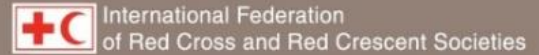


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## Operation Update No. 1

### Nicaragua: Preparatory actions for Tropical Storms



<b>DREF N°:</b> MDRNI012	<b>Glide N°:</b> N/A
<b>Operation update N° 1:</b> 3 October 2022	<b>Timeframe covered by this update:</b> 13 June – 31 August 2022
<b>Operation start date:</b> 13 June 2022	<b>New end date:</b> 31 December 2022 (two-month no-cost extension)
<b>Overall operation budget:</b> 176,950 CHF	
<b>N° of people to be assisted:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1,000 people directly (200 families)</li><li>• 57,986 people indirectly</li></ul>	
<b>Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation:</b> International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Spanish Red Cross (SRC), Italian Red Cross (IRC) and German Red Cross.	
<b>Other partner organizations actively involved in the operation are:</b> National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System (SINAPRED), Nicaraguan Ministry of Health (MINSAs) Civil Defence, Municipal Civil Protection Commissions.	

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

Taking into consideration the high risk of Nicaragua being impacted by a tropical cyclone during this season, Nicaragua has developed this Plan of Action to assist risky and vulnerable people in a potential disaster. The main lines of intervention proposed to implement anticipatory actions are livelihoods and basic needs, health, WASH, and risk reduction.

Currently, the Nicaraguan Red Cross is adapting its administrative and operative procedure to the General Law for the Regulation and Control of Non-Profit Organizations, which has delayed the reception and implementation of funds.

Consequently, through this operation update it is intended to inform about a **timeframe extension** of an additional **two months**, for a total of six months, to finalize the DREF operation with the same amount of funds and lines of intervention (New end date: 31 December 2022).

## A. Situation Analysis

### Disaster Description

The Colorado State University<sup>1</sup> forecasted that 2022 would 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 typically has 14 named storms, around seven hurricanes, and three major hurricanes.



Map of regions vulnerable to cyclones in Nicaragua. Source: IFRC

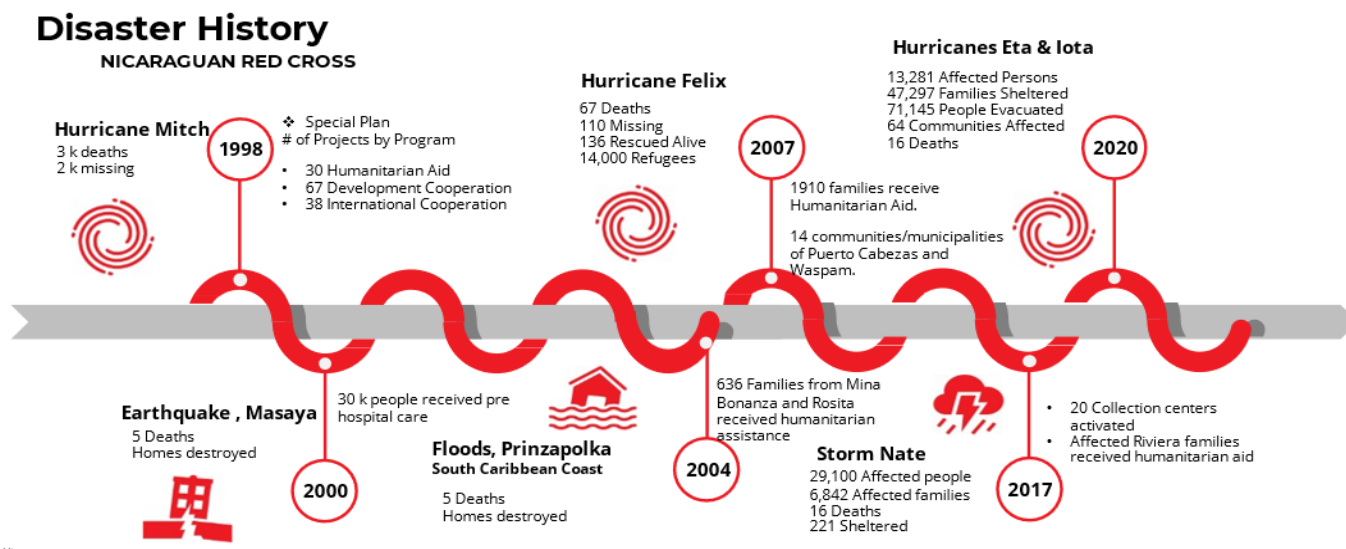
According to the Global Climate Risk Index<sup>2</sup>, from 1998 to 2017, Nicaragua was ranked sixth among the top ten countries most exposed and vulnerable to extreme weather events. Due to its geographical position, Nicaragua is exposed to the recurrent impact of multiple natural phenomena such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods, landslides, droughts, and tropical cyclones.

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 caused by these two last hurricanes have devastated the region. According to the National

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

<sup>2</sup> [German Watch. Global Climate Index 2019.](#)

System for Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response (SINAPRED by its Spanish acronym), these hurricanes combined affected 56 municipalities nationwide and put three million people at risk.



Disaster history timeline in Nicaragua. Source: NRC

The disasters caused by Eta and Iota hurricanes in 2020 revealed the need to constantly monitor potential climatological events that could impact Nicaragua's territory and plan efficient mechanisms to address various threat scenarios in the country. In the last months, heavy rains have fallen across most of the country, which, together with the soil's permeabilization, have led to collateral effects such as the early saturation of the soil. In April 2022, these rains caused structural damage, such as the Miraflores bridge that connects Los Brasiles and Ciudad Sandino in Managua department collapsed. Other damages from Tropical Cyclone Bonnie includes flooding and partial damage to homes, mostly exposed roofs, and over 400 fallen trees, mainly in Rivas. Some latrines were also damaged by strong winds.

The risk of major extreme weather events impacting the national territory is considerable at this moment. The population with the highest level of risk and vulnerability is in the North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN by its Spanish acronym). The population of this region has historically lived overcrowded and with homes built from insecure materials. In addition, the homes suffer essential barriers to access safe water due to the absence of water services and the exposure of the principal sources of water (water wells and rivers) to contaminants by floods. Access to health services is limited too due to the long distances between communities and the insufficient resources of the public health institutions to assist the number of cases. Also, the population historically presented high rates of general and extreme poverty, combined with unavailability of access to other basic human needs.



Housing technician in vulnerable housing identification activities, Waspmam, April 2022. Source: NRC



Resident carrying water to her home from the Prinzapolka river, Klarindan, Prinzapolka, May 2022. Source: NRC



Single mother receiving humanitarian assistance from the Red Cross after losing her home, Prinzapolka, November 2020. Source: NRC

The potential risk of Nicaragua being impacted by tropical cyclones during this season requires the execution of anticipatory actions to respond in a timely effective and efficient way to any disaster that could aggravate the vulnerability situation of the population. Therefore, response units of the Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) will remain alert through a system that monitors the situation and strengthen, preparedness, and equip local branches at the national level to respond to any possible disaster.

## Summary of the current response

### Overview of Host National Society Response Actions

The Nicaraguan Red Cross (NRC) 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. In addition, the National Society has available 63 ambulances, 31 base radios, 60 radios installed in units and vehicles, 42 portables (walkie-talkies), and 4 repeaters (Crucero, Horno, Quiabu, Gateada) to respond to any possible event.

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

In concordance with this component, the NRC had implemented preparedness actions considering its forecast- and scenario-based planning and the country's multiple hazards. Some of these actions are:

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



*Nicaraguan Red Cross monitoring the development of storm Bonnie from the emergency operations center, 03 July 2022. Source: NRC*

The response actions to any possible disaster that NRC can provide to affected people are coordinated with the SINAPRED to guarantee the pertinence and effectiveness and avoid the duplication of efforts. In addition, NRC coordinates with Movement partners and volunteers and coordinates local plans with its branches.

## Overview of the actions of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in the country

The NRC coordinates and articulates with all Movement members, thus improving the response capabilities to adverse events, having its emergency funds and capabilities established. In coordination with partners of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, NRC creates action plans composed of strategic intervention lines which indicate the response and recovery actions that are appropriate to the needs of the people affected for any disaster.

The presence of the International Federation of Red Crosses (IFRC) in Nicaragua through its project coordinator is indispensable for coordinating actions to respond to a disaster. Also, the technical and financial support from the IFRC regional office in Panama assists the National Society through its specialized teams to guarantee the quality of the logic of intervention of the different components of water and sanitation, health, logistics, and disaster risk reduction, among others. These teams help the NRC 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). Furthermore, the German Red Cross has been supporting the NRC in training the WINDY platform and the CVA program as early action mechanisms.

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 and psychosocial support through the Nicaraguan Red Cross psychosocial support center, mobilizing its emergency resources and other donors such as the European Union and Spanish organizations.

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

## Overview of the actions of actors that are not from the MCRMLR

The NRC coordinates with the SINAPRED 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 by its Spanish acronym): 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 by its Spanish acronym): Updating on critical points in each municipality in urban and rural areas. The number of families and people in greater vulnerability. Location of collective centers, 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 centers, 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 (MINSa, by its Spanish acronym):**
  - Strengthening of organization sectors, municipalities, hospitals, SILAIS and MINSa 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 aged 6 to 24 months, 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 NRC 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 NRC and activate their cooperation funds to support the humanitarian response actions provided by the National Society to the population affected by disasters.

## Needs analysis and scenario planning

### Need Analysis

In crises and disasters, the NRC 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.

Considering the high probability of the country being impacted by a tropical cyclone during this season, there is a latent need to develop preparedness actions to mitigate the risk of losing human lives and offer the highest quality humanitarian assistance in every context. The National Society must have the physical and financial resources to cover fuel expenses, maintenance of emergency vehicles, and per diem for volunteers and staff to ensure a logical and orderly response.

### Targeting

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 in case of a disaster will be selected in coordination with SINAPRED, COMUPRED and local authorities.

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 %

Some of the prospective areas which the National Society expects to support in case of a disaster are:



### Livelihood and basic needs

In Nicaragua, 80% of the population living in poverty reside in rural areas, including in remote communities where access to essential services is minimal. The Nicaraguan Red Cross conducted a diagnosis about life conditions in May 2022 in four communities and three neighborhoods of the municipalities of Prinzapolka, Waspam, and Bilwi in the RACCN. In this diagnosis, 44.85% of homes reported eating only two times per day due to insufficient food for the number of people that reside in the house.

The main economic activities of the RACCN and RAAS are farming, fishing, and mining. These economic activities are not only the primary source of income for the families but also the primary source of food. Consequently, households cannot respond to family food security in a year when production is affected by floods, droughts, land yield, pests, or climatic variability.



*Community producers transporting banana production through the Coco River from the communities to the urban area of Waspam, May 2022. Source: NRC*

Additionally, most people live under the poverty line because agriculture is focused on basic grains like beans and rice with artisanal production systems. These products are complex and risky to transport, and more importantly, they are expensive due to the difficulties of access to communities that provokes a minimal margin of gain for the farmer in indigenous communities.

The vulnerability of the livelihood to a disaster caused by a tropical cyclone could lead the population to an alimentary crisis. Therefore, 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.



*Community producers transporting beans production through the Coco River from the communities to the urban areas of Waspam, May 2022. Source: NRC*

The fact that agricultural production systems are mostly climate-dependent productive activities obliges us to assist the population through climate-smart actions, focused on increasing productivity, being resilient to current environmental conditions and promoting production systems capable of adapting to climate variability. Also, it is necessary to evaluate the current sensitivity of the environment, and how it has been affected by the disaster or crisis, highlighting and categorizing the underlying risks and vulnerabilities to the environment and affected communities.



### Mental and self-care

Communities that live in the areas most affected by the impact of climate change are under major pressure and fear of the future resulting in experiencing ecoanxiety. This situation raises the opportunities to work with them to increase resilience and strengthen mechanisms to cope with stress. 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 if no psychosocial support networks or access to mental health services are in place. It is estimated that between one-third and one-half of the exposed population suffers some psychological manifestations. However, not all of them can be qualified as pathological. Most reactions related to situations of great importance or impact should be understood as a normal expression of the human being. Therefore, it is essential to provide the population with tools to cope with stress, fear and anxiety before, during and after an adverse event with the support and guidance of volunteers and mental health professionals so they can resume their routine and become more resilient.

Psychological first aid is essential for managing 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 psychosocial support programme that allows for support people before a disaster.



### Water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH):

Even though Nicaragua has rich water resources, most of them are contaminated. In addition, people who live in rural areas have significant barriers to access safe drinking water, especially in the North Caribbean Region (RAAN) and South Caribbean Region (RAAS). The diagnosis of life conditions conducted by the National Society determined that 35.57% of the households assessed do not having enough water to satisfy their basic needs, and 73.31% stated that water for human consumption is an unmet need.



*Cleaning and disinfection of wells activities due to contamination caused by hurricanes Eta & Iota, November 2020. Source: NRC*

One of the major humanitarian crises caused by hurricanes and storms is the contamination of the water sources, which can cause public health problems due to the transmission of illness related to consuming contaminated water. As a result, it is required to take preparedness actions to be prepared to respond efficiently and effectively to assist the population with the distribution of water.

Moreover, many people in rural areas have difficulties accessing essential hygiene items such as soap, deodorant, sanitary towels, and absence of a sanitary installation which are primary determinants of the propagation of illnesses related to hygiene. Therefore, it is also required to identify the need for water, hygiene, and sanitation in every context to guarantee the delivery of humanitarian assistance in accordance with people's needs.

### Operation risk assessment

<b>Potential RISKS AND IMPACT to the project</b>	<b>Likelihood of Occurrence</b>		<b>Mitigation Measures</b>
	<i>R</i>	<i>I</i>	
<b>Contextual</b>			
<b>Natural phenomena:</b> natural phenomena may occur during the life of the project, given the elevated level of vulnerability because of the multiple weather and hydrometeorological hazards to which the country is exposed. Therefore, NRC and other	<i>H</i>	<i>H</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contingency and evacuation plans.</li> <li>Implement safety standards throughout the actions' development.</li> <li>Information and communication with local actors.</li> <li>Refrain from circulating in unrecommended and unauthorized areas.</li> </ul>

partner actors' priorities may change and, in turn, prevent or delay the implementation of project activities.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor developing hazards (hurricanes, volcanic activity).</li> <li>• Have a risk analysis for the target territories.</li> <li>• Risk awareness.</li> </ul>
<b>COVID-19 pandemic:</b> 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.	<i>H</i>	<i>H</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constant monitoring of COVID-19 cases indicators and, if necessary, looking for alternatives or rescheduling that mitigate the effects of the identified risks.</li> <li>• Constant monitoring, rumors – perceptions regarding the pandemic, the protection measures and the vaccines.</li> <li>• Provide streamlined mechanisms to purchase supplies, distribute them to the different branches, and coordinate with the government to ensure access to intervention areas.</li> <li>• Apply biosafety protocols, ensure availability of supplies, protocols for field visits, etc.</li> </ul>

## B. OPERATIONAL STRATEGY

Considering the needs, the context in which the rural communities and peripheral neighborhoods 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 2022 and the recent operational experience with the assistance given through the Hurricanes Eta and Iota operation.

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 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:

**Cash and voucher assistance (CVA):** To assist a population that might be affected by a tropical cyclone, one of the primary anticipatory actions to respond to the immediate needs is the delivery of cash transfers through vouchers exchanged with previously identified suppliers. The delivery of cash transfers through coupons supports the reactivation of the local economy and ensures that the response is relevant, because affected people can purchase their primary needs such as food, hygiene, and medicines or basic expenses at hardware stores for essential home repairs, such as nails and zinc sheets.

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.

The potential supplier will be identified in the upcoming weeks. The criteria for choosing the supplier will be:

- Acceptance of the suppliers to work under the CVA mechanism.
- Geographical coverage to the areas affected.
- Quality of the services and products.
- 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.

The process to deliver this aid in case it is needed will be the following:

First, the families will be identified in the Collective Emergency Centers from neighborhoods 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.<sup>3</sup>

Secondly, priority will be given to those people who, for natural or social reasons, are in a situation of vulnerability. To this end, a differential approach will be used in which priority attention will be given to single-parent families with members with functional diversity, senior citizens, or with several minors in their care.

In all cases, families selected will be identified as not having the economic resources or have limited access to services by their means or through public health or social programs. For the contracting of the provider, administrative procedures will be followed per the administrative manual of the Nicaraguan Red Cross and the IFRC.

**Psychosocial Support or Mental Health Care:** Once the families are concentrated in the temporary collective centers before the impact of a tropical cyclone, psychoeducational interventions will be delivered such as self-care sessions for adults, and psycho-recreative activities for children and adolescents to cope with fear and stress. These are short sessions lasting 30-60 minutes. Apart from 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 from the Red Cross Psychosocial Support Network will carry out these actions 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. 200 Psychosocial Support kits are expected to be delivered for the recreational sessions with children sheltered in the collective centers, as well as 4 Community Kits which their administrators will manage and use to roll out PSS activities when need it.

**WASH:** In the event that the municipalities of Puerto Cabezas, Prinzapolka or Waspam are impacted by a hurricane or tropical cyclone, the Nicaraguan Red Cross has a presence in the area through the Bilwi branch. Water purification equipment and trained personnel will be mobilized to guarantee access to drinking water to

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<sup>3</sup> The minimum wage table (Approved wage 2021-2022: C\$ 6,622.47) was published by the Nicaraguan Ministry of Labor.

families prior to the impact of any event. Other actions planned include the provision of jerry cans or filters to 200 families to facilitate the storage of safe water and prevent the spread of diseases related to unsafe water.

**Communication and Awareness Campaign:** prior to the impact of a hydrometeorological event, communities will be informed about the evolution of the event, prevention and protection actions against tropical cyclones and floods, as well as mobilization to safe places. This campaign will begin with a green alert. To disseminate these key messages, a contract will be established with community radio and local television channels. Bulletins will be constantly broadcast, 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 corresponding municipality.

The population in the Autonomous Region of the Caribbean is composed of ethnic indigenous populations (Miskita and Mayagna) and non-indigenous populations, therefore, the NRC's will assess the information needs and preferred channels to ensure key messages are culturally appropriate for the communities.

**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.

The operation requires operational expenses such as fuel for the execution of activities and general maintenance of the units available to the NRC 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 NRC 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.

For communication, an Institutional Image Strengthening campaign will be developed for the acceptance, access, and security of the 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 organized. 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.

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, Teams, 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 the perceptions of specific target groups using the CEA approach, and 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 operationalization of the action and will be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the funds and financial reporting.

## C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN



### Livelihoods and Basic Needs

**People reached: -**  
Men: -  
Women: -

**Outcome 1: Communities, especially in disaster and crisis affected areas, restore, and strengthen their livelihoods**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with cash and voucher assistance for basic needs	1,000	-

**Output 1.2: Basic needs assistance for livelihoods security including food is provided to the most affected communities.**


Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of households reached with CVA for basic needs	200	-

**Progress towards outcomes:**

Currently, Nicaraguan Red Cross is adapting its administrative and operative procedure to the General Law for the Regulation and Control of Non-Profit Organizations. Unfortunately, this necessary process, in which all NGOs in the country have to adequate, has delayed some operational advances and the reception and execution of funds.

Some of the early advances in improving the logic of intervention in the delivery of cash assistance are the development of activation protocols for this kind of assistance through vouchers in a disaster. Also, it is beginning to identify the potential providers to deliver this assistance in case of a disaster in RAAN and RAAS.

The creation of activation protocols will improve the capacity of the National Society to deliver cash assistance aid opportunely in the regions. In case Nicaragua would not be impacted by a tropical cyclone, NRC will return these funds to IFRC following the respective procedure.



### Health

**People reached: -**  
Men: -  
Women: -

**Outcome 6: The psychosocial impacts of the emergency are lessened**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people (people targeted and volunteers) who receive self-care sessions	1,100	-

**Output 6.1: Psychosocial support provided to the target population as well as to RCRC volunteers and staff.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers and staff who receive self-care session	100	-
# of people who receive self-care sessions Target: 1,000 (200 families)	1,000 (200 families)	-

**Progress towards outcomes:**

Some actions have been delayed due to the process of adequacy to the new regulation law for non-profit organizations in Nicaragua. Nevertheless, it has begun a process of preparedness with the Psychological Support Team of Nicaraguan Red Cross to offer the best quality assistance to the mental health of the potential people affected. In the following weeks, it is planned to purchase the Psychological Support kits to be counted on the resources to assist timely and effectively during a response.

In case that Nicaragua would not be affected by a tropical cyclone, the material for psychological support will be purchased and pre - positioned for its potential use in future emergencies. To this end, the Nicaraguan Red Cross will be better prepared to respond timely effective to assist the psychological health of vulnerable people.



**Water, Sanitation and Hygiene**

People reached: -

Men: -

Women: -

**Outcome 1: Immediate reduction in risk of waterborne and water related diseases in targeted communities**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people reached with WASH services	1,000	-

**Output 1.1: Continuous assessment of water, sanitation, and hygiene situation is carried out in targeted communities**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families who receive a hygiene kit	200	-

**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.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of families who received talks on hygiene and water storage	200	-
# of families who received safe water storage items	200	-

**Progress towards outcomes:**

In the following weeks, the Nicaraguan Red Cross will be acquiring and pre-positioning hygiene kits and water storage items in the high-risk areas to assist the population effectively in case of a tropical cyclone impacting the region. In addition, some early developed activities are preparing the water purification plants to deliver safe water where needed.

In case Nicaragua would not be impacted by a tropical cyclone, the Nicaraguan Red Cross would keep pre-positioned hygiene kits in its warehouse to assist affected people in any other emergency that could require it. To this end, the Nicaraguan Red Cross will be more prepared to respond timely effective in case of an emergency.



*NRC mobilizing water treatment plants to RAAN and RAAS to supply safe water to the population due to Bonnie's potential impact on the country, 02 July 2022.  
Source: NRC*



## Disaster Risk Reduction

People reached: -

Men: -

Women: -

**Outcome 1: Communities in high-risk areas are prepared for and able to respond to disaster**

**Output 1.1: Communities take active steps to strengthen their preparedness for timely effective response**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of people who have access to disaster warning information sources.	231,944	-

**Progress towards outcomes:**

There has been advance in the development of a campaign in order to provide key messages to population in risk during this season about how to act in case of a disaster. It is planned to transmit these messages through the primary mass media of the country during September, October and November. As part of this campaign, it is also planned to deliver these key messages to vulnerable population in coordination with local response institutions.

## Strategies for Implementation

**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.**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
NS has the necessary resources to implement the operation during the 7 months of the operation		-

**Output S1.1.4: National Societies have effective and motivated volunteers who are protected**

Indicators:	Target	Actual
# of volunteers that receive PPE and insurance	150	-

**Output S1.1.7: NS capacity to support community-based disaster risk reduction, response and preparedness is strengthened**

<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<i># of people staff to implement the activities</i>	2	-
<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</i>	One campaign developed	-
<b>Outcome S2.1: Effective and coordinated international disaster response is ensured</b>		
<b>Indicators:</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<i>IFRC provides assistance to the NS during the 7 months of the operation</i>		-
<b>Output S2.1.2: Effective and respected surge capacity mechanism is maintained.</b>		
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>
<i># of IFRC monitoring visits</i>	3	-
<b>Progress towards outcomes:</b>		
<p>The terms of reference to hire the staff necessary for implementing the previously mentioned anticipatory action will be launched in the following weeks. In addition, it is planned to acquire volunteer insurance during this month.</p>		

## D. FINANCIAL REPORT

See Annex.

## Reference documents

Click here for:

- [DREF Plan of Action \(EPoA\)](#)

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

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## **How we work**

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

# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/6-8	Operation	MDRNI012
Budget Timeframe	2022/6-2022/10	Budget	APPROVED

## INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 03/Oct/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRNI012 - Nicaragua - Prep. actions for Tropical Cyclones

Operating Timeframe: 13 Jun 2022 to 31 Oct 2022

#### I. Summary

<b>Opening Balance</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Funds &amp; Other Income</b>	<b>176,950</b>
FBAF Allocations	176,950
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>-115,744</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>61,206</b>

#### II. Expenditure by planned operations / enabling approaches

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
PO01 - Shelter and Basic Household Items			0
PO02 - Livelihoods	43,931	63,900	-19,969
PO03 - Multi-purpose Cash			0
PO04 - Health	13,845		13,845
PO05 - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	15,975	51,844	-35,869
PO06 - Protection, Gender and Inclusion			0
PO07 - Education			0
PO08 - Migration			0
PO09 - Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	10,650		10,650
PO10 - Community Engagement and Accountability			0
PO11 - Environmental Sustainability			0
<b>Planned Operations Total</b>	<b>84,401</b>	<b>115,744</b>	<b>-31,343</b>
EA01 - Coordination and Partnerships	15,230		15,230
EA02 - Secretariat Services	17,040		17,040
EA03 - National Society Strengthening	60,279		60,279
<b>Enabling Approaches Total</b>	<b>92,549</b>		<b>92,549</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>176,950</b>	<b>115,744</b>	<b>61,206</b>

# DREF Operation

Selected Parameters			
Reporting Timeframe	2022/6-8	Operation	MDRNI012
Budget Timeframe	2022/6-2022/10	Budget	APPROVED

## INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Prepared on 03/Oct/2022

All figures are in Swiss Francs (CHF)

### MDRNI012 - Nicaragua - Prep. actions for Tropical Cyclones

Operating Timeframe: 13 Jun 2022 to 31 Oct 2022

### III. Expenditure by budget category & group

Description	Budget	Expenditure	Variance
<b>Relief items, Construction, Supplies</b>	<b>70,000</b>		<b>70,000</b>
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	10,000		10,000
Teaching Materials	20,000		20,000
Cash Disbursement	40,000		40,000
<b>Logistics, Transport &amp; Storage</b>	<b>11,100</b>		<b>11,100</b>
Transport & Vehicles Costs	11,100		11,100
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>48,000</b>		<b>48,000</b>
International Staff	16,000		16,000
National Society Staff	10,000		10,000
Volunteers	22,000		22,000
<b>Consultants &amp; Professional Fees</b>	<b>250</b>		<b>250</b>
Consultants	250		250
<b>Workshops &amp; Training</b>	<b>6,000</b>		<b>6,000</b>
Workshops & Training	6,000		6,000
<b>General Expenditure</b>	<b>30,800</b>		<b>30,800</b>
Travel	7,500		7,500
Information & Public Relations	14,500		14,500
Office Costs	2,300		2,300
Communications	6,000		6,000
Financial Charges	500		500
<b>Operational Provisions</b>		<b>108,680</b>	<b>-108,680</b>
Operational Provisions		108,680	-108,680
<b>Indirect Costs</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>7,064</b>	<b>3,736</b>
Programme & Services Support Recover	10,800	7,064	3,736
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>176,950</b>	<b>115,744</b>	<b>61,206</b>