

DREF Plan of Action

Nicaragua: Preparatory actions for Tropical Storms

DREF Operation n°		MDRNI012	
Date of issue:	14 June 2022	Expected timeframe:	4 months
		Expected end date:	31 October 2022
IFRC Category allocated to the disaster or crisis: Yellow			
DREF allocated: 176,950 Swiss francs (CHF)			
Total number of people potentially affected:	231,944 people (36,938 families)	Number of people to be assisted:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,000 direct people (200 families) • 57,986 people indirectly
Provinces potentially affected:	Northern and Southern Caribbean Regions	Provinces targeted:	Northern and Southern Caribbean Regions.
Host National Society presence: Nationwide coverage through the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) network of branches (32), with 2,000 active volunteers across different programmes.			
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation: International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Spanish Red Cross (SRC), Italian Red Cross (IRC) and German Red Cross.			
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation are: National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System (SINAPRED), Nicaraguan Ministry of Health (MINS) Civil Defence, Municipal Civil Protection Commissions.			

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

According to the Colorado State University¹, it is forecasted that 2022 will be an above-average hurricane season, with at least 19 named storms and nine hurricanes — four of which will be Category 3 or higher. An average season has typically 14 named storms, around seven hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

This potential set of powerful hurricanes expected to hit Mexico, the United States, Central America, and the Caribbean in 2022 will make it one of the seasons with the most significant number of storms and hurricanes in the continent's history. 2020 was marked by 30 powerful storms and hurricanes that broke records in a short time, including hurricanes Eta and Iota, category 5 and 4, which hit the Nicaraguan Caribbean coast. This is one of the reasons why the target departments have been chosen as potential areas that will require assistance. Rapid

¹ [Colorado State University. Tropical Weather & Climate Research. Forecast for 2022 Hurricane Activity.](#)

Response units will remain alert through a system that monitors the situation and carry out activities to strengthen and equip local branches at the national level. This is part of the planned anticipatory action that focuses on an efficient mechanism to address various threat scenarios in the country.

Intense to moderate scattered rains have fallen across most of the country during the third week of April 2022, which, together with the soils' permeabilization, have led to collateral effects such as the early saturation of the soil and structural damage such as the collapse of the Miraflores bridge that connects Los Brasiles and Ciudad Sandino in Managua department. In this regard, the urban and rural development seen across the country has modified the context. By failing to build based on local risk studies, newly exposed areas at risk of suffering the ravages of adverse events have been created.

Nicaragua has a population of 6,518,478 in 2020, of which 3,302,000 women and 3,216,478 men, with predominantly young people, 74% of whom are under the age of forty. Due to its geographical position, it is exposed to the recurrent impact of various natural phenomena such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods, landslides, droughts, and tropical cyclones. All these events can affect the population by directly impacting individuals, families, and communities.² The total population of Waspam, Puerto Cabezas and Prinzapolka, where actions will be carried out, is 231,944.

According to the Global Climate Risk Index³, from 1998 to 2017, Nicaragua was ranked sixth among the top ten countries most exposed and vulnerable to extreme weather events. Due to the territory's high vulnerability, each cyclone season will likely continue to affect the departments of Chinandega, León, Managua, Rivas, Carazo, Granada, Masaya, Jinotega, Matagalpa, Estelí, Nueva Segovia, Somoto, Juigalpa, Boaco, San Carlos, and the Northern and Southern Caribbean regions.

While some unforeseeable events will require response actions, some foreseeable events will allow declaring states of alert, taking anticipatory actions and preparing contingency plans to be better prepared and efficiently plan for response to different situations and contexts. Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) is obliged to respond per Law No. 337 - Law that Creates the National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System, Art.2: Principles of the National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System, Decree No. 98-2000 - which mandates scenario planning under an efficient mechanism to respond to and mitigate the risks that depend on social, cultural and/or disaster factors and which at all times ensures the preservation and safeguarding of lives in disaster contexts.

In the last 20 years, Nicaragua has been hit by major extreme weather events such as Hurricanes Mitch in 1998, Beta in 2005, Felix in 2007, and most recently by hurricanes Eta and Iota in November 2020, which hit the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) 15 days apart with maximum intensity. The economic, social, housing and infrastructure losses have been devastating for the region, as the two last hurricanes combined affected 56

² SINAPRED. Plan Nacional de Respuesta con Enfoque Multiamenaza y Salud. 2020.

³ German Watch. Global Climate Index 2019.



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Data sources: IFRC, OCHA, Nicaraguan Red Cross. Produced by IH Team, DCCPRR, IFRC Americas.

municipalities nationwide and put three million people at risk. According to SINAPRED reports, damage caused by the hurricanes totalled 617 million 433 thousand dollars, and economic losses totalled 121 million dollars, for a total of 738 million 602 thousand dollars. Additionally, the housing conditions of families in the Autonomous Region of the Northern Caribbean Coast (RACCN) have historically been overcrowded and with homes built from insecure materials, which has led to the deprivation of indigenous communities of the right to live in safety, with dignity, and with the certainty of property rights. The RACCN population has historically presented high rates of general and extreme poverty. According to data from the 2014 Living Standard Measurement Survey (EMNV), about 18.95% of households in the Atlantic region live in general poverty. The average poverty line is defined at 17,011.47 NIO (about 477 USD) per year, according to the National Institute of Development Information (INIDE). It is estimated that 6% of households live in extreme poverty. This region also has significant barriers to accessing medical health services. Difficulties of access due to weak or non-existent transportation infrastructure to the communities, combined with the high costs of mobilization to communities, cause significant complications in accessing the nearest health posts or centres. Another big problem in the RACCN is household hygiene and sanitation conditions. Hurricanes exacerbate this problem by destroying latrines, contaminating hundreds of wells, and making access to hygiene items even more difficult.

Summary of the current response

Overview of Host National Society Response Action

The Nicaraguan Red Cross was founded 87 years ago, constantly growing and responding as an auxiliary to public authorities to respond to and mitigate risks that depend on social, cultural and/or disaster factors through a legal framework. It currently has 32 branches (17 municipal and 15 departmental), as well as 2,000 volunteers located nationwide who are called on to respond to an emergency and/or disaster event.

Based on its Strategic Development Plan, including response actions and experiences carried out in other events, the NRC incorporates a preparedness for institutional and community response component with an adaptation approach within its actions. This covers everything from the activation of the emergency operation centre (EOC) to the supply chain to deliver and strengthen its activities under a resiliency approach to reduce risk.

Below are certain actions conducted by the NRC, in line with its forecast- and scenario-based planning and considering the multiple hazards in the country:

- Reinforced Safer Access Strategy and Handbook to reduce operational risks in the field.
- Hiring of a Operational security officer to provide strategic and operational monitoring to NS actions.
- Updated its Strategic Plan and multi-hazard-based Contingency Plans, aligned with national response plans.
- Prepared and disseminated the operational communication guidance.
- Conducted a campaign to disseminate COVID-19 prevention measures.
- Reinforced specialized techniques within various national intervention teams (NITs), prioritizing psychosocial care (PSS), pre-hospital care and transport (the main humanitarian services provided by the NRC), water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) and PASSA.
- Made an inventory of readiness and preparedness needs to identify strengthening needs, considering existing stock and the resources to be required.
- Monitoring of upcoming events by the Monitoring and Reporting Commission of platforms such as the Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER for its acronym in Spanish), NOAA and WINDY, which also maintains the daily report on the evolution of the COVID -19 pandemic.

The National Society has available for any possible event, 63 ambulances, 31 base radios, 60 radios installed in units and vehicles, 42 portables (walkie-talkies), and 4 repeaters (Crucero, Horno, Quiabu, Gateada). At the national level, the NRC carries out internal preparedness and information actions that establish effective, data-analysis-based communications and early activities for early and effective response by the National Society Strategic Development Plan.

For this possible response, it has activated five commissions for ongoing round-the-clock monitoring – Yellow and Red Alerts. It coordinates with Movement partners and volunteers and coordinates local plans with its branches.

In parallel, conversations have begun with SINAPRED's deputy director, communicating and/or coordinating the services and programmes that can be provided by NRC to affected people. In addition, it has activated the humanitarian network as part of emergency-related agreements for funding the Contingency Plan.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement Actions

The Nicaraguan Red Cross coordinates and articulates with all Movement members, thus improving the response capabilities to adverse events, having its emergency funds and capabilities established as a single operational muscle. In this sense, harmonious collaboration and action among all movement partners are essential for the Nicaraguan Red Cross humanitarian action.

Through the Country Cluster Delegation's Disaster Management Coordinator, the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) in the country provides guidance and support to emergency response actions carried out by the National Society. Funding from DREF can be requested, an Emergency Appeal can be launched, and other fundraising mechanisms to support the National Society in its response contingencies. This type of coordination is also used for projects addressing the COVID-19 pandemic at the regional level and the Eta & Iota Plan of Action.

In addition, the IFRC's Americas Regional Office (ARO) in Panama provides support through a specialized team that assists the different components linked to the emergency: water and sanitation, health, logistics, and disaster risk reduction, among others. This team helps the Nicaraguan Red Cross identify priority needs such as damage assessment and needs analyses (DANA) in carrying out preparedness, readiness, response, and recovery actions for the population.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) carries out joint actions to address operational safety, safer access, operational communication, restoration of family links and health service protection issues through its country office and cooperation area.

The German Red Cross, through its delegation in Honduras and its country delegate, performs climate risk studies regarding extreme hydrometeorological events, coordinating with INETER and SINAPRED to prepare early action plans (anticipation). The German Red Cross has been supporting the Nicaraguan Red Cross in training the WINDY platform and the CVA program as a mechanism for early action.

The Italian Red Cross carries out Disaster Risk Reduction projects in the central-south zone of the country, where they strengthen communities in high vulnerability and mobilize its emergency resources for the support of the National Society when required.

The Spanish Red Cross implements risk management projects in the northern Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, as well as psychosocial support through the Nicaraguan Red Cross psychosocial support centre, mobilizing its emergency resources and other donors such as the European Union and Spanish organizations.

The Italian and Spanish Red Cross also support the Nicaraguan Red Cross by monitoring climate events and the evolution of scenarios to activate funds to support the National Society.

Overview of non-RCRC actors' actions

The Nicaraguan Red Cross coordinates with the National System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED, in Spanish) as soon as an alert is issued for any event to ensure a needs-based, well-coordinated response. It also coordinates with other actors, such as private sector companies, international donors, embassies, and United Nations organizations, strengthening the NRC's response to communities.

These include:

The Nicaraguan Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER, in Spanish): Maintains strict, ongoing surveillance and monitoring of weather events. Recommends the declaration of different alerts based on the phenomena's evolution.

The Nicaraguan Institute for Municipal Development (INIFOM, in Spanish): Updating on critical points in each municipality in urban and rural areas. The number of families and people in greater vulnerability. Location of collective centres, among other relevant data, ensures the first response to families. Provides the cleaning of riverbeds, sewers, and rainwater drainages in public infrastructure. Updating of municipal, community, household response plans, collective centres, warehouses, and activation of logistics means.

SINAPRED: Promotion of prevention measures. Updating of response plans. Preparation of community leaders. Monitoring, operation of command posts, and activation of the emergency system. Preparation of sheltering capacity.

Nicaraguan Ministry of Health (MINSAs, in Spanish):

- Strengthening of organization sectors, municipalities, hospitals, SILAIS and MINSAs central level.
- Ensures preparedness to mitigate the effects of disasters such as epidemics, injuries, and damage to health facilities.
- Promote house-to-house education campaigns with the community network, providing recommendations for cleaning gutters in homes, yards and proper rubbish collection.
- Prepare the Influenza Vaccination Plan, applying 222,000 vaccines to children 6 to 24 months, women who are pregnant women, and people over 50 years of age suffering from underlying chronic diseases.

National Police:

- Make available 100 per cent of the police force and resource in line with the emergency faced.
- Establish response measures and actions, particularly contingency plans in regional delegations and Managua districts.
- Activate the support group that assists the emergency management and executive group.
- Make available police devices to ensure the safety of both people and property during evacuations.

International cooperation donors (such as ECHO, COSUDE, World Vision, Japan Embassy, and German Embassy) and private companies that are familiar with the work of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and are long-standing partners and have a high interest in providing support when a humanitarian response is planned, and therefore, maintain communication with the Nicaraguan Red Cross and activate their cooperation funds to support the humanitarian response actions provided by the National Society to the population affected by disasters.

Needs analysis.

In crises and disasters, the Nicaraguan Red Cross deploys actions to save lives and protect the population, especially during catastrophic events that require evacuation mechanisms, pre-hospital care and humanitarian aid, such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and social conflicts. To this end, the NRC has a National Crisis and Disaster Response Plan and hazard-based Contingency Plans.

The National Society aims to deliver food, hygiene kits, and blankets and ensure safe water to communities, one of the population's most significant needs in the first 72 hours after the hurricane is predicted, and there is a 60% probability of occurrence. In this regard, it is necessary to cover fuel expenses, emergency vehicles' maintenance and repair and per diems for volunteers and staff, operation coordinators and administrative assistants to ensure a logical and orderly response. Implementing contingency plans in the event of an adverse situation requires prior preparation by the NRC, which means:

Pre-positioning equipment, tools, supplies, and early warning messaging and units necessary to provide a hazard-based response: It is essential to have materials equipment and pre-positioned at national headquarters as well as at certain branches, as this will reduce operating costs and speed up response times and early response to communities, thus reducing the risk of losing human lives during hydrometeorological events. Community early warning messaging mechanisms are necessary to provide simple, useful, and usable information to enable proper preparedness and response to organizations and communities that will help safeguard lives and livelihoods. An inventory of readiness and preparedness needs has been already carried out to identify strengthening needs, considering existing stock and the resources to be required.

Livelihood and basic needs: In Nicaragua, 80% of the population living in poverty resides in rural areas, much of it in remote communities where access to essential services is minimal. The population of the Caribbean Coast is dedicated to subsistence agriculture, fishing, timber extraction, and mining to sustain the economy of these regions, where essential health services, education, drinking water and electricity are still absent in many areas. Especially in rural communities, conditions that worsen in the presence of extreme weather events put families' food security at risk.⁴ These communities have been chronically affected by different natural phenomena, such as the Eta-Iota hurricanes in November 2020 and they are still in a recovering phase.

It is essential to guarantee minimum livelihood conditions that ensure the continuity of everyday life for families and communities in the short term in the face of an adverse event, considering their level of vulnerability. Considerations must be taken to protect the natural resources these communities depend on and avoid further worsening of the condition of their vulnerability. Pre-emptive response actions to this event must consider the immediate needs but, at the same time, contribute to strengthening individual and community resilience. [NEAT+ environmental assessments](#) will be carried out in communities to evaluate the current sensitivity of the environment, how it has been affected by the disaster or crisis, and how planned activities might also affect it,

⁴ [CEPAL. Análisis estructural de la economía nicaragüense: el mercado laboral. June 2017.](#)

highlighting and categorizing the underlying risks and vulnerabilities to the environment and affected communities.

Mental and self-care: Disasters and complex emergencies result in a deterioration of the social fabric, a loss of the fabric of family life and an increase in signs of psychological distress, such as grief and fear, which can increase mental illness and other social problems. It is estimated that one-third and one-half of the exposed population suffer some psychological manifestation. However, not all can be qualified as pathological. Most reactions to situations of great significance or impact should be understood as normal reactions. Therefore, it is essential to provide the population with tools to manage stress, fear, and anxiety before, during and after an adverse event or with the help of mental health professionals to resume their lives with greater resilience.⁵

Attention to mental health through previous sessions where psychological first aid is provided is essential to manage emotions and stress caused by exposure to extreme events that endanger people's lives, especially children and adolescents, through tools for self-care and coping with traumatic events. The Nicaraguan Red Cross has a permanent program of psychosocial support that allows for strengthening people before a disaster.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH): In Nicaragua, 34% of people in rural areas do not have access to safe drinking water. Even though the country has rich water resources, water sources are contaminated. Especially on the Caribbean Coast, where most rural families use surface water, which is contaminated and exacerbated by flooding caused by storms and hurricanes, guaranteeing safe water for the population affected by these events is one of the most felt needs.⁶

Targeting

Target areas were selected based on actions and lessons learned in response to hurricane events that have affected the country in the last five years. Selection considered vulnerability analyses and the multiple threats to the country, characterizing the areas of most significant exposure, and assessing the active hurricane season that has been projected, forecasting 19 storms and 3 to 6 category-3 hurricanes or higher according to the Saffir Simpson scale.

All scenarios are based on the most vulnerable and exposed geographic areas. This means that all 32 branches nationwide can be affected; however, priority will be given to branches in the country's Pacific and North Central areas. The branches prioritized based on their municipalities' risk scenarios are Matagalpa, Jinotega, Estelí, León, Chinandega, Rivas, Granada, Carazo, Masaya, Caribe Sur Region, Costa Caribe Norte Region, and Managua. It should be noted that the North Caribbean coast is currently being assisted through the Eta and Iota Recovery Appeal, whose actions are scheduled to end in June 2022.

The estimated population that can be affected has been considered with the latest population census, 2020, of 6,518,478 inhabitants - 3,302,000 female and 3,216,478 male - of whom 74 per cent are under 40 years of age.

Due to the characteristics of the intervention and its auxiliary role to the local authorities, the National Society will work on two levels:

- Collective centres where families are exposed to being affected by the hydrometeorological event and sheltering and leaving with the minimum to protect themselves are received.

⁵ PAHO. [Guía práctica de salud mental en situaciones de desastres, 2009.](#)

⁶ [Red de Agua y Saneamiento de Nicaragua \(RASNIC\). Acceso al agua potable Segura. 31 July 2020.](#)

- Families in the peri-urban neighbourhoods of the municipalities of Waspam, Prinzapolka and Puerto Cabezas, with the most significant probability of impact and affectation, will be selected.

Estimated disaggregated data for the population targeted.

Category	Estimated % of target group
Young Children (under 5 years)	10 %
Children (5-17yrs.)	15 %
Adults (18-49 yrs.)	60 %
Elderly (>50 yrs.)	10 %
People with disabilities	5 %

Direct people targeted:

- 4 collective emergency centres
- 200 families – 1,000 people

Indirect people targeted: 57,986 people to be reached with early warning messages.

Historically, families in the area have been directly affected by hydrometeorological events and are in critical points defined in the Municipal Response Plan. Families targeted will be selected in coordination with SINAPRED, COMUPRED and local authorities.

Scenario planning

The intervention strategy proposed for this operation is based on an anticipatory approach, which means that its activation will depend on triggers that indicate the actions to be carried out according to the forecast of the event.

The proposed actions would be carried out gradually, based on the action plan, before the event occurs to provide families with certain conditions to cope with the event and mitigate its consequences. For that, it is necessary to have prepared beforehand certain conditions that allow the development of the anticipatory actions, which would allow a certain readiness level to carry out this type of action in the time window indicated by the forecasts for an event to occur:

Readiness actions:

- Establish coordination with SINAPRED at the Central level to agree on possible areas of intervention, according to the analysis of critical points. This means creating specific scenarios where hazards are likely to impact the population.
- Agree on a Protocol for coordination and activation according to the behaviour of the events following the forecasts and which will be part of the National Society's Contingency Plan. This will also involve the municipal disaster preparedness, mitigation, and response committees.
- Identify a list of shelter centres to be activated when a hydro-meteorological event approaches.
- Identify a list of needs in collective centres and anticipated actions to create better conditions to protect families.
- Community early warning messaging mechanisms are implemented to support community preparedness actions and messages prepared in coordination with local authorities and community leaders

- Define the cash transfer strategy for this operation, identification of providers and distribution protocols through a document that clearly expresses the steps to be followed.
- Identify and establish pre-agreements with suppliers for food, personal hygiene, and water filters, among others.
- Coordinate with suppliers each step to activate vouchers or others.
- Follow up on the compliance of the activators.
- Acquisition of biosecurity protection equipment, which will require (masks, alcohol, atomisers, liquid soap, nitrile gloves, etc.).
- Ensure visibility for volunteers who will intervene.
- Coordinate all logistical operations internally to ensure that pre-emptive operational actions can be carried out once the direct beneficiary group has been identified when a second triggering event occurs.

Scenarios	Humanitarian Consequence	Potential Response
<p>Scenario A</p> <p>There are hydro-meteorological events typical of the season. There is constant monitoring of the weather conditions, considering the forecasts of the National Institute of Territorial Studies (INETER) and the Hurricane Centre of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The NRC activates its response mechanisms.</p> <p>Trigger 1:</p> <p>When the centre of a Tropical Cyclone (TC) is located between 63° and 70° W and between 10° and 15° N, and its displacement is expected to be west/northwestward in the next 24 hours.</p> <p>Development: 5 to 7 days</p>	<p>SINAPRED declares a Green Alert and forecasts a high probability of a larger cyclone, which could cause significant flooding.</p> <p>Communities at risk constantly monitor the event and prepare for a likely evacuation.</p>	<p>Activation of the Communication and Follow-up Commission of the Emergency Operations Centre for permanent 24-hour monitoring and situation reporting. Activation of situation rooms in regions close to the potential impact zone.</p> <p>Mapping capacities and resources (lines of intervention) at the national level establish coordination with the involved organisms.</p> <p>The coordination established by SINAPRED for activating the anticipated DREF are initiated.</p> <p>The possible areas of most significant impact are geolocated, and a preliminary selection is made with SINAPRED and regional government and municipalities.</p> <p>The processes defined to mobilise the DREF funds are activated.</p> <p>It coordinates with the network of suppliers available in the areas to deliver the products previously identified.</p> <p>Logistics are organised for the displacement of response units to</p>

		<p>the area, water treatment plants and preparing humanitarian aid kits to attend to the emergency in the warehouse.</p> <p>Activation of National Intervention Teams (NIT) in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion.</p> <p>An information campaign is activated via radio to inform the population about the evolution of the event and the actions to be taken: prepare for the evacuation with the necessary and possible means to safeguard life and, as far as possible, protect assets.</p> <p>Procurement of water storage equipment is being prepared</p>
<p>Scenario B</p> <p>The INETER forecast foresees a 60% probability of a tropical cyclone moving towards the red alert zones with the possibility of becoming a tropical cyclone. SINAPRED is issuing a partial or total yellow alert for the regions of the northern Caribbean Coast of Nicaragua, where evacuations of communities to safe areas will be initiated. Simultaneously, the opening of collective centres or solidarity houses is taking place.</p> <p>Increase in need for humanitarian aid where approximately 231,944 people (36,938 families) will be affected, according to the SINAPRED and Nicaraguan Army's survey in the area.</p> <p>The tropical cyclone is stationed in the red alert zone and is moving towards the continental area. INETER forecasts flooding with an 80% probability of three days.</p> <p>Trigger 2:</p>	<p>SINAPRED declares a yellow alert for the Northern Caribbean area due to the imminent impact of the tropical cyclone in the Northern Caribbean.</p> <p>Opening and refurbishment of collective centres.</p> <p>Evacuations are initiated, and contingency plans are put in place. Internal mobilisation of people to less vulnerable areas.</p> <p>Según el análisis de riesgo del</p> <p>According to SINAPRED's risk analysis, approximately 231,944 people are likely to be affected (36,938 families) on the Nicaraguan Caribbean coast.</p>	<p>All Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) commissions at NRC National Headquarters, Monitoring Centres and Departmental Branch Operational Posts and Situation Rooms are activated.</p> <p>Situation Rooms and Operational Posts of the Municipal Branches activated.</p> <p>National Intervention Teams (NITs) by technical area are in the impact zone and support evacuations of families and/or communities whose lives and property are at high risk.</p> <p>Preparation of status reports.</p> <p>Support in the preparation of pre-designated collective centres.</p> <p>Identified providers prepare to meet the needs of families who will be given vouchers to secure hygiene kits or other post-disaster necessities.</p> <p>Distribution of items to families evacuated. Jerrycans or other containers will be placed to guarantee safe water for the population.</p>

<p>When the centre of a Tropical Cyclone is located between 70° and 77° West and between 15° and 18° North, its displacement continues westward in the next 24 hours, according to NOAA or other meteorological entity reports.</p> <p>Once a partial or total yellow alert has been issued by SINAPRED and/or the Government of Nicaragua for hydro-meteorological events.</p> <p>It is sufficient that one of the conditions is fulfilled.</p> <p>Development: 3 to 7 days</p>		<p>Provide self-care sessions and psychological first aid tips for families who will have to cope with the disaster or were displaced by flooding in their communities.</p> <p>Distributing unconditional voucher assistance ensures families have their basic needs covered before an event.</p> <p>Distribution of materials for children for PSS sessions to help them manage stress and protect their mental health.</p> <p>Conduct an initial assessment of the selected communities' water, sanitation and hygiene situations.</p> <p>Awareness sessions for hygiene promotion and safe water storage.</p> <p>Delivery of items for safe water storage.</p> <p>Conduct an assessment to evaluate the current sensitivity of the environment, how it has been affected by the disaster or crisis, and how planned humanitarian activities might further affect it, in preparation and to mitigate the effects of subsequent actions in impacted area.</p>
--	--	--

Operation Risk Assessment

Potential RISKS AND IMPACT to the project	LIKELIHOOD of occurrence		MITIGATION MEASURES
	R	I	
Contextual			
<p>Natural phenomena: natural phenomena may occur during the life of the project, given the elevated level of vulnerability because of the multiple weather and hydro-meteorological hazards to which the country is exposed. Therefore, NRC and other partner actors' priorities</p>	A	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contingency and evacuation plans. - Implement safety standards throughout the actions' development. - Information and communication with local actors. - Refrain from circulating in unrecommended and unauthorized areas.

may change and, in turn, prevent or delay the execution of project activities.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor developing hazards (hurricanes, volcanic activity). - Have a risk analysis for the target territories. - Risk awareness.
COVID-19 pandemic: COVID-19 cases increase, with new waves and variants in various parts of the country, making it difficult to move supplies, isolate intervention areas, and infection of NRC front-line personnel and partners delays the project.	A	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Constant monitoring of COVID-19 case indicators and, if necessary, looking for alternatives or rescheduling that mitigate the effects of the identified risks. -Provide streamlined mechanisms to purchase supplies, distribute them to the different branches, and coordinate with the government to ensure access to intervention areas. -Apply biosafety protocols, ensure availability of supplies, protocols for field visits, etc.

B. Operational strategy

Considering the needs, the context in which the rural communities and peripheral neighbourhoods of the Caribbean Coast live, and each of the triggers according to the identified scenarios and the forecast will determine the early action defined through activation protocols. The NRC has defined an intervention strategy with steps in anticipation of any hydro-meteorological event, taking as a reference the forecast of the hurricane season for the year 2022.

The objective is to anticipate the consequences of these events, prevent their effects as much as possible, and reduce human suffering and loss of life. It will also work based on the fundamental principles of the Red Cross Movement in coordination with the National System for Disaster Preparedness, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED) in identifying communities according to their level of affectation and intervention priorities.

Overall Operational objective:

Contribute to mitigating the impact of possible hurricanes on an estimated 200 most vulnerable families living in high-risk areas and an estimated 57,986 people with early warning messages.

Main lines of intervention:

In coordination with the municipal and regional Risk Management Units, four collective centres will be identified in which the Red Cross will be supporting families with CVA, guaranteeing safe water with the delivery of appropriate containers to avoid water contamination, as well as hygiene supplies that will be available to families.

This proposal responds to the needs set out in the National Response Plan and hazard-based contingency plans, for which the following components are proposed for the intervention strategy:

Cash and voucher assistance (CVA): To guarantee dignified anticipatory actions by the social and cultural conditions of the area to be intervened. It plans to make cash transfers through vouchers which can be exchanged

with previously identified suppliers and supply families with food, hygiene and medical products or basic expenses in hardware stores for essential home repairs, such as nails and zinc sheets.

The network of providers in the probable areas of intervention will be identified in the preliminary preparation phase, beginning in August when the high season for tropical cyclones starts. The protocol for the activation of anticipated actions will also be drawn up.

The families will be identified in the Collective Emergency Centres from neighbourhoods on the periphery of the municipality in areas of risk and high levels of vulnerability. 200 families will be prioritized and will be given a voucher either using a card with an electronic bar or a paper card prepared by the Nicaraguan Red Cross with the required specifications to be a valid document and support for the transaction. The voucher will have a value of 7,333 Nicaraguan Córdoba's (C\$) or 200 CHF. This value has been selected because it is slightly more than the minimum wage. The minimum wage table (Approved wage 2021-2022: C\$ 6,622.47) was published by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Labour.⁷

The profile of people targeted will prioritise the population in a situation of vulnerability, i.e. those people who, for natural or social reasons, are considered to be in a situation of defencelessness due to their condition and therefore deserve support. For such purposes, a differential approach will be used in which priority attention will be given to single-headed families headed, with members with functional diversity, older adults, or with several minors in their care. In all cases, it will be identified that the families do not have the economic resources or have limited access to services by their means or through public health or social programmes. For the contracting of the provider, administrative procedures will be followed per the administrative manual of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and the IFRC.

The criteria for choosing the supplier will be acceptance of the suppliers to work under the CVA mechanism, that they have the necessary geographical coverage for the project, that they provide quality services, inventory capacity to meet the demand, accessibility from the beneficiary to the supplier, from the supplier to the products and from the National Society to the supplier. Experience and quality of service.

Among the experiences of the Nicaraguan Red Cross in the context of emergencies, it has considered the assistance provided to beneficiaries through vouchers and in-kind assistance, such as the following:

- In 2014, after the earthquake measuring 6.2 on the Richter scale on 10 April, work was carried out in the most affected areas of La Paz Centro and Nagarote, providing beneficiaries with food vouchers and construction materials.
- In 2019, the Psychosocial Support and Mental Health Centre (CAPS) was created to attend to the most vulnerable people's mental health care needs, which have been attended to through the unconditional cash transfer mechanism. Similarly, vouchers for medicine have been delivered to purchase school supplies, and in 2020, unconditional vouchers were delivered to 100 families affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on this experience and considering the population's needs, the cash transfer mechanism is proposed as part of an action in anticipation of the imminent probability of extreme hydro-meteorological events.

The objective is to guarantee that families, before and after the impact of the event, can count on economic resources that will allow them to acquire or pre-position food, blankets, personal hygiene materials, or other requirements to recover after the impact of an event.

⁷ [Asamblea Nacional de Nicaragua. Salarios Mínimos. 25 February 2021.](#)

A rapid response staff person will be deployed to strengthen the National Society's capacities in CVA to support the development of the programme's strategy.

Psychosocial or Mental Health Care: Once the families are concentrated in the temporary collective centres before the impact of the tropical cyclone, self-care sessions will be held for the adults of the families and play activities with children and adolescents to manage fear and stress. These are short sessions of between 30 minutes to an hour. Apart from experiencing self-care techniques, the group leaders are also taught psychological first aid so that they can provide support to their family members who may be affected after the impact of a life-threatening event. Volunteers will carry out these actions from the Red Cross Psychosocial Support Network with the accompaniment of a mental health professional (psychologist) from the Psychosocial and Mental Health Support Centre (CAPS), who will be deployed from the green alert to the area. Psychosocial Support kits for the play sessions will be provided for the children and the collective centres, which their administrators will manage. A total of 200 PSS kits and four community kits will be delivered to the administrators of the collective centres so that the Collective Centre administration can promote psychosocial support sessions.

WASH: In the event of an emergency in the municipalities of Puerto Cabezas, Prinzapolka or Waspan, the Red Cross has a presence through the Bilwi branch and two aid stations that will be available from August in the area, where water purification equipment will be provided and will be available for emergencies in the area. Safe water will be guaranteed in the collective centres before the arrival of the families and the impact of any adverse event, and 200 families will be provided with jerrycans or filters that will allow safe water storage, thus avoiding water-borne diseases.

Communication and Awareness Campaign: to inform communities and families about the event's evolution, the actions to get ready to go to a safe place and the measures of prevention and protection against tropical cyclones and floods. This campaign will start with a green alert. To disseminate these key messages, a contract will be established with community radio stations and local television in the municipalities. Vignettes will be constantly disseminated, and radio stations will be visited to keep them informed about the event. These actions will be coordinated and implemented with the Risk Management Units of the municipality. This campaign will be carried out before the impact of the hydrometeorological event.

Strengthening the National Society's response capacities: To efficiently guarantee the proposed activities, the institution must have a human resource that allows it to manage the anticipation phase, which means that it will define the cash transfer strategy, the protocol for activating funds before coordination, mapping of suppliers, among other prior actions, for which it is proposed to hire a professional with experience and knowledge in risk reduction and emergency management, as well as general knowledge of cash transfers. This professional would start working in August so that his/her time of contract (4 months) coincides with the high hurricane season.

The operation requires operational expenses such as fuel for the execution of activities and general maintenance of the units available to the SN for the implementation of anticipated actions and first response, as well as expenses in salaries, per diem for volunteers, accommodation for travel to the area, stationery and other expenses related to the operation.

Human Resources

The Nicaraguan Red Cross has a network of 32 branches available for this proposal. Priority will be given to those branches for location reasons and the more significant impact of adverse events. It will have the support of its volunteer network with more than 2,000 volunteers and relief staff, and members. 150 volunteers mobilized will

be guaranteed insurance for field operations as part of operational security. Since the volunteers will be mobilized 72 hours before the arrival of the hurricane, they will be in a high-risk area with high exposure to winds and rain, which entails a higher risk of accident or death, and therefore the insurance premium is high.

Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA):

For communication, an Institutional Image Strengthening campaign will be developed for the acceptance, access, and security of our staff, which promotes key messages, promotion of Principles and Values, and the Use of the Indicative and Protective emblem. These actions will be carried out on social networks of NRC and externally through television and radio spots. As an accountability mechanism, periodic Operational-Strategic Bulletins will be generated. Meetings with local authorities will be organised. A lesson learned workshop will be held to collect good practices and replicable processes of this type of experience, as well as important aspects to improve for future interventions. It is also essential to link this anticipatory action so that it becomes a response or appeal depending on the magnitude and impact of the event.

Logistics and Supply chain

The processes for procurement of goods and services, transport and warehousing, will be centralized at NRC HQ, which has procurement, warehousing and transport units. IFRC's Logistics Unit will provide support when required. All this work will be carried out based on existing procedures and guidelines in line with IFRC minimum requirements. A distribution plan will be defined based on the branches' needs and the magnitude of the impact of the events, and all support and sources of verification to support the operation will be ensured.

Information Technology (IT)

The operation requires contracting telephony services to enable efficient communication between the technical implementation team, the different national EOC commissions and the situations, which will need to remain in constant communication to monitor the event. The national COVID-19 context has led to increased use of virtual conference platforms such as Zoom, Skype, etc., and hosting data for remote work. These tools are vital for working and communicating with target groups, given the movement restrictions and biosafety measures that have been established and govern daily life.

Environmental Sustainability

From an Environmental Sustainability standpoint, should an event occur, support will be provided to the National Society to conduct an on-site assessment to evaluate the current sensitivity of the environment in the affected area using the NEAT+ tool. This evaluation will determine how it has been affected by the disaster or crisis and how planned humanitarian activities might further increase community vulnerability. This will be done in preparation for an EA and to mitigate the effects of subsequent humanitarian actions in the impacted area, as well as set the initial assessment for posterior community resilience interventions as an exit strategy for the overall operation. A case study report will be developed to collect good practices and replicable processes of this type of environmental assessment and application of the tool in emergency contexts as lessons learned to guide future interventions at the global level.

Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting

As part of PMER strategies, planning and project areas will advise on and facilitate these processes. Previously identified actions include the development of an indicator and target monitoring matrix to monitor progress toward target achievement. Rapid surveys will also be conducted to identify specific target groups' perceptions regarding implementing the CEA approach, and monthly and quarterly narrative and financial reports will be prepared and submitted.

Administration and Finance

Operational and administrative support from the National Society will be provided from the accounting and administrative area, as it is relevant for the operationalisation of the action and will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the funds and financial reporting.

C. Detailed Operational Plan



Disaster Risk Reduction

People targeted indirectly: 57,986⁸

Male: 28,413

Female: 29,573

Requirements (CHF): 8,000

Needs analysis: Community early warning messaging mechanisms are necessary to provide simple, useful, and usable information to enable proper preparedness and response to organizations and communities that will help safeguard lives and livelihoods.

Preliminary Environmental Assessments in emergency operations are necessary to determine how it has been affected by the disaster or crisis, and how planned humanitarian interventions might further increase community vulnerability. This will be done in preparation to mitigate the effects of subsequent humanitarian actions in the impacted area. The information gathered through the environmental assessment will be used as a basis for posterior community resilience interventions, and to guide the development of an exit strategy for the overall operation.

Risk analysis: Lack of capacity of the National Society to apply the environmental assessment tools. In the initial stages, critical accompaniment from regional technical personnel is required for implementation. Capacity will be systematically transferred to the National Society through further activities once initial interventions have been developed.

Population to be assisted:

Communities' recipients of key messages in disaster risk reduction in high-risk areas through communication mechanisms (radio, video, social media outlets, etc.)

NEAT+ environmental assessments will be carried out simultaneously with other vulnerability assessments. The target will be to carry them in four (4) affected communities, through differentiated focus groups (minimum 8 persons per group, per 500 people inhabitants in communities).

Program standards/benchmarks: [PAPE Key Messages](#); [Green Response: Environmental Quick Guide](#); [ECHO Guidance: Greening Humanitarian Aid](#); SPHERE: Reducing Environmental Impact in Humanitarian Response;

⁸ People targeted indirectly corresponds to a 25% of the total population of the municipalities of Waspan, Puerto Cabezas and Prinzapolka (231,944 people).

P&B Output Code	DRR Outcome 1: Communities in high risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster						# of people who have access to disaster warning information sources. Target: 231,944															
	DRR Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely and effective response to disasters.																					
	Activities planned Week						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP001	Build the capacity of National Societies to accompany, empower and connect communities through a life-saving communication campaign, including CEA activities.																					
AP001	Conduct field assessments and coordination with SINAPRED, identification of provider network, a protocol for activation of provider network																					
AP001	Conduct NEAT+ environmental field assessments in communities selected for humanitarian intervention in affected areas and compilation of Lessons Learned/ case study																					



Livelihoods and basic needs

People targeted: 1,000 (200 families)

Requirements (CHF): 43,931

Needs analysis: People affected by a disaster or crisis must be able to rely on essential commodities to ensure that they have the minimum conditions to meet their most personal human needs. Among the essential needs identified is ensuring food security for families who must leave their homes and livelihoods to save their lives and those of their loved ones. Depending on the event's impact, in most cases, livelihood loss exists.

Risk analysis: The target population is in the hurricane corridor of the Caribbean coast of Nicaragua, neighbourhoods and communities living with minimal conditions with high levels of poverty, with an environment conducive to vector-borne diseases due to the presence of ponds and humidity due to the high-water table. In general, these neighbourhoods and communities are supplied by wells constructed in an artisan manner and are easily contaminated by the rains in the area, generating significant health problems.

Population to be assisted: 200 families from the municipalities' peripheral neighbourhoods and rural communities are evacuated and placed in the temporary shelter centres.

Programme standards/benchmarks: The proposed cash assistance corresponds to the Minimum Wage defined by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Labour and corresponds to the Sphere Handbook standards, considering that it is a type of cash transfer to prepare for and anticipate disasters.

P&B Output Code	Livelihoods and basic needs Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore and strengthen their livelihoods	# of people reached with cash and voucher assistance for basic needs Target: 1,000															
	Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities	# of households reached with CVA for basic needs Target: 200															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP008	Preparation of a Cash Transfer Strategy, activation protocol according to forecasts and declared alerts, including the identification and agreements with suppliers, including a cash feasibility study and a rapid market assessment.																
AP008	Prior coordination with SINAPRED and UNGIR to see critical points and identify possible beneficiaries (temporary shelters and families).																
AP008	Protocol activated green alert: Displacement to the probable impact zone to set the foreseen anticipation mechanisms in motion.																
AP046	CVA Rapid Response deployment for Cash Readiness																
AP008	Protocol activated green alert: Identify and register people targeted																
AP008	Protocol activated yellow alert: Delivery of CVA to meet 200 families' basic needs.																
AP008	Conduct post-distribution monitoring																



Health

People targeted: 1,000 (200 families)

Requirements (CHF): 13,845

P&B Output	Health Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened	# of people (people targeted and volunteers) who receive self-care sessions Target: 1,100
------------	--	--

Code	Health Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff	# of volunteers and staff who receive self-care session Target: 100															
		# of people who receive self-care sessions Target: 1,000 (200 families)															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP023	Acquisition and distribution of support materials for self-care sessions (kit).																
AP023	Self-care sessions with intervening National Society personnel and members involved in the emergency.																
AP023	Self-care sessions for vulnerable people as anticipatory actions.																



Water, sanitation and hygiene

People targeted: 1,000 (200 families)

Requirements (CHF): 15,975

P&B Output Code	WASH Outcome1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities	# of people reached with WASH services: Target: 1,000															
		# of families who receive a hygiene kit Target: 200															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP026	Conduct an initial assessment of the water, sanitation and hygiene situation in targeted communities.																
AP026	Acquisition and distribution of 200 family hygiene kits for people targeted																
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 families who receive talks on hygiene and water storage Target: 200															
		# of families who receive safe water storage items Target: 200.															
	Activities planned	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16

	Week																	
AP026	Talks on hygiene promotion and proper water storage																	
AP026	Distribution of safe water storage items for 200 families																	

Strategies for Implementation

Requirements (CHF): 93,827

P&B Output Code	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	<i>NS has the necessary resources to implement the operation during the 4 months of the operation</i>															
	Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected	<i># of volunteers that receive PPE and insurance Target: 150</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP040	Purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for 150 volunteers																
AP040	Ensure adequate visibility of 150 staff and volunteers in the field																
AP040	Insurance for volunteers participating in the activities (national provider)																
P&B Output Code	Output S1.1.7: NS capacity to support community-based disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness is strengthened	<i># of people staff to implement the activities Target: 2 people hired</i>															
		<i>A mass media campaign (local radio and TV) is implemented from the green alert to inform and raise awareness in the population about the evolution of a tropical cyclone and prevention measures. Target: One campaign developed</i>															
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
AP042	The hiring of local NS Staff (Coordinator and administrative assistant)																
AP042	Perform field assessments (beneficiary survey)																
AP042	Monitoring and follow-up tours																
AP042	Office supplies																
AP042	Vehicle fuel and maintenance																
AP042	Per diem for volunteers and staff																

AP042	Lessons Learned Workshop																	
P&B Output Code	Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured	<i>IFRC provides assistance to the NS during the 4 months of the operation</i>																
	Output S2.1.2: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.	<i># of IFRC monitoring visits Target: 3 monitoring visits</i>																
	Activities planned Week	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
AP049	Monitoring visit to provide technical support to the NS																	

Budget

See [Annex](#).

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

In the Nicaraguan Red Cross National Society:

- **President:** Oscar Gutierrez; email: presidencia@humanidad.org.ni +505 88879819
- **Director General:** Auner Garcia; email: direcciongeneral@humanidad.org.ni +505 88950147

In the IFRC Americas Region

- **Central America Head of Country Cluster Delegation:** Nelson Aly, nelson.alyrodriguez@ifrc.org
- **Head of Disaster and Clime Crisis Department:** Roger Alonso, roger.morgui@ifrc.org
- **Continental Operations Manager:** Maria Martha Tuna, maria.tuna@ifrc.org
- **Head of Partnerships and Resource Development:** Sandra Romero, sandra.romero@ifrc.org
- **Communications Manager:** Susana Arroyo, susana.arroyo@ifrc.org
- **Maria Larios; Planning, Evaluation, Monitoring and Reporting Manager;** email: maria.larios@ifrc.org
- **Logistics Coordinator:** Mauricio Bustamante, mauricio.bustamante@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- **DREF Senior Officer:** Eszter Matyeka; email: eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org
- **Operations Coordination focal point:** Karla Morizzo (acting); email: karla.morizzo@ifrc.org □

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

MDRNI012 - NICARAGUA - PREPATORY ACTIONS TROPICAL CYCLONES

13/06/2022

Budget by Resource

Budget Group	Budget
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	10.000
Teaching Materials	20.000
Cash Disbursement	41.250
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	71.250
Transport & Vehicles Costs	11.100
Logistics, Transport & Storage	11.100
International Staff	16.000
National Society Staff	9.500
Volunteers	21.500
Personnel	47.000
Workshops & Training	6.000
Workshops & Training	6.000
Travel	7.500
Information & Public Relations	14.500
Office Costs	2.300
Communications	6.000
Financial Charges	500
General Expenditure	30.800
DIRECT COSTS	166.150
INDIRECT COSTS	10.800
TOTAL BUDGET	176.950

Budget by Area of Intervention

AOF1	Disaster Risk Reduction	10.650
AOF2	Shelter	
AOF3	Livelihoods and Basic Needs	43.931
AOF4	Health	13.845
AOF5	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene	15.975
AOF6	Protection, Gender and Inclusion	
AOF7	Migration	
SFI1	Strengthen National Societies	60.279
SFI2	Effective International Disaster Management	32.270
SFI3	Influence others as leading strategic partners	
SFI4	Ensure a strong IFRC	
TOTAL		176.950