROVED |

## INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 24/Nov/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRCR020 - Costa Rica - Population Movement

Operating Timeframe: 22 Aug 2021 to 30 Nov 2021

#### I. Summary

|                                 |                |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Opening Balance</b>          | <b>0</b>       |
| <b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b> | <b>101,814</b> |
| DREF Allocations                | 101,814        |
| <b>Expenditure</b>              | <b>-57,987</b> |
| <b>Closing Balance</b>          | <b>43,827</b>  |

#### II. Expenditure by area of focus / strategies for implementation

| Description   | Budget         | Expenditure   | Variance       |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| AOF1 - Disaster risk reduction                        |                |               | 0              |
| AOF2 - Shelter  |                |               | 0              |
| AOF3 - Livelihoods and basic needs                    |                |               | 0              |
| AOF4 - Health   | 31,418         |               | 31,418         |
| AOF5 - Water, sanitation and hygiene                  | 19,703         |               | 19,703         |
| AOF6 - Protection, Gender & Inclusion                 |                |               | 0              |
| AOF7 - Migration                                      | 11,609         |               | 11,609         |
| <b>Area of focus Total</b>                            | <b>62,729</b>  |               | <b>62,729</b>  |
| SFI1 - Strengthen National Societies                  | 32,802         |               | 32,802         |
| SFI2 - Effective international disaster management    | 6,284          | 57,987        | -51,704        |
| SFI3 - Influence others as leading strategic partners |                |               | 0              |
| SFI4 - Ensure a strong IFRC                           |                |               | 0              |
| <b>Strategy for implementation Total</b>              | <b>39,086</b>  | <b>57,987</b> | <b>-18,902</b> |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                                    | <b>101,814</b> | <b>57,987</b> | <b>43,827</b>  |

# DREF Operation

| Selected Parameters |                 |           |          |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|
| Reporting Timeframe | 2021/08-2021/10 | Operation | MDRCR020 |
| Budget Timeframe    | 2021/08-2021/11 | Budget    | APPROVED |

## INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 24/Nov/2021

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRCR020 - Costa Rica - Population Movement

Operating Timeframe: 22 Aug 2021 to 30 Nov 2021

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

| Description                          | Budget         | Expenditure   | Variance      |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>General Expenditure</b>           | <b>5,900</b>   | <b>628</b>    | <b>5,272</b>  |
| Travel                               | 3,000          |               | 3,000         |
| Information & Public Relations       | 2,000          | 318           | 1,682         |
| Communications                       | 600            |               | 600           |
| Financial Charges                    | 300            | 310           | -10           |
| <b>Contributions &amp; Transfers</b> | <b>89,700</b>  | <b>53,820</b> | <b>35,880</b> |
| Cash Transfers National Societies    | 89,700         | 53,820        | 35,880        |
| <b>Indirect Costs</b>                | <b>6,214</b>   | <b>3,539</b>  | <b>2,675</b>  |
| Programme & Services Support Recover | 6,214          | 3,539         | 2,675         |
| <b>Grand Total</b>                   | <b>101,814</b> | <b>57,987</b> | <b>43,827</b> |