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## Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

### Uganda: Population Movement from DRC

 International Federation  
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

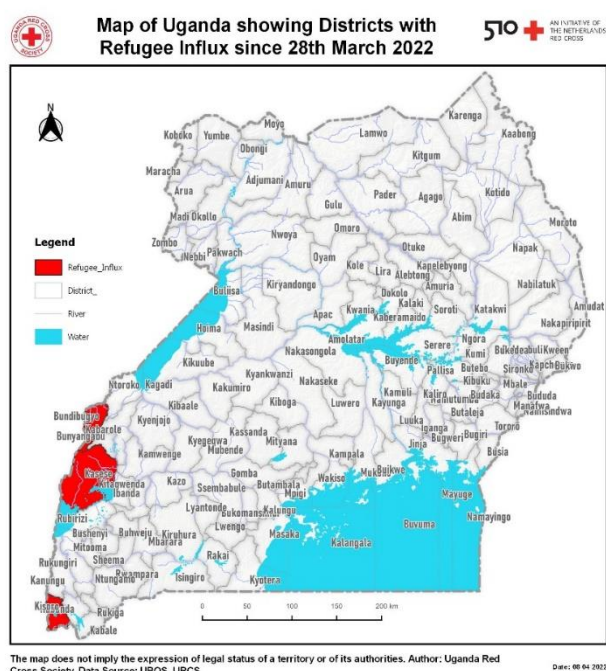
<b>DREF Operation / n°</b>	<b>MDRUG045</b>	<b>Glide n°:</b>	<a href="#">CE-2022-000195-UGA</a>
<b>For DREF; Date of issue:</b>	<b>13 April 2022</b>	<b>Expected timeframe:</b>	<b>3 months</b>
		<b>Expected end date:</b>	<b>31 July 2022</b>
<b>Category allocated to the of the disaster or crisis:</b> <b>Yellow</b>			
<b>DREF allocated: CHF 185,233</b>			
<b>Total number of people affected:</b>	12,000 (include host)	<b>Number of people to be assisted:</b>	4,500 people (900 households)
<b>Districts affected:</b>	Kisoro, Kasese, Bundibugyo	<b>Districts targeted:</b>	Kisoro, Kasese, Bundibugyo
<b>Host National Society presence:</b> 60 Red Cross Action Teams (RCATs) available to support 03 branches and 5 Technical headquarter staff (EPR Manager, Director DRM, Operations Team Leader, Emergency WASH Manager, Protection Manager, Climate Action and Environment Unit Lead, Cash Transfer Services Manager) will be directly engaged in the operation.			
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> The operational presence of IFRC, ICRC, NLRC, BRC-Flanders, GRC, and AustRC, Swedish RC in the country provides an opportunity for technical and logistical support to the operation in key sectors of WASH, Protection & RFL, Shelter, Hygiene Promotion.			
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation:</b> Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), UNHCR, Local, National, and International Media.			

## A. Situation analysis

### Description of the disaster

From 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022 there was an important influx of refugees from the Republic Democratic of Congo to Uganda through Kisoro after the rebel group attacked areas of Cyanzu, Runyoni, and Kinyandoni, about 4km from Bunagana (Uganda border with Congo). The fighting started in the wee hours of the night around 3 am according to security officials, and approximately 4500 to 6000 Congolese majority being women and children crossed to Uganda the same day when early April UNHCR counted [10,000 people](#) who fled between the 28 and 29<sup>th</sup> March and 36,000 internally displaced people in DRC. Initially blocked on Bunagana for security reasons by the authorities, the DRC refugees mainly coming from Rutchuru territory in the DRC (Nord Kivu) were later allowed to cross and as of 06<sup>th</sup> April 2022, many are camped at the holding and transit centres.

Due to the high influx of refugees, the office of the prime minister and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), has been forced to re-use the transit centre at Nyakabande along the Kisoro-Kabale Road that had been closed for renovations. As of 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 out of 8,586 individuals were already counted with 7,298 (3,691 HH) manually registered according to UNHCR registration.



Among the actors assisting the displaced population, some notable response has been provided to the first 6,000 people who arrived between the 28 to 29 of March. Mainly UNHCR, the government, and URCS have been engaged in the different shelter, WASH, security, and protection assistance.

But the situation is still very fragile and based on daily arrivals registered both by URCS and UNHCR, it's projected that more than 20,000 refugees will cross into Uganda by the end of April 2022. Cumulative factors show an urgent need to respond to the actual gap of the assistance in place and to anticipate the worsening of the situation with the increased needs, increased numbers of refugees, the WASH, and health vulnerability with the ongoing rains and settlements. URCS has since the onset of this situation, been responding with its resources and activation of ECHO-funded project crisis modifier. However, the number of refugees has continued to increase and has exceeded the capacity of the NS to continue responding with the current in-country support.



*Figure 1: refugees entering Uganda with hand luggage*

The number of refugees is increasing with new arrivals every day as clashes are still going on. The latest information from the field on 9<sup>th</sup> April reveals around 5 buses were received at the transit centre after OPM directed that all refugees at Bunagana should be brought to the Transit Centre. Fighting continued to be reported in most parts of the DRC. The refugees continued to flee crossing the border at Bunagana and other locations in areas surrounding the border. According to the updates received from the team that went to the Bunagana border where the Red Cross was part, fighting has spread to other places like Cyanzu, Kinyamahura, Runyoni, and some parts of Kiwanja.

The NS is seeking additional support from the DREF to provide resources to continue responding to the situation.

## **Summary of the current response**

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

Immediately after the incident was reported, URCS was among the first responders. URCS conducts a needs assessment and posted a [Go Alert](#) to inform partners with a summary of the situation on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

The NS provided support to 400 households (approximately 2,000 people) with emergency household items composed of: containing Blanket, Saucepans, Cups, Plates, Knives, Jerrycans, Mosquito nets, Hoes, Rake, and Spade.

These stocks were bought through an ECHO-funded project for prepositioning by the NS and need to be replenished to ensure ready stocks for future response by the NS. The DREF will therefore replenish the full disaster kit consisting of blankets, taurplines, kitchen set, soap, mosquito nets, and water jerrycans.

Further, the National Society (NS) with the ongoing project in Kisoro funded by ECHO for crisis modifier, a crisis response was quickly activated with the most urgent actions already identified. Under the ECHO-funded project, the affected district has a Contingency Plan that sets out triggers and thresholds for the activation of crisis modifiers. For this population movement, the trigger was reached allowing access to the crisis modifier funds. This fund has been activated now twice this year with the Kisoro landslides response and now with the current population movement. During the Kisoro landslides response, the crisis modifier funds were sufficient and there was no need to request support from the DREF. Unfortunately, with this population movement, their crisis modifier kitty has been exhausted.

In addition to the EHIs, through the crisis modifier URCS has provided the following assistance:

- 300 toilet Slabs, 135Kg of Chlorine, 150 Shelter Kits
- Conducting RFL services as this was one of the most needed protection services. Restoring Family Links programme reunited 6 families in partnership with ICRC, OPM/UNHCR.
- URCS has also delivered three 4,500 litre water tanks and deployed kit5 to boost water supply and improve access to water in the rainy season ongoing.

- Supporting hygiene promotion activities. Besides, the NS has been providing first aid, Psychosocial support services (PSS), and RFL services to these refugees.
- Camp Management

The NS has deployed staff from the headquarters to join the branch team in Kisoro including the URCS Director DRM, 3 RFL & Protection Unit, 3 Emergency WASH personnel, 1 Netherlands RC, and 1 Austrian RC Emergency WASH for technical support.



Figure 2: URCS registering refugees at the hosting centre



Figure 3: URCS tracing tent



Figure 4: URCS distributing EHIs to refugees

URCS is engaged in active Media communication on this crisis to inform partners, show the engagement and fundraise. Below are some communication actions:

<https://t.co/zQ4XMn7Opj>

(<https://twitter.com/UgandaRedCross/status/1512456377188470796?t=Er2UtSmzFKkvkZQ88x3ZBw&s=03>) ;

<https://t.co/QFympr7ELd>;

(<https://twitter.com/UgandaRedCross/status/1511017481342619648?t=wl21KPhbNvVnGwRFYFmTug&s=03>)

More recently, NS deployed 2 NDRTs (Hygiene promotion & Kit5/emergency latrines) on 4th April 2022, with also 26 URCS Volunteers, 1 Branch Manager, and 1 Operations Manager. To support the ongoing activities on sensitization, registration, and monitoring.

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

URCS is working on different projects with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Partner National Societies (PNS<sup>1</sup>) with in-country offices; namely The Netherlands Red Cross, Belgium Red Cross–Flanders, Austrian Red Cross, and the German Red Cross. Several other PNS provides bilateral support to ongoing projects and operations managed by the Uganda Red Cross Society.

The ICRC has been active in Uganda in line with its mandate to protect and assist people affected by armed conflicts and other situations of violence. It currently cooperates closely with the Uganda Red Cross Society mainly in RFL on targeting the refugee population but also supports the URCS' dissemination, communication, and Safer Access Frameworks (SAF)/Emergency Preparedness & Response actions within volatile environments in the country.

Currently, the IFRC Juba cluster delegation support team Disaster Management delegate and PMER Officer are providing technical support together with IFRC in-country delegates (health and finance). The IFRC is closely monitoring the situation in the country and will be ready to mobilize more surge personnel to support the operation when the need arises. Through the IFRC Go reporting platform and using the various channels, URCS ensures that all Movement partners are informed about all disaster/ emergency events and emergency operations being implemented in Uganda.

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

From the first notice of the influx in Uganda, there have been emergency coordination meetings held at the transit centres and at the district offices comprising of Regional Disaster Officer, UNHCR country representative, district officials, URCS, ICRC, Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI), Save the Children, Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) and Government security team. The security teams are providing security briefings and are helping in the analysis of the situation for scenario development.

Several partners are also responding to the emergency including the Kisoro District Local Government, UNHCR, Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants, Medical Teams International, Médecins Sans Frontières, Save the Children International, African Initiatives for Relief and Development, and Friends of Kisoro.

This coordination has been helpful also to sort out a solution for refugees blocked at Burnugana upon their arrival. After reaching Bunagana town on the Uganda side, the refugees were blocked from proceeding to Nyakabande for security reasons. A security team immediately held a crisis meeting at the border chaired by the RDC composed of CMI, Army Commander, DPC, and border security team to determine the way forward in case the situation worsened.

UNHCR<sup>1</sup>, the UN Refugee Agency, alongside the Government of Uganda and humanitarian partners, is assisting some 10,000 refugees in the country's southwest Kisoro.

In collaboration with Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR has already started managing the asylum seekers with the relocation of some 2,350 asylum seekers to the nearby Nyakabande transit centre. UNHCR has installed a total of 33 mobilets. Protection actors have placed 76 unaccompanied children in temporary interim foster care since the emergency has begun. The UNHCR's mandate with the Office of the Prime Minister in the country remains camp coordination, WASH Sector coordination, Electronic Registration of new arrivals, and inter-agency coordination.

URCS is supporting manual registration of new arrivals, WASH Kit5 management, hygiene promotion, RFL and Protection, Shelter Kits provision, and household NFIs. The NS is also supporting the host community on hygiene promotion and exploring cash support for the host community through other funding.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/news/briefing/2022/4/6246a9704/thousands-flee-uganda-following-clashes-dr-congo.html>

## Needs analysis, targeting, scenario planning and risk assessment

### Needs analysis

#### i) Anticipated worsening of the situation

The DRC crisis that broke out from the 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2022, led to the displacement of more than 4,500 refugees that crossed into Uganda in just one to two days through the border of Bunagana in southwest Kisoro district. Following the violent clashes and consequent mass movement of the refugees' various locations, about 10,000 refugees and more estimated 36,000 individuals were displaced internally and were housed in Government infrastructures especially schools and host communities with the majority being women and children.

Daily entries as per UNHCR and URCS registration shows an average of 200 people crossing to Uganda every day. Based on this tendency and considering past similar events and gun exchange ongoing, it's projected that 20,000 refugees will cross into Uganda by the end of April 2022. Cumulative factors show an urgent need to anticipate the worsening of the situation with the increasing needs, increasing numbers of refugees in the actual transit center with not enough facilities, and the WASH and health vulnerability with the recently started March April May rainy season. The actual needs detailed below could worsen with no proper disposition to mitigate the risk and keep an active presence in terms of information collection, Wash and health assistance, and protection.

#### ii) Shelter

The refugees, majority of whom are women and children, crossed into Uganda with nothing apart from their clothes and sheets to protect themselves from the cold. Most of the new arrivals are sheltering in and around the market and elsewhere in the community. As with many previous incidents, they want to stay close to the border so they can more easily get news of what is happening in their villages, in the hope that the violence stops and they can return home. Few communal tents have been provided to shelter these refugees, but the number of those fleeing DRC has continued to increase since the first day with a daily average of 200 people. Families have to share the available few family tents denying them their security and privacy. Further, these refugees lack essential household items and are currently being provided with wet food which is not sustainable and denies families their food choice and freedom as they have to depend on what is provided.

#### iii) Health and WASH basic facilities

Overcrowding and limited access to basic sanitation facilities, the refugees at their current holding and transit centres, are exposed to increased risk of vector-borne diseases, especially for the chronically ill, women, children, and other vulnerable groups. The weather in Kisoro is relatively cold and with the onset of the rainy season (covering March April May MAM), these refugees will be exposed to severe weather conditions.

The hosting centres have limited toilets, encouraging open defecation. Some of the already limited health services have been disrupted in all the affected areas, rendering the refugee populations vulnerable to untreated illness. Without mosquito nets at hosting centres, an upsurge of mosquito-borne diseases like malaria is anticipated to rise. In addition, needs assessments identified psychosocial support as an urgent need among the refugee population.

There are many unaccompanied children, older people, and wheelchair users among those fleeing the violence and the heavy rains being experienced in that region are making conditions even more difficult for these refugees.

The limited water and sanitation facilities leave the refugee population at risk of water-related diseases such as diarrhoea. The inadequate access to clean and safe water as well as inadequate access to proper sanitation facilities in the holding and transit centres will exacerbate the spread of diseases.

In women's hygiene gaps identified, there is a need for menstrual hygiene kits for Women & Girls of Reproductive Age (WGRA) displaced by these hazards. An estimated 6000 WGRA are 70% of the registered population. This is one of the most important needs in hygiene services needed considering that most of the displaced are women and girls based on the ongoing registration.

#### iv) Protection, Gender, and inclusion

The refugees are spread in various parts of Kisoro especially border areas and by the time of drafting the proposal, a comprehensive assessment of protection gaps had not yet been conducted to understand the situation better due to the scope and the spread of the population in un gazetted locations in the communities surrounding the border. However, it is largely understood that Cultural, values, and traditions in the DRC coupled with continued violent conflicts could not spare gender and protection-related challenges.

Although, most countries have emphasized gender mainstreaming and gender inclusion in the programming, the population that has crossed into Uganda has for quite a long been on run and so could not have been exposed to legal and policies relating to Protection and Gender Inclusion (PGI). To worsen it, the locations where the population

has run have limited time to engage in foreign policies of their location but rather to introduce the population to the existing policies in Uganda relating to the protection and gender inclusion.

At the moment, critical needs can be observed at Nyakabande, but the needs that are eminent in the locations in the community have not been indicated. The URCS will prioritize the situation analysis for SGBV/CP and PGI assessment of existing RC/RC activities including recommendations for improving the dignity, access, participation, and safety of those most at risk.

Maintaining congested families has portrayed potential Risks at the transit centre. Families are separated from the transit centre. Husbands and Wives together with mature children are separated due to communal shelters housing different gender. Although this is a good interim measure for the services, it has been raised as a challenge, for couples living separately. The refugees occasionally complain about this kind of separation as an abuse of their rights in addition to the potential risk of GBV in some communal shelters.

There is limited awareness of protection procedures including legal procedures and Laws of the two different countries. For example, the sexual consent of the DRC is quite different from the legal position on the sexual consent of Uganda. In this context, various GBV has been observed as normal in the countries of Origin which makes it complicated to apply in Uganda. It is imperative therefore to raise awareness of this distinction and also relay the implications of this response.

#### V) Restoring Family Links and migration

Nearly 70% of the estimated refugees that crossed into Uganda reported at least a family member missing and in a location that is not known at the time of arrival in Uganda. In addition, 36,000 individuals are expected to be living in the DRC community surrounding the borders and have less awareness of where various relatives could have fled at the time of violent clashes in the DRC. At the receptions and transit centres, 6/10 individuals express the need to find options of communicating and linking up with Family members left behind those that cross and are ahead of the new arrivals, and those that relocated to the settlements in Uganda while others indicate the need to restore contact with the relatives in other countries. Other than this category of population, others do not meet the criteria of refugee status and hover around waiting for determining the status of asylum.

The communication breakdown of the systems at the time of the extreme violent clashes left the population with no choice but to leave their relatives including young children behind, in addition, several family members crossed into the country and were either around the border or had earlier been relocated to various settlements in Uganda. At the moment, the refugees find it challenging to locate missing their relatives in three locations, across the borders as well as those that were earlier settled in Uganda.

### Targeting

Due to continuous fighting in DRC, the numbers keep increasing. Registration continues in Kisoro. Over 12,000 are estimated to have crossed as of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2022 and 20,000 are expected by the end of April. This is a minimum average considering that 10,000 was estimated at 6<sup>th</sup> April and more have continued to arrive. Some have refused to go to the holding and transit centres in the hope that the situation becomes safe soonest.

This DREF operation is targeting 4,500 people (900HHs), the 400 HH already assisted and 500 HH anticipated to be most at risk considering the ongoing clashes and the daily influx. As the registration and RLF are still ongoing by UNHCR and URCS, the additional 500 HH to be assisted will be determined following the assessment. The assessment plan will be the basis to clarify the gap and needs. Based on that, an update will be submitted on week 5 to extend the response activities to be provided to the additional 500 HH or scale up the target.

After substantive figures are shared from the registration, the actual population to be helped will be determined through selection based on disaggregated data. The URCS will select the most vulnerable households based on the vulnerability criteria after the assessment is completed and will consider assistance from other partners to avoid duplication.

## Scenario planning

Scenario	Humanitarian consequence	Potential Response
<p><b>Scenario 1</b></p> <p>The refugee influx falls and the refugees head back to DRC.</p>	<p>i) Minimal humanitarian assistance will be required to cater for the remaining refugees who may be taken to the refugee settlements elsewhere.</p>	<p>i) URCS uses minimal resources on the remaining refugees and repurposes the rest to respond to the needs of those transferred to the refugee settlements</p> <p>iii) Some URCS pre-positioned stock is maintained at the branches to cater for any near-future eventualities</p>
<p><b>Scenario 2</b></p> <p>The refugee influx increases and the numbers surge in the two districts.</p> <p>Increased incidences of COVID-19 cases and other diseases due to sustained community infections.</p>	<p>i) More humanitarian needs arise requiring more resources for response.</p> <p>ii) Rains intensify as per the MAM 2022 forecast causing multi-hazard (<a href="#">March to May 2022 forecast shows higher chances of strong rainy season (ippmedia.com)</a>) situations including Covid19 which makes community outreach harder thus increasing the burden of managing multiple crises.</p>	<p>i) URCS will continue with the preparedness and response operation and be ready to scale up if needed.</p> <p>ii) DREF operation will continue as planned in this EPoA.</p> <p>iii) This EPoA will integrate Covid19 prevention SOPs as well as include Covid19 risk information into the planned hygiene promotion messages.</p>
<p><b>Scenario 3</b></p> <p>The fighting in DRC worsens and huge numbers continue to enter Uganda, and with increasing rains, multiple situations of refugees, and hydro-meteorological disasters cause a need for huge humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>B) COVID-19 cases and deaths worsen, and strict guidelines are imposed that might curtail the implementation of refugee response operations.</p>	<p>i) massive displacement of people, disease outbreaks and landslides increase resulting in higher morbidity and mortality rates. The current situation leads to an increased influx of refugees reaching 20,000 people as per current projections by end of April.</p> <p>ii) More stringent measures, including total closure of the border points of entry by the government leading to huge refugee, flows through porous border points.</p>	<p>i) DREF revision</p> <p>ii) Scaling up the response from a DREF to an emergency appeal</p>

This EPoA is planned to deal with **scenario 2**, while keeping it flexible to be able to adjust and manage any scenario 3 if it occurs.

## Operation Risk Assessment

The following risks could affect the effective implementation of the operation:

- a) The rapid increase in refugee numbers crossing the borders through multiple points of entry including porous points may result into a huge international emergency.

- b) The weather forecasts predict continued rainfall experiences in many parts of Uganda including the Kisoro district, which comes with continued threats of landslide events that might result in already vulnerable people and strained host communities experiencing multiple disaster events and the numbers surpassing the target in this EPoA.
- c) COVID-19 vaccination limitation may result in an outbreak among the refugee population which the majority is not vaccinated. This may spread to the host communities. Other infectious diseases are likely to break out causing implementation of planned operation activities slower.
- d) Continuous rains and potential landslides events might hinder accessibility in the affected districts due to the destruction of infrastructures, like roads, bridges, etc. This is likely to hinder the work of the Uganda Red Cross Society, as well as for other responders who will not be able to reach the refugee populations and host communities in time with relief assistance items.
- e) The staff and volunteers involved in the operation may be at risk of contracting COVID 19 and other infectious diseases. Exposure will be reduced through strict observation of the COVID 19 national and other health guidelines and where required, PPE will be provided. Operation managers will be responsible to oversee the security and adherence to all operation guidelines.
- f) The resurgence of Covid-19 cases may force the government to enforce strict containment measures including movement restrictions. URCS will work with the government and partners to ensure affected areas are prioritized for Covid-19 prevention measures. Continuous Covid19 response operations such as Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) and adherence to the SOPs during operations.

**Mitigation measure:** These risks will be addressed through continued monitoring of the evolving situation, with the possibility of updating the EPoA as well as mobilizing local resources that would complement and absorb the additional needs

## B. Operational strategy

### Overall Operational objective:

To meet the immediate Shelter, Health, WASH, Protection needs of 4,500 people in the targeted three districts of Kisoro, Kasese, and Bundibugyo experiencing refugee influx and heavy rains over three (3) months. Based on the daily average of 200 registrations of refugees, both the NS and UNHCR project if the situation continues, more than 20,000 people will have crossed the border into Uganda by end of April 2022. If these numbers are reached as per this projection, the NS will prepare to adjust its response strategy through an operations update.

The DREF operation will support components of the URCS emergency relief and early recovery plans of action in the following sectors:

**1. In-depth assessment and registration:** Further assessment will be conducted to establish additional multisectoral needs on the continuous ongoing influx. The NS will also continue the registration activities.

### 2. Preparation and monitoring

Preparation and early response: URCS will support some anticipated actions by preparing both the staff and the communities for a bigger influx and impact. Few anticipatory actions in each sector will be implemented focused on:

- The emergency prepositioning of stock for 500 HH. Each comprises 3 bars of soap, 2 blankets, 2 jerry cans, 2 saucepans, 6 plates, 6 cups, 2 serving ladles, 6 spoons, 6 forks, 2 mosquito nets, and 2 tarpaulins for immediate and daily household and personal use.
- Preparation and overall capacity building of host communities and volunteers

### 3. Replenishment

Replenishment of 400 EHI kits was distributed early at the start of the influx.

**4. Shelter household items HHIs:** The URCS aims to ensure that refugee households severely affected by the population movement can live in safety and dignity through access to Essential Household Items, thereby strengthening their self-reliance and positive coping mechanism. URCS is focusing on the provision of immediate relief items to the 4,500 selected people based on their immediate needs.

400 EHIs have already been distributed and will be replenished under this DREF while an additional 500 EHIs kits will be procured and prepositioned for increasing numbers of refugees. The kit content includes the following emergency

household items per family: 2 blankets, 2 jerry cans, 2 mosquito nets, two bars of laundry soap, 2 mats, 1 solar lamp, and 1 kitchen set.

Displaced families will be hosted in government demarcated holding and transit centres including refugee settlements. URCS using its own stocks will provide tarpaulins to ensure minimum privacy and separation. Further assessment will be conducted to establish additional shelter and HH item needs.

**5. Health:** Due to overcrowding and limited access to basic sanitation facilities, the refugee families at their current holding and transit centres are exposed to increased risk of vector-borne and water-borne diseases, URCS will couple sensitization on preventive and Community base surveillance educational messages with various sanitation activities. Mosquito distribution will also be done to the 500 most vulnerable Households. Include the ones with children, elderly, chronically ill, etc. In addition, needs assessments identified psychosocial support as an urgent need among the refugee population. URCS will focus its Health activities for the targeted 300 Women & Girls of Reproductive Age to support their hygiene and ensure that they remain dignified even after disaster events. URCS will implement the following activity:

- Procure and distribute menstrual hygiene management kits for Women & Girls of Reproductive Age (WGRA) displaced by these hazards. Estimated 300 kits to cover women and girls at childbearing age at least for 1 month.
- Health promotion activities with 30 volunteers for 2 months to be done all along with the operation in the transit center.
- Provision of PSS
- Distribution of mosquito nets (as part of EHIs).

**6. Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene:** The limited water and sanitation facilities leave the refugee population at risk to water-related diseases such as diarrhoea. The inadequate access to clean and safe water as well as inadequate access to proper sanitation facilities in the holding and transit centres will be mitigated by provision of WASH services. The poor sanitation conditions in the holding and transit centres and stagnant pools of water provide a conducive environment for mosquito breeding that could increase incidences of malaria and waterborne diseases such as cholera. A limited number of water treatment tablets have been provided to the refugee population in the centres. URCS will therefore focus its WASH activities for the targeted 4,500 on improving access to safe water, access to improved hygiene activities, and disease prevention in the communities.

URCS will implement the following activities:

- Procure and distribute water treatment chemicals such as Aqua tabs and PUR to refugee households
- Community hygiene promotion activities
- Epidemic prevention and control
- Provision of recycle bins of 100L all around the transit center.
- Desludging of the communal latrines at the Transit centre and hosting schools by hiring of cesspool emptier /truck and the adequate equipment.
- Provide treated water for household and other uses through Water quality testing and surveillance within the refugee transit centre and host community (households) and Sensitisation of Persons of Concern and host community on safe water storage and use. Disposal of Aluminium sulphate Powder for water treatment by the WASH Kit 5.

Support for the above activities will be as follow:

**Human resources:** An initial number of 60 volunteers will be deployed to support the response. 20 volunteers for WASH activities and 20 for shelter and 20 for PSS for 45 days (15 days per month for 3 months). For the monitoring, all volunteers will be engaged in rotativity. All volunteers will be insured and equipped with protective gear. The three (03) branch managers and five HQ-based relief staff deployed in the field will supervise the volunteers. Six (6) NDRTs will be deployed out of which 4 NDRTs will support early actions, preparedness, and response interventions in the 3 target districts while the other two (2) will support sanitation and hygiene wash activities

The operation will be under the leadership of the URCS Director of Disaster Management. URCS will be supported by a Surge deployed for an initial 2 months that could be extended depending on the evolution of the update. Profile needed is operations manager.

**Logistics and Procurement:** Logistics responsibilities will include sourcing the most urgent and relevant relief items, delivered and distributed equitably to those in need, in a timely, transparent and cost-efficient manner. For the initial response, available prepositioned URCS stocks will be utilized and replenished through the DREF. Technical support will be provided through the IFRC Regional Logistic Unit in Nairobi. Local procurement will be carried out following the IFRC standard procurement procedures. Warehousing plays a significant role in this operation. The National Society

will use its national warehouse to store items in advance of distribution activities. IFRC will support the operation through a vehicle rent programme for the three months response period.

**Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, and reporting (PMER):** IFRC Juba delegation will provide URCS with necessary PMER support, especially concerning monitoring and reporting of this DREF operation. 3 monitoring missions are planned to monitor the program and support the NS.

Regular field visits by URCS teams will ensure weekly supervision of activities, in the first few weeks of the operation. Continuous needs and situation assessments will be carried out during the DREF implementation to inform decision-making. Field staff will provide weekly updates/reports about the ongoing operation to the Disaster Response Manager based at the HQ. URCS will be responsible for providing an operational and financial report two months after the end of the operation to enable the IFRC Juba delegation Cluster to consolidate and publish the final report. The NS will conduct a lessons-learned at the end of the implementation bringing together all involved parties to the operations.

**Finance and Administration:** The Administration and Finance department of the URCS will follow the procedures, established in line with those of the IFRC for budget management and financial reporting and will follow the mitigation measure established in the approval of this DREF response. Based on the lessons learned from the previous DREF Operation, support will be provided to the NS to further improve its financial management capacities by finance staff mission from IFRC.

**Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):** CEA will be mainstreamed throughout the intervention to guarantee maximum and meaningful participation of the affected communities. A feedback and complaint desk will be put in place for recipients of distributed items to provide direct feedback on the distribution exercise. For clarity and a good flow of information, clear roles and responsibilities will be agreed upon with representatives, community leaders, and committees. The beneficiary selection process will be communicated to all affected. The use of television and radio shows on hygiene and health promotion will also be instrumental in collecting feedback and responding to community concerns. Radio shows sessions will be conducted in the target communities to assist disseminate floods risks and safety measures for households, as well as disease prevention actions. In addition, key informant interviews and focus group discussions on community behaviors and risk management strategies which feedback will inform evidence-based community actions by volunteers.

**Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI):** Acknowledging that women, girls, men, and boys of diverse ages with varied disabilities and backgrounds have very different needs, risks, and coping strategies, the operation will pay particular attention to protection and inclusion of vulnerable groups based on gender and diversity analysis. Gender roles will be considered when setting up distribution times and dates as well as in health promotion activities

**Migration):** Restoring Family Links (RFL) Teams will work together with the responsible authorities on reunification activities and other migration-related aspects. The NS will continue to provide calling booths for people and help link with their families within the camp and in DRC

#### **Security:**

Although many rebel groups have withdrawn into central Africa, militant remnants have presented a potential security risk in border areas with Congo (DRC) which has resulted in the refugee influx in Uganda. Border areas with Congo (DRC), including the districts of Bundibugyo, Kasese, and Kisoro, continue to suffer the effects of continuous instability. To reduce the risk of humanitarian personnel falling victim to crime and violence associated with cross-border population movement, active risk mitigation measures must be adopted. This includes situation monitoring and implementation of minimum-security standards. All RCRC personnel actively involved in the operations must have completed the respective IFRC security e-learning courses (i.e., Stay Safe Personal Security, Security Management, or Volunteer Security).

The Regional Security Unit (RSU) has been extending security support to the Cluster Delegation and maintaining close monitoring of the developments in Uganda through the Capital based two delegates deployed in the country. There is no security professional engaged at the Cluster or Country level in security support to the management.

The IFRC security plans will apply to all IFRC staff permanently based in Kampala or on a short mission. Area-specific Security Risk Assessment will be conducted for any operational area should any IFRC personnel deploy there; risk mitigation measures will be identified and implemented. All IFRC must, and RC/RC staff and volunteers are encouraged, to complete the IFRC Stay Safe e-learning courses, i.e., Stay Safe Personal Security, Stay Safe Security Management, and Stay Safe Volunteer Security online training. Minimum Security Requirements (MSR) are in place for Juba delegation countries including Uganda.

In preparation for the launch of the **New Stay Safe 2.0 Global Edition**, the RSU has been encouraging staff and Volunteers to complete the 1-3 levels of the security modules:

- **Stay Safe 2.0 Global Edition: Level 1- Fundamentals:** <https://ifrc.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/curriculum/fd082aef-a477-427b-9ace-8c5f2a13b935>
- **Stay Safe 2.0 Global Edition: Level 2- Personal and Volunteer Security in Emergencies:** <https://ifrc.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/curriculum/a88a5612-4347-447b-95b1-2dbb468d987c>
- **Stay Safe 2.0 Global Edition: Level 3- Security for Managers:** <https://ifrc.csod.com/ui/lms-learning-details/app/curriculum/c38f447b-3655-4867-b2bc-695f5f8c4b9e>

Uganda MSR 2021 has been fully reviewed and completed.

**Business Continuity Planning (BCP):**

To facilitate and promote minimal disruption to the operations, the URCS with the support of IFRC has an updated activated business continuity plan. In close collaboration with the country cluster delegation, the regional office has supported URSC to put in place an implementation plan to reduce the risk of COVID 19 infections at the workplace. The COVID 19 business continuity plan for the URSC is in force.



AP005	Distribution of the shelter and household items to the refugee population ongoing arrivals																
AP005	Monitoring of the use of distributed shelter and household items and/or cash																
AP005	Evaluation of the shelter support provided																



## Health

**People targeted: 4,500**

Male: 1,750

Female: 2750

**Requirements (CHF): 3,579**

**Needs analysis:** The refugee influx in Kisoro and Kasese has led to disruptions in the normal livelihoods of the refugee people. The women and girls in the refugee communities need support with Menstrual Hygiene Management Kits to ensure that they remain dignified even amidst the effects of the cross-border movement.

**Risk analysis:** The detailed assessment may indicate that the numbers requiring health support may be higher than initially estimated. In addition, the increasing number of persons internally displaced, living in camp conditions might make it hard for women and girls to access Menstrual hygiene items in an emergency.

**Mitigation:** Detailed assessments will be carried out and if there is an additional need then this EPOA will be updated.

**Population to be assisted:** The population to be assisted will consist of 250 women and girls among the refugees in the three target districts.

**Programme standards/benchmarks:** The operation will seek to meet minimum standards for Health as provided for in the SPHERE handbook or as defined by the Ministry of Health standards.

P&B Output Code	Health Outcome 1: The dignity of women and girls in disaster situations is maintained	Number of people assisted with health support (Target 250)															
	Health Output 1.1: The menstrual hygiene of women and girls is supported	Number of kits procured and distributed (Target: 250)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP022	Procure and distribute menstrual hygiene management kits for 250 Women & Girls of Reproductive Age (WGRA) displaced by war in home country																
P&B	Health Outcome 2: The immediate risks to the health of affected populations are reduced	# of affected population reached with health promotion messages to prevent outbreaks (Target: 3,600)															

Output Code	Health Output 2.1: The health situation and immediate risks are assessed using agreed guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li># of people reached with PSS (Target 250)</li> <li># of households provided with mosquito nets (Target xxx)</li> <li># of people supported with first aid services (Target 100)</li> </ul>															
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Activities planned Week																
AP022	Conduct PSS sessions																
AP022	Distribution of mosquito nets (Procured as part of EHIs)																
AP022	Conduct health promotion sessions																
AP022	Provide first-aid services to the affected people																



## Water, sanitation and hygiene

**People targeted: 4,500**

Male: 2,250

Female: 2,250

**Requirements (CHF): 42,844**

### Needs analysis:

Following the continued fighting in DRC, the number of refugees has continued to increase at the refugee holding center and in the host community i.e. registered number of refugees is 8,207, and URCS targets 4,500 people. This, therefore, increases the WASH needs at both the transit centre and the hosting community for the refugees.

### Risk analysis:

The inadequate sanitary facilities at the Refugee hosting centre and respective hosting schools for the refugees have resulted in the practice of open defecation in the gardens and along the river /stream banks as well as in the school compound. The refugees living in the host community and schools around the border collect their water from the streams and rivers. Therefore, there is a very high risk of diarrheal disease outbreak among both the host community and refugees at the holding centre since the rains have also started.

### Population to be assisted:

The proposed intervention shall majorly target the most vulnerable groups at the refugee holding centre and host communities specifically women, children, disabled and the elderly. URCS in partnership with OPM is registering the refugees on arrival at the holding centre and the data is segregated by gender and age. The hygiene promotion team has conducted community dialogues and sensitization sessions to clearly understand the overarching challenges with proposed solutions. The URCS targets to meet the needs of 4,500 people at a ratio of 70% refugees and 30% host community members.

Programme standards/benchmarks: *Sphere*

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	# of people reached on wash activities (Target 4,500)															
	WASH Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities	# of assessments conducted (Target 1) # of people reached during hygiene campaigns (Target 4,500)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Conduct initial assessment of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation at the refugee holding centre and host communities																
AP026	Continuously monitor the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities																
AP026	Coordinate with other WASH actors on target group needs and appropriate response.																
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.2: Daily access to safe water which meets Sphere and WHO standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	# of household provided with water treatment (target xxx) # of people sensitized on safer water storage (Target 4,500) # of water testing consumables (Target 1 set)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Procurement and distribution of water purification chemicals – Aquatabs and PUR satchets																
AP026	Conduct Water quality testing and surveillance within the refugee transit centre and host community (households)																
AP026	Sensitisation of the Persons of Concern and host community on safe water storage and use																
AP026	Procurement of Chlorine Powder, HTH 70% concentration																
AP026	Procurement of Aluminium sulphate Powder for water treatment by the WASH Kit 5																
AP026	Supply of safe drinking water																
P&B Output Code	WASH Output 1.3: Adequate sanitation which meets Sphere standards in terms of quantity and quality is provided to target population	# of Mobile toilets (Mobilets) installed at the refugee holding centre (target 5 pcs) # of Procurement of sanitation tool kits to support on pit excavations both at the transit centre and host communities (Target 30 sets) # of Procurement of rolls of plastic sheeting to support in the construction of bath shelters for the POCs (20 rolls) # of Procurement of logs and poles for the construction of pit latrines and bath shelters (target 1,000 pcs) # of Procurement of tools and assorted nails (hark saws, bow saws, claw hammers, nails 1.5", 3", 4" & 5")(Target 400kgs) # of Procurement of Hudson Spray pumps to support on vector control and respective chemicals (Target 10 sets)															







## Protection, Gender and Inclusion

**People targeted: 450**

Male: 200

Female: 250

**Requirements (CHF):**

### Needs analysis:

At the moment, critical needs can be observed at Nyakabande, but the needs that are eminent in the locations in the community have not been indicated. The URCS requires to indicate that the Uganda Red Cross will prioritize the situation analysis for SGBV/CP and PGI assessment of existing RC/RC activities including recommendations for improving the dignity, access, participation, and safety of those most at risk. At the moment, critical needs can be observed at Nyakabande, but the needs that are eminent in the locations in the community have not been indicated. The URCS requires to indicate that the Uganda Red Cross will prioritize the situation analysis for SGBV/CP and PGI assessment of existing RC/RC activities including recommendations for improving the dignity, access, participation, and safety of those most at risk.

Maintaining congested families has portrayed potential Risks at the transit centre. Families are separated from the transit centre. Husbands and Wives together with mature children are separated due to communal shelters housing different gender. Although this is good interim measure for the services, it has been raised as a challenge, for couples living separately. The refugees occasionally complain about this kind of separation as an abuse of their rights in addition to the potential risk of GBV in some of the communal shelters. There is limited awareness of protection procedures and It is imperative therefore to raise awareness of this distinction and also relay the implications of this response.

**Risk analysis:** Tracking protection concerns relates to the areas of origin. The individuals arriving at the transit centres have indicates that the some of the beneficiaries have had differences in their areas of origin and therefore, the same protection concerns such as discrimination, abuse, violence, or stigma including those with specific needs continue to be seen at the transit centres and also hosting communities.

Concerns relating to GBV attributed to the congestion at the transit and reception centres raises a big question on how the population expresses concerns and relationships. Moreover, the population to be supported has been exposed to extreme hostilities of living in the jungles and violent locations for quite a long.

**Population to be assisted: 450 people (10% of the affected target population)**

**Program standards/benchmarks:** *Sphere standards* and IFRC PGI guidelines. The program will rely on the minimum protection principles of enhancing people's safety, dignity and rights and avoiding exposing them to further harm, ensuring people's access to impartial assistance, according to need and without discrimination, assisting people to recover from the physical and psychological effects of threatened or actual violence, coercion or deliberate deprivation and help people to claim their rights.

<b>P&amp;B Output</b>	<b>Protection, Gender &amp; Inclusion Outcome 1: Communities become more peaceful, safe and inclusive through meeting the needs and rights of the most vulnerable.</b>	# of people reached with PGI (Target 450)
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### Migration

**People targeted: 450**

Male: 200

Female: 250

**Requirements (CHF):**

**Needs analysis:** As the main component under Disaster Risk Reduction, The Uganda Red Cross would like to bring together efforts of restoring Family Links for the missed families, prevent further separation of individuals and also support and conduct Family reunifications for all separated individuals in Uganda and the rest of Countries that host refugees from the DRC.

Other than Missing and Separated families (SP), it has been noted that the communities fleeing the violent clashes have come from various tribal differences that related to segregation based on race and tribe. For example, the Tutsi and the Hutu are unlikely to have the presence and harmonious living together in a society where the conflict is exerted based on the pressure of tribes in DRC.

**Risk analysis:** The separation of families and relatives not only has impacted the Psychosocial distress of the individuals but has also field extreme protection challenges Separated families not only suffer from Psychosocial related challenges but also end up in GBV related challenges. At the RFL and protection desks, several cases have been reported relating to men that have ended up marrying second wives after long serration with their wives.

Sexual gender violence ranks high in migration beneficiaries due to high exposure to unsafe locations, shelters, and even jungles. In addition, a lot of human rights violations including torture, sexual abuse, and exploitation, human trafficking among others have been deemed to be the greatest risk among the migration and mass movement populations. The unaddressed challenges of family separation have as well led to rap and defilement as cases of GBV violations were linked to families that were not living together at the time of separation.

Increasing early pregnancies and early marriages portray a high protection risk among the migration populations. In addition, 3/10 of children who enter into child marriages are either separated or missing relatives, especially parents. It has been recognized that several children that have been entangled in child labor are usually looking for survival as the last choice as no one else is available to come to their rescue.

GBV

In this response, therefore, the URCS will seek to support the needs through supporting the interventions of restoring Family Links, child protection activities, preventing Family separation, and enhancing awareness. In addition, the URCS will work towards the reduction of Psychosocial challenges and Basic Counseling services. Ensure that information about services is disseminated, available and accessible (at a minimum) through signs, loudspeaker broadcasts, and interactions with humanitarian actors, distribute culturally appropriate educational materials, including information on key symptoms and health complications, to SGBV, pregnant women as well as child protection referral pathways.

Population to be assisted: *MINIMUM 10% of targeted people (10% of 4,500) will be reached with tracing service*

Program standards/benchmarks: *ICRC and RFL guidelines*

P&B Output Code	<b>Migration Outcome 1: Communities support the needs of migrants and their families and those assisting migrants at all stages of migration (origin, transit, and destination)</b>	# of people supported with RFL services (target 450)															
	<b>Migration Output 1.1: Assistance and protection services to migrants and their families are provided and promoted through engagement with local and national authorities as well as in partnership with other relevant organizations.</b>	# of feedback mechanisms developed (target 1)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP084	Develop a feedback mechanism																
P&B Output Code	<b>Migration Output 1.3: “Family links are restored for people separated from, or without news of, their loved ones as a result of the disaster”</b>	# of people supported with RFL services (Target 450)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP083	All services and activities geared towards restoring family links.																

## Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF):

P&B Output Code	<b>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</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• % of complaints and feedback received are responded to by the NS (Target: 80%)</li> <li>• # of programme decisions based on community feedback</li> </ul>															
	<b>Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• # of volunteers insured (Target: 30 volunteers)</li> <li>• # of lessons learnt workshop conducted (target 1)</li> </ul>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP040	Ensure that volunteers are insured																
AP084	An appropriate feedback mechanism is put in place to support all sectors (i.e ., feedback and complaints help desk)																

AP084	Systems are put in place to share information with communities on operational progress, activities and changes – and evaluation findings																	
AP040	Ensuring Gender Inclusion in the operation by interacting with PGI stakeholders																	
AP042	NS monitoring																	
AP040	Conduct lessons learnt workshop																	
P&B Output Code	<b>Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured</b>	<i>#of surge deployed (01)</i>																
	<b>Output S2.1.1: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.</b>	<i>#monitoring missions conducted by IFRC operations (03)</i>																
	Activities planned Week	<i>#of finance mission conducted (01)</i>																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP046	Deployment of surge support																	
P&B Output Code	<b>Output S2.1.3: NS compliance with Principles and Rules for Humanitarian Assistance is improved</b>																	
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP049	Ensure all staff in the IFRC and NS office go through the online training on Principles and Rules.																	
AP049	Regularly check compliance with the Principles and Rules																	
AP049	IFRC monitoring missions include finance and operation																	

## Funding Requirements

The total budget requested to implement this emergency plan of action is CHF 185,233 as detailed in the attached budget.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### DREF OPERATION

MDRUG045\_UGANDA\_population movement from Uganda

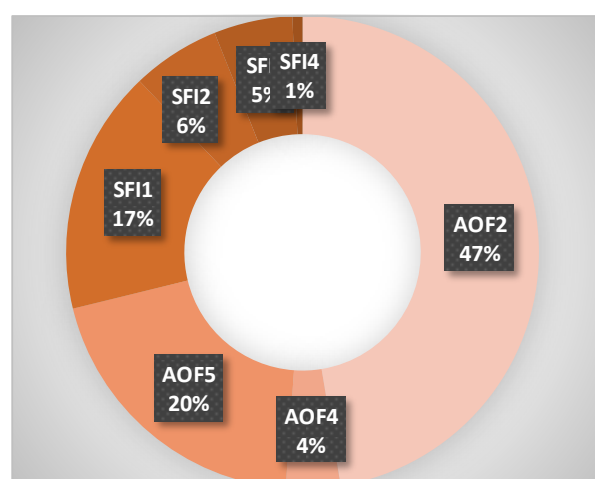
08/04/2022

#### Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Shelter - Relief	30,434
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	37,047
Medical & First Aid	3,226
Teaching Materials	1,522
Other Supplies & Services	38,042
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>110,270</b>
Transport & Vehicles Costs	11,151
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>11,151</b>
International Staff	6,000
National Society Staff	8,269
Volunteers	10,290
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>24,559</b>
Workshops & Training	6,576
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>6,576</b>
Travel	4,500
Office Costs	2,283
Communications	300
Financial Charges	900
Other General Expenses	13,389
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>21,371</b>
<b>DIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>173,928</b>
<b>INDIRECT COSTS</b>	<b>11,305</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>185,233</b>

#### Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF2 Shelter	87,850
AOF4 Health	6,888
AOF5 Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	37,105
SF11 Strengthen National Societies	30,973
SF12 Effective International Disaster Management	11,183
SF13 Influence others as leading strategic partners	9,958
SF14 Ensure a strong IFRC	1,278
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>185,233</b>



## Reference documents



Click here for:

- Previous Appeals and updates
- Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA)

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

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**For In-Kind donations and Mobilization table support:**

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

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## How we work

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

The IFRC's work is guided by Strategy 2020 which puts forward three strategic aims:



**Save lives.**  
protect livelihoods,  
and strengthen recovery  
from disaster and crises.



Enable **healthy**  
and **safe** living.



Promote social inclusion  
and a culture of  
**non-violence** and peace.