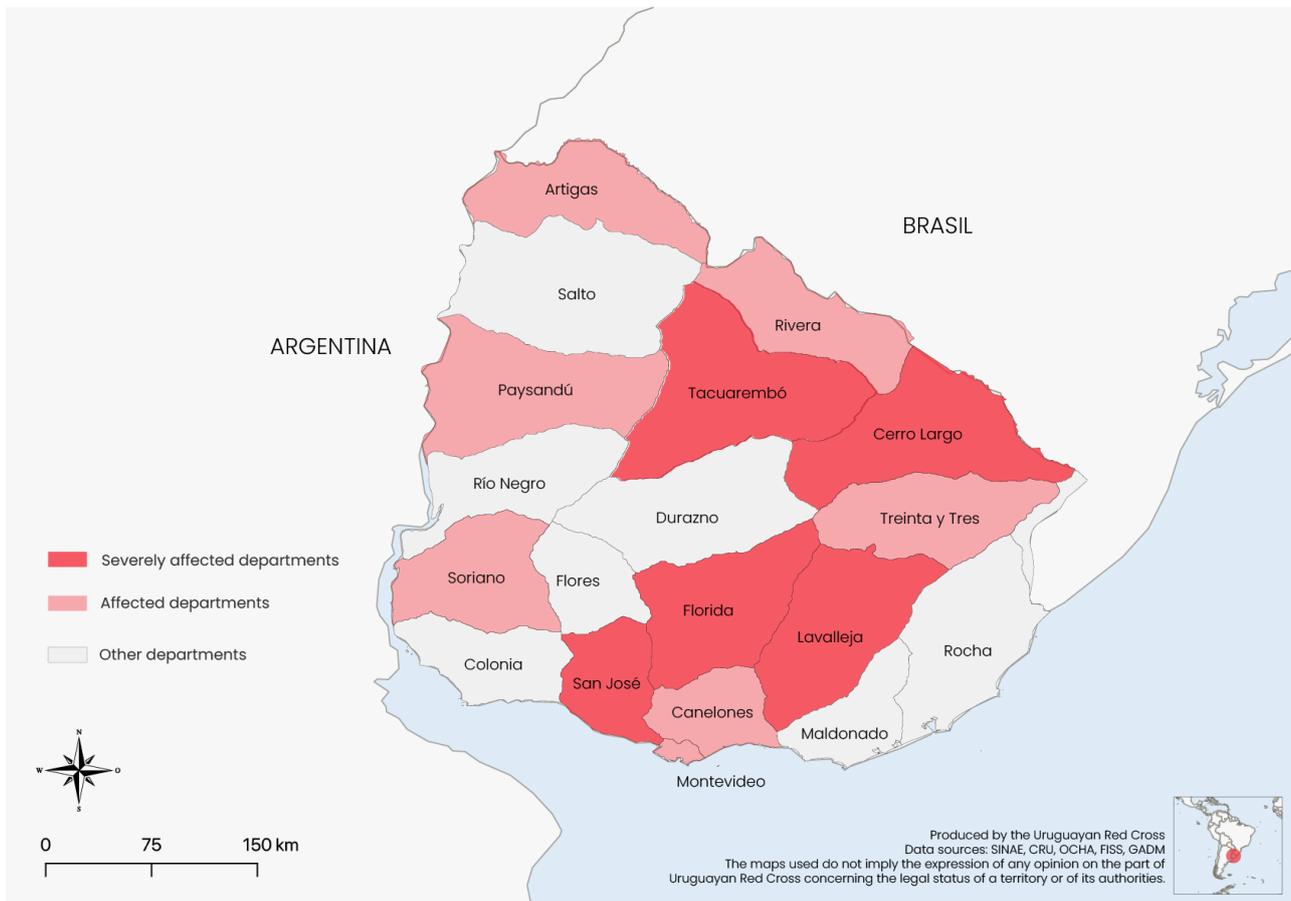




|                             |  |  |   |
|-----------------------------|--|--|---|
| Appeal:<br><b>MDRUY004</b>  | DREF Allocated:<br><b>CHF 42,951</b>       | Crisis Category:<br><b>Yellow</b>                            | Hazard:<br><b>Drought</b>               |
| Glide Number:               | People Affected:<br><b>75,000 people</b>   | People Targeted:   |   |
| Event Onset:<br><b>Slow</b> | Operation Start Date:<br><b>2023-01-29</b> | Operation End Date:<br><b>2023-03-31</b>                     | Operation Timeframe:<br><b>2 months</b> |
|                             | Targeted Areas:                            | <b>Cerro Largo, Florida, Lavalleja, San Jose, Tacuarembó</b> |   |

# Description of the Event

## Affected departments Droughts | Uruguay 20-01-2023



Areas affected by droughts in Uruguay. Source: URC

## What happened, where and when?

South America has been hit by droughts for three years. In Uruguay, since 2018, there is presence of droughts in agricultural areas and decrease in rainfall as well as increase in temperatures within the summer seasons. Year after year, the state provides a response to this situation, through plans of action that target large producers. However, this year the drought situation has been more complex and it is directly affecting families in several ways such as limiting their access to drinking water.

The lack of rainfall at the beginning of the year has caused a significant reduction in the availability and access to water in the country, which has also been affected by the presence of the La Niña phenomenon in the region. On Friday, 20 January 2023, the Uruguayan State, through National Emergency System (SINAIE), extended a formal request to the Uruguayan Red Cross for support in the evaluation and possible response to the current drought.

According to SINAIE, initial reports estimate more than 75,000 people affected by this emergency only in the five most affected departments of Tacuarembó, Cerro Largo, Florida, Lavalleja, and San José. Additionally, as per the information provided by the SINAIE, the most pressing situation is related to the lack of access to safe water which is limiting the consumption and use of water, as well as maintenance of crops and livestock of approximately 1,300 families (5,200 people) located in these departments.

Since October 2022, the national government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (MGAP) declared a state of agricultural emergency for a period of 90 days for the entire country. In January 2023, the state of

emergency was extended until the end of April and it was broadened to include livestock, dairy, fruit and/or horticulture, agriculture, poultry, beekeeping and forestry.

According to information released by the National Institute of Meteorology (INUMET), the entire country is currently affected by droughts with 20.51% of the territory, equivalent to 3,623,300 hectares, reported to be under extreme drought. Throughout the national territory, rainfall has not exceeded 10 mm, except for some exceptional areas in the east and northeast of the country. On the other hand, INUMET issued a press release forecasting that the accumulated rainfall expected from December 2022 to February 2023 would be below normal. At the same time, quarterly average temperatures are forecasted to be above normal in most of the country, with a probability of being in the upper tercile of 45%.

The National Fire Department has already carried out more than 1,100 interventions so far this summer, with a record of 59 fires in one day, of which 18 were classified as serious and 18 people suffered total damage to homes.



Drought situation in the department of Artigas. SoI URC actions in Dolores Branch. Source: URC.

## Current National Society Actions

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>National Society EOC</b></p>                            | <p>The Uruguayan Red Cross, through its Headquarters team, activated its Emergency Operations Center from the beginning of the drought-related events. It is coordinated by the Risk Management and Disaster Response area and has designated specific roles for the emergency (Communication, CEA, IM, finance, security and logistics). Weekly follow-up meetings are held and reports have been submitted to the National Council of Government. The National Intervention Team is also active, providing support and monitoring the situation.</p> |
| <p><b>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery</b></p> | <p>A total of 4 branches (San José, Dolores, Soriano and Río Negro) are giving talks to raise awareness and disseminate key messages on drought and heat wave prevention in crowded and tourist areas of their departments.</p>  |
| <p><b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b></p>         | <p>The Uruguayan Red Cross has activated the feedback and complaint management forms, these forms are implemented in all activities carried out directly with the communities, there is a team for case management and reception of suggestions that provides support and responds to any type of inconvenience, query or complaint.</p>   |
|   | <p>The Uruguayan Red Cross has a Risk and Disaster Management, Finance, Volunteer, Resource Mobilization and Communication Department.</p>   |

|  |   |
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| <p><b>National Society Readiness</b></p> | <p>The National Society has approximately 350 volunteers throughout the country.</p> <p>The Risk Management Directorate team at Headquarters and its National Intervention Team were available since the beginning of the emergency and monitoring the evolution of the droughts, through the activation of the National EOC and always working in coordination with the local branches.</p> <p>Supplies available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 1 institutional van for the transfer of personnel.</li> <li>- 2 vans for transporting materials and supplies.</li> <li>- 2 Humanitarian Units ready to provide assistance.</li> <li>- Storage warehouse at Headquarters (Montevideo).</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Assessment</b></p>                 | <p>So far, secondary information and data provided by the National Emergency System (SINAE) have been used to follow up and monitor the emergency situation. Through this DREF Application, the National Society aims to carry out a general assessment of different sectors and a detailed assessment of water, sanitation and hygiene promotion.</p>  |
| <p><b>Coordination</b></p>               | <p>Since the declaration of the agricultural emergency, the Uruguayan Red Cross has been in communication and coordination with the National Emergency System (SINAE). In turn, the branches are working together with the Departmental Emergency Coordination Centers (CECOED) and are at their disposal.</p>  |
| <p><b>Resource Mobilization</b></p>      | <p>The Resource Mobilization Department has made two agreements with companies to provide some supplies for volunteer work in the field including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Salus: Donation of water drums (500L).</li> <li>- Farmashop: Donation of 250 sunscreens.</li> </ul> <p>Further negotiations are expected to take place once the DREF Application for response (if necessary) has been drawn up following the needs assessment.</p>  |

## Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <p><b>IFRC</b></p> | <p>The IFRC has a country office in Argentina to support and assist the Southern Cone countries, which has maintained close contact and coordination with the Uruguayan Red Cross and the Disaster and Crisis Department of the IFRC Americas regional office in Panama. Since the beginning of the emergency, and with the government's request for support to the National Society, constant communication and technical assistance has been maintained through the CCD for the Southern Cone for the development of the DREF Application.</p>  |
| <p><b>ICRC</b></p> | <p>The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also has offices in Argentina 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 National Society's capacity to respond to emergency situations in contexts of violence and crisis and to provide Restoring Family Links (RFL) services. So far, the ICRC has been in contact with the CCD for the Southern Cone, but they have not provided specific support for this emergency.</p> |

|   |  |
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| <b>Participating National Societies</b> | The Uruguayan Red Cross works in close collaboration with the Italian Red Cross (IRC). Although the IRC has no physical representation in the country, they fund a Youth project with a focus on Climate Change, through which several branches will provide information to local communities during these periods of drought. |
|---|--|

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Government has requested international assistance</b> | No   |
| <b>National authorities</b>                              | <p>The SINAE (National Emergency System) is a national and decentralized system. In each department, there is a Departmental Emergency Committee (CDE) responsible for the formulation of Risk Management policies and strategies at the local level, in line with SINAE's global policies.</p> <p>Each Committee is composed of the following members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Departmental Chief of Police.</li> <li>- Detachment Chief of the National Fire Department of the Ministry of the Interior.</li> <li>- Representative of the Ministry of National Defense.</li> <li>- Representative of the Ministry of Social Development.</li> <li>- Representative of the Ministry of Public Health.</li> <li>- Representative of the Institute for Children and Adolescents of Uruguay.</li> <li>- Legal Prosecutor of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Nation.</li> </ul> <p>Under the coordination of each CDE is the Departmental Emergency Coordination Center (CECOED), which is the operational coordination area for Integral Risk Management. Each CECOED has a coordinator. This is an official appointed by the respective Mayor.</p> <p>Since December 2022, the Uruguayan Red Cross has a framework cooperation agreement signed with SINAE.</p> <p>On 20 January 2023, SINAE requested support from the Uruguayan Red Cross through a formal note, to carry out detailed assessments of the needs of the communities that are most affected and in the most remote areas of the country.</p> <p>SINAE (National Emergency Service) is providing a response to the families most affected by the droughts. The response is based on the distribution of safe water to people with little or no access to water. So far, the government has distributed drinking water with tanker trucks that travel to the affected areas once a week.</p> <p>The National Emergency System (SINAE), through the different Emergency Coordination Centers (CECOED) and the National Fire Department, has been working to combat the fires caused by the combination of drought and high temperatures.</p> |
| <b>UN or other actors</b>                                |  |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?</b> |  |
|--|--|

# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF Application, the Uruguayan Red Cross aims to conduct a damage and needs assessment on the current drought situation in Tacuarembó, Cerro Largo, Florida, Lavalleja and San José, which are reported to be the five most-affected departments in the country. The results of the assessments will provide the National Society with detailed information to inform humanitarian planning and decision-making to respond to the emergency.

## Operation strategy rationale

This intervention will be designed in a participatory approach to conduct the assessments in coordination with the government authorities and the branches of the different selected departments. To ensure good coordination, meetings will be held in order to share the structure of the assessment and adjust it to the information needs of all the participating actors. On the other hand, the National Society will work together with the CECOEDs (Departmental Emergency Operations Centers), which will facilitate access to local communities and share information already collected.

The assessment will use a sampling approach with adequate representation of community groups in the targeted departments. The assessment process will involve participatory methodologies including interviews with key informants such as governmental actors, community representatives, and other organizations (if any), focus group discussions, and visits for direct observation and cross-checking of data with secondary information. All population groups will also be included in the assessment for better community representation.

The National Society will conduct these assessments in three to four weeks and will work with the HQ team, members of the National Intervention Team, and volunteers from branches close to the affected areas. A request is also included to deploy a surge profile who will support the technical assembly of the survey, analysis of data collected in the assessments, and development of the final report as well as providing recommendations in case of proceeding with a DREF Application for drought response.

This assessment will work in conjunction with a CEA strategy and the dissemination of key messages related to drought issues, sharing information related to drought and high-temperature prevention measures, responsible water use, and messages for children and adolescents.

The Uruguayan Red Cross has previous experience in response to droughts (e.g. 2018 DREF) where the coordinated and collaborative work with the National Emergency System (SINAE) and its Departmental Emergency Coordination Centers (CECOED) has facilitated the identification of areas affected. For this reason, this DREF for assessment involves a collaborative work with local authorities since the first moment of the organization of the survey in order to guarantee joint efforts and maximize the outcome of the assessments.

The Uruguayan Red Cross has established a training and capacity replication system, which allows the staff or volunteers who participate in training or response experiences to replicate the capacities to the rest of the National Society, while monitoring is carried out through the National Intervention Teams (NIT). Additionally, there is currently one IM profile with previous experience in assessments who will provide support to the team that collects the information in the field. Therefore, only a surge profile will be requested to support with processing and analyzing the data collected as well as developing the final report.

At the end of the operation, a lessons learned workshop will be held to report on best practices and areas for improvement for future experiences.

# Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

This operation will focus on conducting a detailed assessment targeting the five most-affected departments of the country. The National Society will pay special attention to the, at least, 1,300 families (5,200 people) that, according to SINAE, have been directly affected by droughts, and are currently with little or no access to drinking water. The geographical targeting for the assessment is determined by the currently available secondary information and data in terms of severity.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The following selection criteria will be used to prioritize the needs assessment within drought-affected communities in the selected departments:

- Families residing in populated areas
- Families with access to water distributed by the different Departmental Emergency Coordination Centers (CE-COED).
- Families in a context of vulnerability and single-parent or female-headed households.
- Families with elderly people, children, or people with disabilities.
- Families in a migratory context

The needs of all population groups will be considered taking into account age, sex, gender, and people with disabilities, or special needs or requirements.

## Risk and security considerations

### Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

| Risk   | Mitigation action   |
|--|---|
| The difficulty of access to remote areas.  | There will be a vehicle prepared to enter this type of terrain and coordination will be made with SINAE for the use of vehicles or trucks prepared for this type of soil if necessary.  |
| Increase or permanence of heat waves during the operation                                  | Recommendations will be prepared and shared with all personnel involved in the operation. These recommendations will serve to prevent any incident such as heat stroke. Hydration and protective equipment (sunscreen or hats) will also be provided for all personnel. |
| Lack of scarce integration of the communities in the execution of possible future actions. | Community commitment and responsibility will be ensured through feedback mechanisms.  |
| A low number of volunteers due to holidays.  | There will be a survey of volunteers in the subsidiaries near the affected areas to assist the operation with personnel or volunteers from other subsidiaries who can travel to support the activities of this operation.   |

### Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

With regard to the main safety problems that may arise in this operation, include:

- Difficulties related to the health of personnel and volunteers due to the effect of heat waves
- Risks related to driving on the routes between the different destinations to be evaluated.

To mitigate this type of risk, the National Society will provide the necessary protective equipment to each person participating in the operation and will have personnel trained in first aid at the activities to respond to any inconvenience that may arise. The National Society also has a vehicle and driving safety plan and will only use authorized and trained drivers to drive institutional vehicles.

## Planned Intervention

|   |               |  |         |
|---|---------------|--|---------|
|  | <b>Health</b> | <b>Budget</b>  | CHF 511 |
|   |               | <b>Targeted Persons</b>                                    |         |
| <b>Indicators</b>   |               | <b>Target</b>  |         |
| <b>Priority Actions:</b>  |               | - First aid supplies (for first aid kits in four vehicles) |         |

|   |                             |   |            |
|---|-----------------------------|---|------------|
|  | <b>Secretariat Services</b> | <b>Budget</b>   | CHF 17,200 |
|   |                             | <b>Targeted Persons</b>   |            |
| <b>Indicators</b>   |                             | <b>Target</b>   |            |
| <b>Priority Actions:</b>  |                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring missions</li> <li>- 1x Surge Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer</li> </ul> |            |

|   |                                       |   |            |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|------------|
|  | <b>National Society Strengthening</b> | <b>Budget</b>   | CHF 25,241 |
|   |                                       | <b>Targeted Persons</b>   |            |
| <b>Indicators</b>   |                                       | <b>Target</b>   |            |
| <b>Priority Actions:</b>  |                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for staff that will carry out the Detailed Needs Assessment (3x staff).</li> <li>- Support for volunteers that will carry out the Detailed Needs Assessment (30x volunteers).</li> <li>- Purchase of equipment for assessments (3x tablets).</li> <li>- Purchase of personal protective equipment for staff and volunteers.</li> <li>- Data collection and analysis workshop (ODK - KoBo).</li> <li>- Lessons learned workshop.</li> </ul> |            |

## About Support Services

**How many staff and volunteers will be involved in this operation. Briefly describe their role.**

A total of 30 volunteers will work for this operation, from which 15 are part of the National Intervention Team, and 5 people from the Headquarters team.

Throughout the operation, volunteers from nearby departments will be deployed as back-up and replacements to relieve local volunteers in order to reduce the "bourn out" effect. All volunteers and HQ staff will be insured and provided with the necessary personal protective equipment.

**Will surge personnel be deployed? Please provide the role profile needed.**

SURGE support is required for this operation, the profiles to be recruited include:

- 1x Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer

This surge will be requested to support the technical assembly of the survey, analysis of data collected in the assessments, and development of the final report as well as recommendations in case of proceeding with a DREF Application for drought response.

# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRUY004 - Uruguayan Red Cross Droughts

#### Operating Budget

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| <b>Planned Operations</b>                       | <b>511</b>    |
| Shelter and Basic Household Items               | 0             |
| Livelihoods                                     | 0             |
| Multi-purpose Cash                              | 0             |
| Health  | 511           |
| Water, Sanitation & Hygiene                     | 0             |
| Protection, Gender and Inclusion                | 0             |
| Education                                       | 0             |
| Migration                                       | 0             |
| Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery | 0             |
| Community Engagement and Accountability         | 0             |
| Environmental Sustainability                    | 0             |
| <b>Enabling Approaches</b>                      | <b>42,440</b> |
| Coordination and Partnerships                   | 0             |
| Secretariat Services                            | 17,200        |
| National Society Strengthening                  | 25,241        |
| <b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>                             | <b>42,951</b> |

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)

# Contact Information

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

- **National Society contact:**

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- **IFRC Appeal Manager:**

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- **IFRC Project Manager:**

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[Click here for the reference](#)