



DREF Final Report Argentina: Wildfires

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF operation	Operation n° MDRAR018
Date of Issue: 27 September 2022	Glide number: WF-2022-000173-ARG
Operation start date: 27 February 2022	Operation end date: 31 May 2022
Host National Society: Argentine Red Cross (ARC)	Operation budget: 104,594 Swiss francs (CHF)
Number of people affected: 124,085 people affected in the province of Corrientes	Number of people assisted: 2,535 people Reached through DREF funds: 1,130 people Reached through National Society's own funds: 1,405 people
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners currently actively involved in the operation: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).	
Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation: Government of the Province of Corrientes; National Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Ministry of National Defense, National Parks, Firefighters from different jurisdictions, Argentine Army, Natural Resources Group (INTA) of Corrientes, and other NGOs.	
The Argentine Red Cross spent a total of CHF 95,817. The remaining balance of CHF 8,777 will be returned to the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund.	
<i>The major donors and partners, of the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) include the Red Cross Societies and governments of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, German, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, and Switzerland, as well as DG ECHO, Blizzard Entertainment, Mondelez International Foundation, Fortive Corporation, Splunk, TikTok, White & Case LLP and other corporate and private donors. The IFRC, on behalf of the ARC, would like to extend thanks to all for their generous contributions.</i>	

A. SITUATION ANALYSIS

Disaster Description

Although at the beginning of November 2021 there were outbreaks of fires in the provinces of Corrientes and Misiones, they were being contained until an upsurge in January 2022, when the situation, enhanced by droughts, rising temperatures and conditions caused by the "La Niña" phenomenon, became so severe that the Province of Corrientes was forced to declare an Ecological and Environmental Catastrophe Zone¹ on 18 February 2022, requiring the mobilization of provincial, national and international resources.

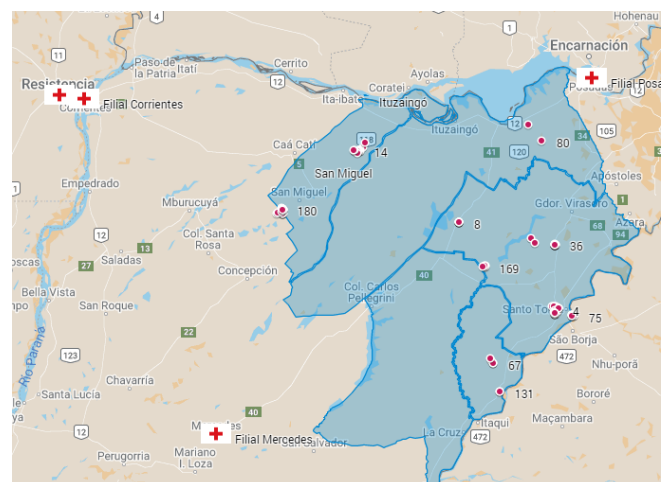
The area affected by fire in the province of Corrientes finally reached 1,042,514 hectares, equivalent to 12 per cent of its territory, with more than 14,000 fire outbreaks that directly and indirectly impacted 124,085 people (almost 10 per cent of the province's population) in 5 of the 25 departments of northeastern Corrientes, with Santo Tomé and Ituzaingó being the most affected:



*Assessment of burned areas.
Source: Argentine Red Cross.*

Provincial departments	Affected residents
Santo Tomé	61,297
Ituzaingó	31,150
San Martín	13,140
General Alvear	7,926
San Miguel	10,572
Total	124,085

On 11 March, the last two fire outbreaks were extinguished, which were located in the towns of Alvear and Concepción (east and center of the province, respectively), leaving a series of diverse socio-environmental impacts in sectors such as Livestock (cattle and sheep): Agriculture (rice, yerba mate - Corrientes province generates 30 per cent of Argentina's total production - and citrus fruits); Forestry (Pines, Eucalyptus and Paraisos), including damage to soils; Environment (Considering that Corrientes is one of the provinces with the greatest natural resources and biodiversity including forests and wetlands in the Iberá National Park).



*Main departments affected.
Source: Argentine Red Cross.*

¹ <https://www.diarioellibertador.com.ar/valdes-declaro-zona-de-desastre-ecologico-y-ambiental-a-corrientes>

Response Summary

Overview of Host National Society

Since 14 February, formal monitoring and follow-up of fire outbreaks began through the National Monitoring Team (ENMO, for its Spanish acronym).

The National Society's Secretariat for Emergencies and Disasters coordinated integrated actions with the Corrientes branch, together with 18 branches of the territorial network and teams from the different Secretariats of the Head Office, activating the entire National Response System and declaring Emergency Category 1, following its National Response Plan.

To support the remote participation of volunteers in topics such as Information Management (IM) and Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER), ten field mobilizations were carried out (67 volunteers and 6 technicians from Headquarters) based in Santo Tomé; 2,535 people were assisted through the following actions:

- First aid, healthcare, and psychosocial support to first responders to the fires (firefighters, among others) and to the affected community in general in five provincial departments (Santo Tomé, Ituzaingó, San Martín, Gral. Alvear and San Miguel).
- Rapid assessments in 20 communities and detailed needs assessments (306 families from 13 localities/communities in 4 departments (Santo Tomé, Ituzaingó, Gral. Alvear and San Miguel).
- Distribution of family hygiene kits and family cleaning kits in 11 communities in 4 departments (Ituzaingó, Gral. Alvear, San Miguel and Santo Tomé).
- Distribution of personal hygiene kits in 12 volunteer fire departments in 8 departments (Concepción, Gral. Paz, Gral. Alvear, Itatí, Ituzaingó, San Martín, San Miguel and Santo Tomé).
- Distribution of survival kits (kitchen utensils, water purifiers, emergency lights, blankets, ropes, tarpaulins, tools, book supplies and first aid kits, among other items) in two communities in the department of Santo Tomé.
- Hygiene promotion workshops in four communities in the department of Santo Tomé.
- First Aid Workshops in 4 communities in the Department of Santo Tomé.
- Delivery of first aid kits to four organizations that worked in the area during the fires and early recovery stages.

This Action Plan is part of a comprehensive strategy "**Corrientes Needs Us**" organized in three stages: Emergency response; early community recovery (this plan is part of the first two) and ecosystem recovery.

At the closing of this report, the Argentine Red Cross has made progress in the formulation of concrete proposals for cooperation for the 3rd phase with the Fundación Vida Silvestre (Argentina) and the Center for Disaster Philanthropy (United States) based on three main lines of work:

- Resilience to risks, emergencies, and disasters caused by forest fires and other environmental contingencies
- Primary health care
- Ecosystem restoration

The National Society participated in inter-institutional coordination spaces for the articulation of actions and cooperation, including meetings with the European Union (Argentine Delegation) as part of the RHIA-International Humanitarian Network of Argentina; the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Environmental Control Brigades); the National Parks Administration, among others.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

In Argentina, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has an office for support and assistance to the countries of the Southern Cone of America and a Disasters and Crises Department, which has maintained close contact and coordination with the National Society.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is also represented in the country and, in addition to carrying out actions within its mandate, such as working with the authorities to integrate, implement and disseminate international humanitarian law and rules on the use of force, it carries out actions to develop the capacity of the Argentine Red Cross to respond to emergency situations in contexts of violence and crisis and to provide RFL services, in addition to supporting the strengthening of the National Society through its cooperation programs.

The country has Movement coordination mechanisms in place. The National Society, IFRC and ICRC signed a tripartite agreement in March 2015 to maximize the Movement's overall capacity to fulfill its humanitarian mission.

Overview of non-RCRC actors in country

Although different outbreaks of fires in the area had been recorded since November 2021 with recrudescence in January 2022, it was from 18 February (the Province of Corrientes declared a state of provincial environmental and ecological emergency) when national and even international institutional and social (solidarity) mechanisms were strengthened to support the response to the fires in the Province, assistance was progressively increased (mainly based on resources to fight the fires) up to 11 March when the last fire was extinguished thanks to the work of firefighters, forest fighters and climatic variations in the region.

As for the **first response**, at the local/provincial level, each of the 5 affected departments and the Province of Corrientes itself (its different portfolios) established coordination and resource mobilization mechanisms in sectors such as:

- Fire containment and civil protection. Including coordination of volunteer fire stations, evacuations, etc.
- Health (emergency medical systems and primary healthcare).
- Livelihoods. Financial protection and subsidies to families, small producers and productive enterprises
- Social protection (surveys, family donations, support for evacuated families, etc.)

Afterwards, impact assessment, early recovery, and reconstruction actions, among others, began to be intensified and continue to be implemented as of the date of this report. In addition, resources were mobilized to support local/provincial management.

The following table summarizes the main international, national, and provincial (outside Corrientes) lines of intervention:

Dimensionality	Institution	Type of Institution	Coverage Sector
International (Bolivia y Brazil)	Brigadiers	Governmental	Fire outbreak containment
International (Canada, EEUU, United Kingdom)	Several	Governmental / Intergovernmental	Equipment Funds
International (Influencers)	Influencers	Influencers	Equipment for Institutions Direct support to families
National	Ministry of Productive Development	Governmental	Loans for Agriculture and Forestry Production

National	Federal Administration of Public Income (AFIP, for its acronym in Spanish)	Governmental	Tributary
National	Ministry of Environment National Fire Management Service	Governmental	Fire outbreak containment
National	Ministry of Environment National Parks Administration	Governmental	Fire outbreak containment Environmental protection (and fauna)
National	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries	Governmental	Agricultural production
National	Ministry of Education	Governmental	School building repairs
National	Ministry of Defense Directorate of Military Emergency Assistance (DIMAE)	Governmental	Logistics
National	Argentine Naval Prefecture	Governmental	Logistics, Operations, Security, Fire Fighting, Fire Containment
National	Argentine National Gendarmerie	Governmental	Logistics, Operations, Security
Provincial (CABA, Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Córdoba, Chaco, Entre Rios, Jujuy, La Pampa, La Rioja, Mendoza, Misiones, Salta, Santa Fe, San Juan, Santiago del Estero)	Fire Agencies	Governmental / Non-Governmental	Fire outbreak containment
National	Caritas Argentina	Non-Governmental	Social services Donations Early recovery
National	Disaster Veterinarians Network	Non-Governmental	Animal care
National	Fundación SI	Non-Governmental	Donations
National	Mercado Libre	Corporate	Electronic donations of money. Referred to different organizations.

Needs analysis and scenario planning

Needs analysis

After the first rapid assessments done in some 20 localities of the 5 most affected provincial departments of Santo Tomé, Ituzaingó, San Martín, General Alvear and San Miguel; as of 28 February, detailed multisectoral assessments were carried out in 13 localities of 4 departments and a needs survey of 318 families (306 agreed to be surveyed) using digital survey tools with KoBo, and paper collections.

Considering that Corrientes is one of the provinces with the greatest natural resources and biodiversity, including forests and wetlands in the Iberá National Park (60 per cent of its surface area was affected in this park alone) and other provincial reserves, the fires seriously affected the flora and fauna of great value for the biodiversity of the Iberá macro-system (monkeys, caimans, capybaras, foxes, river otters, anteaters, corzuelas and different amphibians are some of the animals that have died from smoke poisoning, burned in the middle of the fires, or run over on the roads while trying to escape the fire), whose recovery is slower than that of grasslands and wetlands. In absolute terms, the areas most affected by the fires were wetland environments, with more than 611,000 hectares; the most affected vegetation cover continues to be "estuaries and other marshes", corresponding to 32 per cent of the surface area. Pastures were also heavily affected: some 160,000 hectares in the northwest and another 60,000 hectares in the northeast.

Economic losses were estimated at more than 28 billion Argentine pesos.

Livelihoods and basic needs

The affected area in the province of Corrientes reached 1,042,514 hectares (12 per cent of its territory), including large-scale productive extensions. Many of the affected communities are made up of agricultural laborers or small farmers.

Although official figures on damage and definitive sectoral losses were not available at the close of the operation, the characterization of the productive impact is as follows:

- **Livestock:** Estimated losses of more than 70,000 head of livestock (mainly cattle and to a lesser extent sheep), the provincial situation became a "national" problem since it impacted (and continues to do so) the supply of animals, the lack of calves and the alteration of the production process of animals for the 2022 to 2023 cycle.
- **Agriculture:** Including rice, which was in harvesting season with losses of 40 per cent of plantations (about 5,000 million pesos); yerba mate with losses estimated at 3,200 million pesos for 70 per cent of the yerba mate fields (Corrientes province generates 30 per cent of Argentina's total production); and about 30,000 hectares of citrus fruits affected, representing almost 50 per cent of production and about 240 million pesos in economic losses.
- **Forestry:** One of the most affected productive activities, considering the difficulties of long-term recovery of the 3 main damaged species (Pines, Eucalyptus and Paraísos), including damage to soils.

Although these figures for economic losses and losses were part of a large-scale productivity scheme (managed in many cases by large private companies), many animals raised in the affected areas are used for consumption or sale at the family and community level (small producers). The loss of these animals considerably reduced the source of income, generating an impact on access to basic needs such as food, water and hygiene supplies, and materials necessary for labor reinsertion, such as fuel or tools.

The local market was practically unaffected in the main urban cities of Corrientes.

Health

The magnitude of the emergency exceeded the response capacity of the province to fight the fires, and the firefighters (3,500 brigade members and volunteers) worked many hours without rest and with protective equipment that was losing its functionality, exposing the personnel to respiratory and eye injuries, mainly due to stress and exhaustion, and its consequences on sleep, digestive problems, etc.

However, in the middle of the emergency, the Argentine Federation of Volunteer Firefighters incorporated and sent teams of mental health professionals to the field to assist them.

On 11 March, the fire outbreaks were completely extinguished, and practically all the Brigadiers and support units were deployed to fight them, facilitating the mobilization of resources of the Medical Emergency Systems among the populations.

Also, the populations of the affected area have suffered similar effects due to smoke and fire. A strong impact of uncertainty due to the direct loss of work or income; materializing in disorientation and stress, in many cases directly related to the long duration of recovery after the event.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion

All the rapid response personnel (first responders, fire fighters, forest fire fighters, health personnel, veterinarians, park rangers, etc.) worked long hours without rest for at least three weeks, without adequate space or elements for proper sanitation. There were few chemical toilets and the local people themselves made their homes available for rest or sanitation.

Likewise, most of these needs were temporarily covered with local and institutional resources, including the availability of private donations that began to arrive in Santo Tome.

And finally, when all the fire outbreaks were extinguished on 11 March, most of the first responders mentioned above were demobilized. Although the 14 volunteer fire stations in the affected areas saw their own resources reduced in terms of cleaning and hygiene, the fact that many their personnel were part of the affected communities made this even more difficult.

On the other hand, the populations located in the affected areas, such as Santo Tomé, Ituzaingó, San Miguel, San Martín and General Alvear, have suffered various hygiene and house cleaning problems due to the entry of smoke and particles in suspension, as well as the product of the fire extinguishing techniques themselves.

The rapid assessment carried out by the Argentine Red Cross showed that due to the interruption of economic activities, some families did not have the necessary means to buy the fuel that feeds the water extraction pumps, severely limiting access to water and enhanced by the pre-existing conditions of drought and low water levels in rivers and groundwater.

However, the private donations distributed (by local governments and civil society organizations) largely included bottled water, temporarily ensuring availability for the communities. Likewise, as of 11 March, the date on which the fire outbreaks were extinguished, the province and the different municipalities began to reestablish the water distribution devices by means of water tanks (suspended to be used to fight the fires).

Shelter

The fires partially affected nine houses in suburban areas, several of them within productive farms. Although the housing responses were mainly the responsibility of the Municipality of Santo Tome and provincial authorities, and therefore no sectoral housing actions were contemplated, the families were included in the Cash Transfer Program schemes under the Livelihoods sector.

Assisted persons

A total of **2,535 people** were reached in the province of Corrientes. Of these, a total of **1,130** people were reached through the DREF Operation, meeting the target set out in the plan of action, while an additional **1,405** people were assisted through the National Society's own funds and supplies.

- 2,074 people from the affected communities (about 400 families)
- 394 first responders (forest fighters, firefighters, etc.).
- 67 volunteers from the Argentine Red Cross.

The criteria for the selected area were as follows:

- The northeast of the province of Corrientes was one of the areas most affected by the forest fires.
- Prioritization of suburban and/or rural areas affected directly by the fires or indirectly due to the proximity of the fire to homes.
- Greater concentration of First Responders (Forest Fighters, Firefighters, etc.) working in the area.
- Existence of volunteer fire stations intervening during fires.

The following selection criteria were considered for the selection of the families assisted:

- Families whose livelihoods were affected.
- Families affected by the event in critical areas (structural damage or uninhabitable housing, access to basic services, damage to life or health of family members).
- Families with children under five years of age, older adults, pregnant women, people with disabilities.
- Exposure to health and survival risks.
- Families that have not received similar assistance from another institution.

The needs of all groups of people have been included, considering age, sex, gender, people with disabilities or with special needs or requirements.

Risk Analysis

Risks	Proposed mitigation measures	Taken measures
Access to complete, unified, and accurate information is limited.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact public entities (universities, institutes, government departments) with access to more sources of information. • Intensive evaluation of available sources and own elaboration for frame of reference and action. • Cross-checking of information with official media. • Direct contact with the liaison office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capitalizing on ARC's ENMO-National Monitoring Team, secondary information was accessed through various official and journalistic sources. • As the operation progressed, coordination with local institutions and their consequent access to primary information was strengthened.
The Argentine Red Cross has a poor track record in wildfire response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and adaptation of response strategies of international Red Cross societies to similar category wildfires (e.g., Australian, American, Canadian Red Cross). • Coordinated response strategy with specialized agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARC's prioritized humanitarian actions did not include direct exposure to the fires but focused on supporting the combatants and the consequences of the affected communities. • As the Operation progressed, coordination with local institutions was strengthened and the resulting learning process in terms of response to forest fires was reinforced. • The mobilized response teams included volunteers with training and experience in fighting forest fires.
Large-scale wildfires generate dangerous and rapidly changing scenarios in short periods of time.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant monitoring and evaluation of the scenarios. • Implementation of a fast and dynamic communication network. • Logistical capacity of mobile units to 	<i>Mitigation measures have been maintained.</i>

	transport personnel and equipment.	
The territorial extension generates difficulties of access and distribution of volunteers and operational personnel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of primary focus areas and discretionary distribution of human and logistical talent. • Strategic alliances to finance territorial relocation. 	<i>Mitigation measures have been maintained.</i>

B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Proposed strategy

General operational objective:

*The National Society contributed to improving the subsistence and living conditions of **2,535 people** affected by the fires. Of these, **1,130** people were reached through the DREF operation, while the additional **1,405** people were reached with own funds and supplies from the National Society. The affected population were assisted through first aid and rapid response actions in the northeast of the Province of Corrientes, including the implementation of actions in the areas of Livelihood, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion.*

More specifically, assistance was provided to the population in the following three strategic lines (sectors):

- **Livelihoods:** Through an unconditional CVA program reaching 890 people (178 families) directly or indirectly affected by the fires.
- **Health:** Providing first aid, health care and psychosocial support to first responders (firefighters, ARC volunteers, etc.) and the affected community, reaching 2,017 people (164 with first aid and health care, 1,800 through psychosocial support (PSS), 217 first responders with PSS, including ARC volunteers).
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion:** Distributing personal hygiene kits, family hygiene kits and family cleaning kits accompanied by hygiene promotion and first aid workshops, reaching 2,154 people (1,800 with family hygiene and family cleaning kits and 354 first responders with personal hygiene kits).

Human Resources

Complementing the remote participation associated with Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) of more than six volunteers from the Corrientes branch, the National Monitoring Team (ENMO, for its Spanish acronym) and the National Intervention Team (NIT), 73 people were mobilized in the field on 10 missions for direct interventions.

- 66 volunteers from 18 branches (Almirante Brown, Córdoba, Corrientes, Don Torcuato, La Plata, Lomas de Zamora, Mar del Plata, Necochea, Posadas, Quilmes, Saavedra, San Andrés, San Isidro, Santos Lugares, Santiago del Estero, Tandil, Vicente López and Villa Crespo).
- One person from the NIT (National Intervention Team).
- Six technicians from Headquarters (Secretariat of Emergencies and Disasters, communications department, and finance department).

Logistics and supply chain

The National Society activated all its emergency logistics mechanisms (humanitarian aid pre-positioned in its Humanitarian HUB in Buenos Aires) and logistics procurement and requisitions in coordination with the Undersecretariat of Logistics.

With logistical resources from Headquarters and the branches, the ARC mobilized:

- 6 4x4 vehicles (Ford Ranger)
- 2 4x2 vehicles (Ford Ranger)

- 1 vehicle 4x2 (Ford Eco Sport)
- 2 passenger transport vehicles
- 2 cargo vehicles (Van)
- 1 Drone
- 1 Satellite phone
- 2 Trailers (1 sanitary trailer and 1 kitchen trailer)
- 1 Mobile sanitary unit module

Logistics personnel and volunteers (branches and headquarters) were mobilized in the field to support the deployment and humanitarian deployment.

Communication

With the support of the Undersecretariat for Communication and Marketing:

- 12 publications were made (Media, Social Networks, etc.) that included photographs, videos, and awareness-raising infographics: 5 short videos, 2 developed videos, 4 of photos and 1 infographic. To make the Corrientes Needs Us Action Plan visible in a comprehensive manner,
- Fund donation campaigns were activated through different channels (Mercado Pago, Banco Santander Rio, etc.), raising a total of 2,753,443 Argentine pesos.

Specialized communication personnel were also mobilized in the field (from the Corrientes branch and the communication department of the Head Office). Promotional videos produced can be accessed [here](#).

Information technology

KoBo Tool was used as a digital tool for the surveys associated with multisectoral evaluations, data collection for Humanitarian Aid distributions and CVA, with the IFRC servers having this platform.

Security

Throughout the entire operation, access and security were guaranteed through insurance for volunteers and National Society staff. All participating volunteers were provided with medical and emergency insurance contracted by their respective branches and/or Headquarters. The necessary Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) was provided as part of the operation, including protection for COVID-19 (purchased by the Argentine Red Cross), among other equipment. The PPE included surgical masks, KN95 masks, sanitizing alcohol and gel, among others. In addition, the volunteers were provided with protective and identification material.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting of the operation were led by the Secretariat for Emergencies and Disasters.

Folders were set up in Drive (framework agreement between Microsoft and the Argentine Red Cross) as a platform for information management and report consolidation.

Issued:

- 2 IAR (Risk Analysis Report).
- 3 Situation reports.
- 4 SIGRID Reports (Risk and Disaster Management Information System, CRA's internal platform for uploading and disseminating reports).
- 2 GO platform reports.
- 1 Intermediate report of the operation.
- 1 Lessons learned report.

Administration and Finance

The National Society maintains the annual accounts, which are presented through the Annual Report in the form of an annual report and balance sheet; an independent auditing firm audits the reports and there is an internal supervisory body. There is an internal audit area. In addition, the annual report and balance sheet are sent to the State in accordance with the country's legal procedures.

ARCs financial procedures for this Operation, as well as its associated administrative instruments were adjusted to IFRC requirements. In addition, two internal audits were carried out (by the Finance Secretariat) and the corresponding reports were validated by the General Secretariat. The VISA Recovery Cards were processed through BBVA Bank within the framework of an agreement between said bank and the Argentine Red Cross.

In addition, one person from the Finance Department was mobilized to the field to support the administrative procedures from the area.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



Livelihoods and Basic Needs

People Reached: 890²

Men: 436

Women: 454³

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

Livelihoods and basic needs Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihood security, including food, is provided to the most affected communities

Indicators	Target	Actual
# of people reached with CVA support:	750	890 ⁴

Progress of the results

Feasibility Study

Rapid evaluations (first 48 hours) were carried out in some 20 localities in the 5 affected departments.

Additionally, during the first weeks of the operation, detailed evaluations and local surveys related to the commercial area near the affected communities were carried out to check the availability of supplies, commercial and electronic acceptance of the ARC VISA recovery card and people's accessibility, among other things, documenting a Feasibility Study following the guidelines of the feasibility evaluation for Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA).



Delivery of cards for the CVA program, Desiderio Sosa (Santo Tome) April 2022. Source: Argentine Red Cross.

Implementation of the program

Based on the results of the detailed evaluations and the feasibility study, the program was implemented, directly reaching 178 families in 4 communities in the Department of Santo Tomé.

² 750 people reached through DREF funds and 140 through National Society's own funds

³ The breakdown by sex is estimated using the average for the Province of Corrientes according to the 2010 Census INDEC-National Institute of Statistics and Census: 49% Men - 51% Women.

⁴ The average number of members per family for NEA-Northeast Argentina as estimated by ARC is five persons per family.

Based on the agreement that the National Society has with Banco BBVA Frances, 178 VISA recovery cards were issued, both nominative and unnominated (the latter in the case of 30 individuals who could not be banked due to administrative problems with the bank).

The card delivery mechanisms (three main days in April) included instances of notification, direct delivery, training in their use, claims management (including one exclusive cell phone), direct accompaniment in commercial purchases and satisfaction surveys.

People assisted were accompanied during their purchases, including transportation to stores in the town of Gobernador Virasoro (12 people in 2 days), support in the use of ATMs and electronic transactions, protection against attempted abusive charges by some merchants, transportation of supplies, etc.

Department	Community	Number of Families
Santo Tome	Los Bretes	82
	Desiderio Sosa	73
	Paraje Galarza	20
	Gomez Cue	3
Total		178

Program satisfaction survey

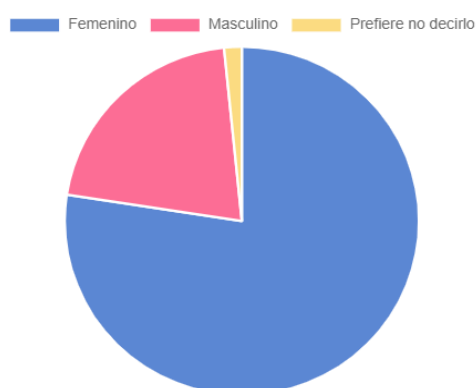
The satisfaction survey, as part of the integral planning of the CVA device, was carried out between 11 and 12 May using the sampling technique by means of individual surveys conducted by volunteers using the KoBo application with portable devices (Tablets).

62 satisfaction surveys were conducted with the families receiving the CVA device, which by gender represented 77.44 per cent of women, 20.97 per cent of men and 1.61 per cent preferred not to say.

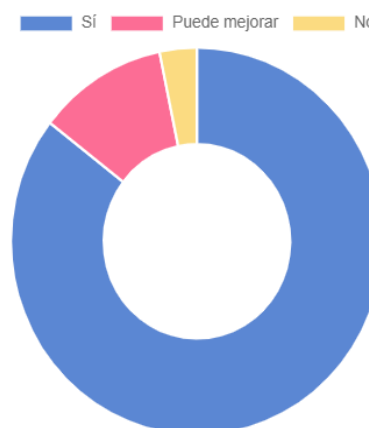
In general, it shows positive results that demonstrate the relevance of the intervention.

Some of the main findings include:

- 95.16 per cent of the people surveyed stated that they had been informed about the implementation of the program, and more than 70 per cent stated that the card delivery process was very fast.
- 3.23 per cent of the respondents had difficulties in using the card, which were due to the payment being cut off and the card not being read through the point of sale.
- Most inputs purchased were:
 - Food
 - Building materials
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Personal hygiene items
 - Others: Clothes, Car parts, Balanced animal feed, Plants and Flowers for garden, Household appliances, Medicines.



Graph A: 62 out of 62 respondents answered this question, Satisfaction Survey 220512. Prepared by Argentine Red Cross



Graph B: 62 out of 62 respondents answered this question, Satisfaction Survey 220512. Prepared by Argentine Red Cross

- 1 person paid for a Health Study.
- A 6.47 per cent stated that they could not afford to buy the items they needed to recover.
- Regarding the query of whether it was fair and equitable the selection of the people of the program:
 - 3.23 per cent that it was neither fair nor equitable.
 - 11.29 per cent stated that it could be improved.
 - 85.48 per cent stated that the selection was fair and equitable, as shown in the graph B.

Challenges

- Very limited internet connectivity hindered the survey with KoBo and its subsequent systematization.
- The surveys and information management were not sufficiently well planned and coordinated, resulting in lack of data, duplications, complications and increased demand for work and time in the delivery of VISA Recovery Cards.
- The VISA Recovery Cards did not allow cash withdrawals through ATMs, limiting quick access to products.

Lessons learned

- Consider the "Accompaniment" of the beneficiary families of VISA Recovery Cards in their purchases and commercial transactions as part of the CVA devices.
- Generate standardized and harmonizable instruments and mechanisms for the survey and management of beneficiary information as part of the Emergency and Disaster Response Toolbox.
- Modify the Procedure for issuing VISA Recovery Cards so that the plastic cards are enabled by default to withdraw money through ATMs.



Health

People Reached: 2,017⁵

Men: 988

Women: 1,029

Health Outcome 2: Immediate health risks to affected populations are reduced through improved access to medical treatment.

Indicators	Target	Actual
# of people assisted in terms of access to health care.	250	164

Salud Producto 2.1: Mejor acceso a la atención médica y atención médica de emergencia para la población y las comunidades objetivo.

Indicators	Target	Actual
# of first aid services provided.	250	200

Progress of the results

Purchase of first aid material

First aid materials were purchased to replenish supplies for the first aid kits, the first aid stations and the Mobile Health Unit located in Santo Tomé (gauze, bandages, disposable needles, low tongues, manual aspirator, cases for transporting supplies, dressings, among other items).

Mobile Health Unit Deployment

Between 20 February and 18 March (one week after the end of firefighting), the Argentine Red Cross Mobile

⁵ 1,130 people reached through DREF funds, and 887 people reached through National Society's own funds

Health Unit in Santo Tomé remained operational (24x7). It consisted of four 3x3 meter structural tents and a 9x6 meter inflatable sanitary station, including furniture for health services and general sanitary equipment. The National Society's volunteers worked there providing first aid and psychosocial care to the people affected by the emergency.

In addition, up to 14 May (the last day on which field actions committed in this Action Plan were carried out), an operational base continued to operate in the area with equipment and volunteers specialized in first aid to cover any possible emergency that might arise, in coordination with the San Juan Bautista Provincial Hospital located in Santo Tomé.

First aid care for affected persons and first responders

During the first weeks of the operation, first aid stations were set up in Santo Tomé (Operations Center), the area where firefighting actions were commanded. First responders (firefighters, forestry fighters or private individuals who assisted in extinguishing the fires) were assisted there.

The main first responders were treated for pathologies such as eye irritation or burns. First aid services were also provided to families affected by the fires during the needs assessments carried out in the field, where blood pressure was checked, and wounds caused by the work of repairing damaged areas and/or burns were treated.

Considering that most of the firefighting teams were withdrawn when the fires were extinguished on 11 March, no further health care was required for first responders.



First aid attention in Mobile Health Unit for first responders. Santo Tome, February 2022. Source: ARC.

Department	Community	Men	Women	Total (people)
First Responders	Santo Tome	38	2	40
General Community	Santo Tomé, Ituzaingó, San Martin, Gral Alvear y San Miguel)	37	87	124
Totals		75	89	164

Health Outcome 6: Psychosocial impacts of the emergency are reduced.

Indicators	Target	Actual
# of psychosocial support services	1,130	2,017 ⁶
Health output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population, as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff.		
Indicators	Target	Actual

⁶ 1,130 people reached through DREF funds, and 887 people reached through National Society's own funds

# of families assisted with psychosocial support.	150	360
# of first responders and volunteers assisted through psychosocial support.	380	217

Progress of the results

Provided PSS to affected families

Procedures were established and individual and group psychosocial support techniques based on emotional ventilation and counseling were applied in the assessment devices (rapid and detailed) and in the distribution of Humanitarian Aid (Hygiene and Cleaning Kits and CVA).

Individual sessions were carried out applying psychosocial support techniques, in which people were accompanied to achieve a safe space where they could talk about what had happened and about any concerns they may have related to the loss of belongings or livelihoods.



Individual psychosocial support sessions with children, Santo Tomé. May 2022. Source: Argentine Red Cross.

Departments	Totals (Families)
Santo Tomé	253
Ituzaingó	61
General Alvear	4
San Miguel	42
Total	360

Provide PSS to first responders and volunteers

Between 20 to 24 February, based in Santo Tomé (Operations Center from where firefighting actions were commanded), individual and group psychosocial support actions were applied to teams of first responders based on emotional ventilation. These actions were suspended because, in the middle of the emergency, the Argentine Federation of Volunteer Firefighters incorporated and sent teams of mental health professionals to the field to assist them.

In relation to the volunteers, in the 10 mobilizations to the field, procedures were established, and individual and group psychosocial support actions based on emotional ventilation and counseling were applied.

These were complemented with the programming and implementation of formal, facilitated, and open instances of evaluation of the activities at the end of each day. Spaces were provided for data connection and communication with their families and relatives, among others.

Likewise, although there were no cases with warning signs or patterns that required professional referral, there were situations of individual, peer or group tension that were managed by the people in charge of the field operation.

Departments	Men	Women	Total
Santo Tomé (first responders)	140	10	150
Volunteers	37	30	67
Total	177	40	217

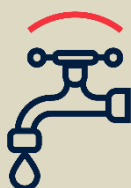
Challenges

- Psychosocial support actions were not systematized.

Lessons learned

The National Society consider as a lesson learned:

- To provide PFA training to the community to leave capacities and promote resilience for future emergencies.
- Include teams specialized in psychosocial support to manage interventions both with the communities (adults and children) and with the volunteers.
- Work together with the psychosocial support area of the Argentine Red Cross in the design and implementation of specific action protocols for emergency or disaster situations.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

People Reached: 2,154⁷

Men: 1,055

Women: 1,099

WASH Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in the risk of waterborne and water-related diseases in targeted communities.

Indicators	Target	Actual
# of people assisted in hygiene and cleanliness.	1,050	2,154
Hygiene-related products and training in their use are delivered to the target population.		
Indicators	Target	Actual
# of families reached with hygiene and cleaning kits.	150	360 ⁸
# of first responders reached with personal hygiene kits.	300	360 ⁹
Progress of the results		

⁷ 1,050 people reached through DREF funds and 1,104 people through National Society's own funds

⁸ 150 families reached through DREF funds and 210 families through National Society's own funds

⁹ 300 reached through DREF funds and 60 through National Society's own funds

Distribution of Family Hygiene Kits

The pre-positioning of Humanitarian Aid (at the Ezeiza-Buenos Aires Humanitarian Hub) was capitalized, ensuring immediate availability. Based on preliminary information from the Rapid Assessments, as of 28 February, during the detailed assessments, most of the hygiene kits committed to (306 hygiene kits in 11 communities in 4 departments) began to be distributed. At the end of the operation, 360 Family hygiene kits were delivered in 11 communities in 4 departments.

Distribution of Family Cleaning Kits

The pre-positioning of Humanitarian Aid (at the Humanitarian Hub in Ezeiza-Buenos Aires) was capitalized, ensuring immediate availability. Based on information from the detailed assessments, ARC began distributing most of the committed hygiene kits (306 Hygiene Kits in 11 communities in 4 departments). At the close of the operation, 360 family hygiene kits were delivered in 11 communities in 4 departments.



Delivery of Personal Hygiene Kits. Santo Tome. April 2022. Source: ARC

Departments	Family Hygiene Kits delivered	Family Cleaning Kits delivered
Santo Tomé	253	253
Ituzaingó	61	61
General Alvear	4	4
San Miguel	42	42
Total	360	360

Distribution of personal hygiene (and cleaning) kits for first responders

In the first weeks of the operation (and until March 11), the first responders had access to personal hygiene items distributed from collections and private donations. Nevertheless, it was possible to support their recovery with 354 personal hygiene kits (345 personal hygiene kits, 5 family hygiene kits and 4 family cleaning kits) delivered to the intervening institutions in the area (12 volunteer fire departments, park rangers and the provincial hospital of Santo Tome).

Departments	Locality	Institution	Type of Kit	Men	Women	Total
Concepción	Concepción	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	27	7	34
	Santa Rosa	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	21	15	36
General Alvear	Alvear	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	9	6	15
General Paz	Caa Cati	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	15	5	20
Itati	Itatí	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	21	16	37
Ituzaingó	Colonia Liebig	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	13	2	15
	Ituzaingó	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	12	12	24

		Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	36	6	40
San Martin	La Cruz	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	12	1	13
	Yapeyu	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	11	15	16
San Miguel	San Miguel	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	14	4	18
	Loreto	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	15	4	19
Santo Tome	Santo Tome	San Juan Bautista Provincial Hospital	Personal Hygiene	14	16	30
			Family Hygiene	-	-	5
	Gdor Virasoro	Volunteer Fire Station	Personal Hygiene	25	3	28
TOTAL				243	102	354

Composition of the kits.

Family Cleaning Kit	Family Hygiene Kit	Personal Hygiene Kit (First Responders)
1 Straw broom with rope	3 Toilet soaps	1 Bath sponge
1 Hand brush	2 Toilet sponges	1 Toothbrush
1 Pack of waste bags	5 Toothbrushes	1 Toothpaste
2 Rubber gloves	3 Toothpaste	1 Shaving razor
2 Floor rags	8 Packs of menstrual pads	1 Toilet paper
1 Plastic bucket	8 Rolls of toilet paper	1 Alcohol gel
2 Sponge	2 Shampoo	1 Toilet soap
1 Multi-purpose cloth	2 Combs	1 Shampoo
2 White soaps	5 Small hand towels	1 Comb
1 Waste basket	2 Large bath towels	1 Feminine wipes
1 Concentrated bleach water	3 Disposable razors	
1 Detergent		

Hygiene promotion and first aid activities


Throughout the Operation, six community workshops on hygiene promotion and first aid were carried out, reaching 195 people from 4 Communities. These workshops were carried out during the three card delivery days (CVA) and within the framework of the distribution of kits, including a school in Los Bretes.



Hygiene promotion talks during AVC program deliveries. April 2022. Source: ARC

Departments	Communities	Men	Women	Totals
Santo Tomé	Los Bretes	65	52	117
	Desiderio Sosa	19	41	60
	Paraje Galarza	7	8	15
	Gomez Cue	1	2	3
TOTAL		92	103	195

Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The surveys in rural lands and the management of the insufficient information resulted in duplication of forms, late distributions, and initial inequity in the access to it. • Despite being pre-positioned in the Humanitarian HUB of Ezeiza (Buenos Aires), it took a long time to deliver the required amount to the field. • Since most of the firefighting resources were withdrawn when the DREF operation was approved, the strategy for the distribution of personal hygiene kits had to be changed, resulting in delays for the delivery.
Lesson learned
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate standardized and harmonizable instruments and mechanisms for managing beneficiary information as part of the Emergency and Disaster Response Toolbox. • Generate and maintain an updated Inter-institutional Directory from the beginning of the operation. • Maintain an updated inventory of available humanitarian resources.

National Society Strengthening		
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, competencies and capacities to plan and deliver.		
Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective, motivated and protected volunteers		
Indicators	Target	Actual
# of visibility acquired (institutional vests)	80	104
Lessons learned workshop	1	1
Progress of the results		
Purchase and distribution of protective equipment for volunteers		
<p>Taking advantage of the reserve of supplies within the framework of the National Society response to COVID-19 pandemic, personal protection equipment (masks, disposable gloves, goggles, alcohol gel, etc.) was assigned to the operation, distributing supplies for some 100 people. Also, 104 institutional vests were purchased and assigned to the operation for the identification and protection of volunteers. In addition, and as a formal recognition to the volunteers involved, plastic bottles from the Argentine Red Cross were handed out.</p>		
		
<p><i>ARC equipment and operation monitoring missions from Headquarters. Source: Argentine Red Cross.</i></p>		
Follow-up missions to the operation		
<p>Five follow-up missions were carried out in the field (based in Santo Tome), led by the Secretariat for Emergencies and Disasters (Headquarters). Four people from the Secretariat were mobilized.</p>		
Mobilization of volunteers		
<p>Complementing the remote participation associated with PMER (Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and</p>		

Reporting) of more than six volunteers from the Corrientes branch, the National Monitoring Team and the National Intervention Team, 67 volunteers were mobilized to the field in 10 missions for direct interventions.

- 66 volunteers from 18 branches (Almirante Brown, Córdoba, Corrientes, Don Torcuato, La Plata, Lomas de Zamora, Mar del Plata, Necochea, Posadas, Quilmes, Saavedra, San Andrés, San Isidro, Santos Lugares, Santiago del Estero, Tandil, Vicente López and Villa Crespo).
- 1 person from the National Intervention Team.

Lessons Learned Workshop

On 30 and 31 May, lessons learned workshops were held with the Volunteers involved in the operation (20 per cent of the people mobilized participated). A previous survey scheme was used, whose inputs were analyzed and complemented in real time and virtually during the two days of the workshop. The facilitation was carried out by a team from the IFRC and the Argentine Red Cross (National Risk Management Directorate, National Intervention Team and National Risk Monitoring and Analysis Team). Their findings and recommendations were systematized in a lesson learned report and several of their inputs are included in the challenges and lessons learned sections of this final report.

Output S2.1.3: The National Society's compliance with the Principles and Standards for Humanitarian Assistance is improved.

Indicators	Target	Actual
Monitoring missions	-	1

Progress of the results

Monitoring missions

During the operation, a monitoring visit was made by the Disaster Coordinator for South America to visit the affected areas and to evaluate and follow up the operation through interviews with the people assisted, volunteers and headquarters personnel. During this visit, work was also done on the preparation of this report and the review of the financial statements. The Country Cluster Delegation for the Southern Cone countries provided support to the operation by coordinating operational actions, monitoring, and reporting, as well as financial reporting.

The Secretariat of the International Federation, together with the National Societies, assists in the allocation of decisions at the local, national, and international levels that affect the most vulnerable.

Indicators	Target	Actual
Dissemination of material	-	-

Progress of the results

Communication and distribution of the CEA strategy

Within the framework of the rapid assessments, detailed assessments and distributions of humanitarian aid, the survey of specific needs and/or requirements (not associated with the humanitarian commitments of the National Society) was included, which were channeled to the Social Development Secretariat of the Municipality of Santo Tome. Testimonials from beneficiaries have been included in several communication products on Social Networks. The opinions and recommendations of the communities reached in the lessons learned report were considered. These were taken from the satisfaction survey conducted at the end of the operation.



Feedback surveys to people assisted during the operation. Source: ARC

Challenges

- Information prior to volunteering on the contextual situation, operating conditions, and tasks to be carried out (Terms of Reference in the calls for proposals) could provide more information.
- The mechanisms and instruments for managing the general information of the operation were created on the fly.
- The maintenance of vehicles and other materials was scarce, as was their administrative management (checklist, inventories, records, etc.).

Lessons learned

- Invest in more specific and cyclical trainings related to the minimum tasks during an emergency, safer access, humanitarian deployment, etc.
- Generate standardized and harmonizable tools and mechanisms for the general logistics management of an operation as part of the Emergency and Disaster Response Toolbox.
- Prepare and adapt the Lessons Learned methodology at the mid-term of the operation, ensuring the inclusion of key stakeholders.

D. Financial Report

See annex

Click here for:

[DREF Plan of Action](#)

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

In Argentine Red Cross:

- Cecilia Villafañe, General Secretary, mvillafane@cruzroja.org.ar
- Cristian Bolado, Undersecretary for Emergencies and Disasters - Operational Coordinator: cbolado@cruzroja.org.ar

In the IFRC Country Cluster Delegation for the Southern Cone and Brazil:

- Alexandre Claudon de Vernisy, Head of Country Cluster Delegation, alexandre.claudon@ifrc.org

In the IFRC regional office for the Americas:

- Roger Alonso, Head of the Disaster, Climate & Crises: Prevention, Response and Recovery (DCCPRR) Department; roger.alonso@ifrc.org
- Maria Martha Tuna, Continental Operations Coordinator for Disaster and Crisis Department; maria.tuna@ifrc.org
- Susana Arroyo, Communications Manager for the Americas; susana.arroyo@ifrc.org

In IFRC Geneva

- Eszter Matyeka; DREF Senior Officer; eszter.matyeka@ifrc.org
- Antoine Belair, Senior Officer for Operations Coordination for the Disaster and Crisis (Prevention, Response and Recovery); antoine.belair@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 NGOs in disaster relief and to the **Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response (Sphere)** in providing assistance to the most vulnerable. The International Federation's vision is to **inspire, encourage, facilitate and promote at all times all forms of humanitarian activities of National Societies**, with a view to **preventing and alleviating human suffering** and thereby contributing to the maintenance and **promotion of human dignity and peace in the world**.

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/1-8	Operation	MDRAR018
Budget Timeframe	2022/2-5	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 20/Sep/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAR018 - Argentina - Fire

Operating Timeframe: 27 Feb 2022 to 31 May 2022

I. Summary

Opening Balance	0
Funds & Other Income	104,594
DREF Allocations	104,594
Expenditure	-95,817
Closing Balance	8,777

II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods			0
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash	50,428	48,883	1,545
PO04 - Health	4,643	7,024	-2,381
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	16,241	11,427	4,814
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery			0
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
Planned Operations Total	71,312	67,334	3,978
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	7,295	4,590	2,706
EA02 - Secretariat Services			0
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	25,986	23,894	2,092
Enabling Approaches Total	33,281	28,483	4,798
Grand Total	104,594	95,817	8,776

DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/1-8	Operation	MDRAR018
Budget Timeframe	2022/2-5	Budget	APPROVED

FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 20/Sep/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

MDRAR018 - Argentina - Fire

Operating Timeframe: 27 Feb 2022 to 31 May 2022

III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
Relief items, Construction, Supplies	63,585	64,003	-418
Medical & First Aid	1,500	5,894	-4,394
Teaching Materials	4,635	3,131	1,504
Other Supplies & Services	12,450	10,730	1,720
Cash Disbursement	45,000	44,248	752
Logistics, Transport & Storage	10,700	9,753	947
Distribution & Monitoring	2,500		2,500
Transport & Vehicles Costs	8,200	9,753	-1,553
Personnel	16,300	12,866	3,434
National Society Staff	6,700	2,372	4,328
Volunteers	9,600	10,494	-894
Workshops & Training	1,500		1,500
Workshops & Training	1,500		1,500
General Expenditure	6,125	3,346	2,779
Travel	3,000	1,912	1,088
Information & Public Relations	400		400
Office Costs	900	67	833
Communications	800	311	489
Financial Charges	1,025	1,056	-31
Indirect Costs	6,384	5,848	536
Programme & Services Support Recover	6,384	5,848	536
Grand Total	104,594	95,817	8,776