



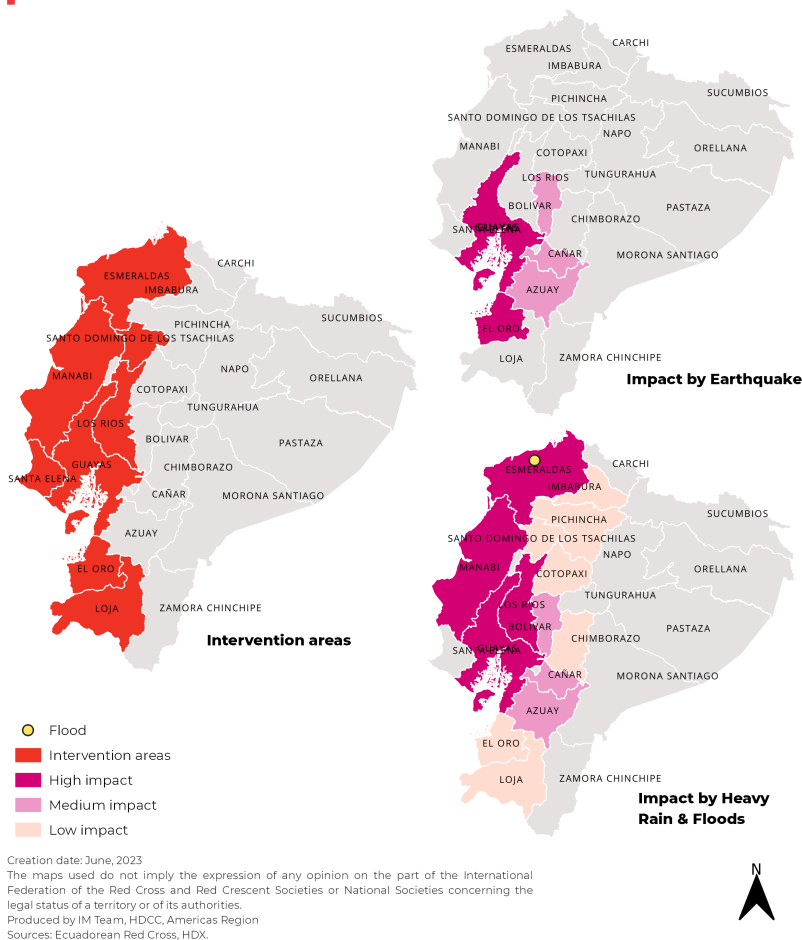
ERC staff and volunteers responding to flooding in Esmeraldas Province. June 2023. Source: ERC

Appeal: <b>MDREC021</b>	Total DREF Allocation <b>CHF 441,810</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Flood</b>
Glide Number: <b>EQ-2023-000038-ECU</b>	People Affected: <b>126,922 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>8,850 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>2023-04-06</b>	New Operational end date: <b>2023-10-31</b>	Total operating timeframe: <b>6 months</b>
Additional Allocation Re- quested <b>342,296</b>	Targeted Areas:	<b>El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Loja, Los Rios, Manabi, Santo Domingo de Los Tsachilas, Santa Elena</b>	

# Description of the Event

## Ecuador | Earthquake, Heavy Rains, Floods

### Most affected provinces



Map of areas affected and areas targeted by the ERC. June 2023, IFRC.

## What happened, where and when?

On 20 March 2023, the President of Ecuador declared a state of emergency for 60 days through Decree No. 693 for the provinces of Guayas, El Oro, Pichincha, Loja, Los Ríos, Bolívar, Santa Elena, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Imbabura, Chimborazo, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Napo and Azuay. The state of exception due to public calamity was based on the serious affectations to the life and material goods of the inhabitants of these provinces as a result of the serious winter season and the telluric movements that occurred on 18 March

### Rainy season:

According to the National Regional Study of the El Niño Phenomenon (ERFEN) Committee, abnormal warming has been observed in the Ecuadorean sea and on the northern coast of Peru (Niño 1+2 region), registering temperatures between 27 and 29°C on the surface, which are up to 1.5 °C higher than normal. In addition to atmospheric instability and the transit of equatorial waves, these conditions led to the intensification of convective activity with intense precipitations (1).

From 1 January 2023 to date, 195 cantons have been affected by 2,503 hazardous events caused by the rainy season affecting more than 126,922 people. The provinces with the greatest impact on the population are Guayas, Los Ríos, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Bolívar, Cotopaxi, El Oro, Santo Domingo de Los Tsáchilas, Imbabura, Loja and Pichincha (2)



#### Earthquake:

On 18 March, in the area of the Gulf of Guayaquil, a seismic event was recorded with a magnitude of 6.64 Mw, a depth of 63.1 km, and a total of 72 aftershocks between 2.1 and 4.6 MLv. Although the main earthquake and aftershocks had an epicenter in the province of Guayas, the main damages were registered in the cantons of Santa Rosa and El Guabo, the province of El Oro.

From 18 March to date, more than 3,774 people are reported to have been affected by this emergency. The provinces with the greatest impact on the population are El Oro, Guayas, and Azuay (3)

In response to these two emergencies, on 6 April 2023, the Ecuadorian Red Cross launched a DREF for Assessment with the aim of conducting a detailed Damage and Needs Assessment in 15 of the provinces reported to have been affected. Additionally, the Provincial Branches actively coordinated and monitored response interventions across different institutions. This collaborative effort aimed to prevent duplication of efforts while state agencies organized their response strategies to assist the affected families.

#### Floods in Esmeralda:

During the implementation of the DREF for Assessment, the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMHI), through bulletin No. 27 issued on 31 May, forecasted rains of varying intensity with storms in the coastal region until 6 June, especially in Esmeraldas, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Los Ríos, Manabí, and Guayas.

On 4 June, heavy rains were recorded in the province of Esmeraldas, causing 7 rivers to overflow: Súa and Tonchigüe (Atacames canton); Teaone (Esmeraldas canton); Cube, Viche, and Blanco (Quinindé canton), Matambal (Muisne canton), which affected 7 cantons and 21 parishes. Additionally, on 6 June, the Rioverde River overflowed affecting the Rioverde canton in the Lagarto parish

From 4 June to date, more than 19,982 people are reported to have been affected by this emergency, which is included in the total 126,922 people affected by the rainy season, as well as second-order roads, houses, educational units, and crops (4)

Regarding the emergency in Esmeraldas, from 4 June to 20 June, the Provincial Branches deployed a dedicated team of 50 volunteers who actively engaged in relief efforts within the affected areas. These volunteers were involved in various essential activities, such as producing and distributing chlorine, collecting information, providing pre-hospital care, offering psychosocial support, and raising community awareness. As of now, the relief operations have resulted in the following outcomes: conducting a census for 587 families, providing pre-hospital care for 38 individuals, offering psychosocial support to 344 individuals, delivering chlorine to benefit 1,968 people, evacuating seven individuals, and providing humanitarian assistance to 483 people. □

#### Source:

(1)[https://www.inocar.mil.ec/erfen\\_bac/cargar\\_boletinespdf.php?id\\_secc=4](https://www.inocar.mil.ec/erfen_bac/cargar_boletinespdf.php?id_secc=4)

(2)<https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SITREP-Nro.-103-Epoca-Lluviosa-01012023-al-19-06-2023.pdf>

(3)<https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SitRep-35-Sismo-Balao-Guayas-04052023-1.pdf>

(4)<https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2023/06/SITREP-Nro-21-Esmeraldas-19.06.2023-16h00.pdf>





ERC responding to Floods. June 2023. ERC responding to earthquake. March 2023

## Scope and Scale

According to the latest Situation Report #101 of the rainy season, issued by the Risk Management Secretariat (SGR, by its initials in Spanish) on 16 June, from January to date, a total of 195 cantons have been affected by 2,463 hazardous events resulting from the ongoing rainy season. These events include 204 instances of structural collapse, 843 landslides, and 1,048 floods. The impacts of these events have been significant, affecting over 126,922 individuals, with 4,128 people displaced, 37 fatalities, and 54 injuries reported. In terms of infrastructure, 27,351 homes have been affected, with 533 completely destroyed. Additionally, 1,156 educational institutions and 52 health centers have been impacted by the adverse conditions (1).□

The most recurrent hazardous events include floods (42.55%), landslides (34.23%), structural collapses (8.28%), undermining (5.24%), gusty winds (4.71%), alluvium (2.19%), subsidence (1.18%), thunderstorms (0.89%), hailstorms (0.61%), and subsidence (0.12%).□

For the care of people affected by dangerous events, 13 temporary shelters are currently active. The shelters are divided as follows: 1 in Azuay, 9 in Esmeraldas, 1 in Guayas, 1 in Los Rios, and 1 in Loja. Up to 16 June, 582 families (2,031 people) remain in these shelters.

The provinces most affected by the rainy season are Guayas, Los Ríos, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santa Elena, Bolívar, Cotopaxi, El Oro, Santo Domingo de Los Tsáchilas, Imbabura, Loja, and Pichincha.

On the same hand, according to the latest Situation Report #35 issued by SGR on 4 May, the earthquake event from 18 March resulted in more than 3,774 people affected, 1,017 people displaced, 494 injured, and 14 fatalities. In terms of infrastructure, 1,050 houses were reported to have been affected and 291 were destroyed. Additionally, the seismic events have impacted 331 educational institutions and 291 health centers (2).

To date, relief and public institutions have reestablished the basic systems of the affected areas such as electricity, water, telephone, and road network, however, two emergency shelters continue to be set up in the Guabo canton. The Provincial Autonomous Government requested support from the National Government to provide support to affected families. As a result, the National Government activated national technical round tables and allocated additional resources in terms of emergency bonds for a value of US\$270 per family for one time and distribution of humanitarian assistance kits for the first days of the emergency.□

Finally, in the afternoon of June 3 and early morning of June 4, six rivers overflowed their banks, which so far have caused floods exceeding 10 meters in height in urban areas across 7 cantons and 21 parishes of the province of Esmeraldas. The affected cantons include are Atacames (4 parishes), Esmeraldas (6 parishes), Muisne (2 parishes), Qu

inindé (4 parishes), Rioverde (3 parishes), Eloy Alfaro (1 parish) and San Lorenzo (1 parish).□

According to the latest Situation Report #18 issued by SGR on 16 June, a total of 25 hazardous events have been recorded, corresponding to 20 floods, 3 landslides, 1 windstorm, and 1 structural collapse. As a result of these events, 4,900 families (19,982 people) are reported to have been affected. In terms of infrastructure, 5,437 houses are estimated to have been affected and 360 destroyed. Additionally, the flooding impacted 38 educational institutions and 8 health centers. These numbers are already included in the total numbers reported above for the rainy season (3).

According to the emergency response authorities, there are several landslides and undermining in first and second-order roads, which have hindered the transit or evacuation of the population to safer sectors. The public services industry has also been affected, resulting in regular cuts in electric power and worsening drinking water.□

To respond to the emergency, the National Decentralized Risk Management System activated different response and relief teams in coordination with the Risk Management Secretariat, Decentralized Autonomous Governments, Fire Departments, the National Police, the Ministry of Health, and the Ecuadorian Red Cross, are carrying out preliminary information gathering in the affected cantons. In addition, 9 temporary shelters have been set up in educational units hosting 1,986 people (570 families). The National Decentralized System has also asked for institutional support at the local level, especially in the cantons of Atacames (3 parishes), Esmeraldas (5 parishes), Muisne (2 parishes), and Quinindé (3 parishes).

Considering it has not been feasible to carry out evaluations in many sectors due to the presence of water, the authorities of the Emergency Operations Committees (EOCs) and relief institutions estimated the number of families affected by the heavy rains in Esmeraldas based on cadastral information. The EOCs of Esmeraldas and Atacames are also analyzing scenarios for the following days foreseeing new heavy rains in affected areas.

It is worth highlighting that the updated forecast of INAMHI's outlooks is rains of varying intensity in Esmeraldas in the coming weeks that could accumulate between 40 to 60 mm/day.

For a detailed breakdown of affectation per province, refer to the Situation Reports mentioned above and the assessment report issued by the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Source:

(1)<https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SITREP-Nro.-101-Epoca-Lluviosa-01012023-al-16062023.pdf>

(2)<https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SitRep-35-Sismo-Balao-Guayas-04052023-1.pdf>

(3)<https://www.gestionderiesgos.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2023/06/SITREP-Nro-18-Esmeraldas-16.06.2023-16h00-7.pdf>

## Summary of changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	<b>Yes</b>
Are you changing the operational strategy	<b>Yes</b>
Are you changing the target population of the operation	<b>Yes</b>
Are you changing the geographical location	<b>Yes</b>
Are you making changes to the budget	<b>Yes</b>



Is this a request for a second allocation	<b>Yes</b>
Has the forecasted event materialize?	<b>Yes</b>

**Please explain the summary of changes and justification**

The Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC) launched this DREF for Assessment on 6 April 2023 with the objective of conducting Damage and Needs Assessments across 15 out of the 24 provinces in the country. The assessments aimed to identify the impacts of heavy rains affecting the country since February 2023, as well as the 6.5 magnitude earthquake that occurred in March 2023.

Furthermore, on 4 June, a new flooding event occurred in the Province of Esmeraldas causing widespread a ffectionation. As a result, the National Society decided to include the response to this emergency as part of this O perations Update.□

Following the evaluation stage and the analysis of the response strategy for the emergency in Esmeraldas, the National Society revised its DREF Plan of Action to transition to a DREF for Response.

Through this Operations Update No. 1, the Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to inform about:

- A timeframe extension of four additional months, for a total of six months (new end date: 31 October 2023).
- A budget increase that includes a second allocation of CHF 342,296 for a total DREF budget of CHF 441,810.
- Assist 8,850 people (1,500 families) directly through the implementation of activities under Shelter, Health, WASH, and Multipurpose Cash. Specifically, 650 families (3,835 people) will be assisted as part of the transition f rom DREF for Assessment to DREF for Response in the Provinces of Guayas, Santo Domingo, Manabí, Santa E lena, Los Ríos, El Oro, and Loja, while the remaining 850 families (5,015 people) will be assisted as part of the r esponse to the flooding event from 4 June in the province of Esmeraldas. Additionally, 200,000 people will be in directly reached by disseminating key messages with a Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Community, En gagement, and Accountability (CEA) approach.

## Current National Society Actions



ERC responding to floods. June 2023



ERC conducts initial assessment after floods. June 2023



<p><b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b></p>	<p>As in PGI, the CEA approach is being permanently incorporated with the support of volunteers. The National Society is currently working with technical teams in affected areas to identify strategies to integrate the affected population from the beginning of the intervention. However, this has been a great challenge due to the extension of the affected areas and the frequency of flooding events.</p>
<p><b>Assessment</b></p>	<p>Rainy Season and Earthquake: On 6 April, the Ecuadorian Red Cross, in its auxiliary role to public authorities, launched a DREF for Assessment to conduct Damage and Needs Assessments aimed at evaluating the effects of the floods and earthquake events that had affected the country and also to contribute to the Initial Assessments conducted by the Decentralized National Risk Management System (SNDGR, by its initials in Spanish) in the areas affected by these emergencies.□</p> <p>Multidisciplinary teams were deployed in the 15 affected provinces, comprising ERC technicians in coordination, liaison, evaluation, water, sanitation and hygiene, emergency health, mental health and psychosocial support, and operational security. Field teams gathered information in coordination with technical personnel from the SNDGR and the Provincial, Cantonal, and Parochial Autonomous Decentralized Governments (GAD) to avoid duplication.</p> <p>A total of 3,708 surveys were collected using the Initial Needs Assessment form, a standardized tool of the SNDGR. For this purpose, volunteers and staff were trained in the Kobo toolbox and equipped with smartphones and tablets that the National Society had available in national and zonal offices.</p> <p>The Initial Needs Assessment comprised seven sections, as follows: 1) Identification of dwellings (8 questions); 2) Level of damage (5 questions) - Informant's data (7 questions); 3) Family data (9 questions); 4) Affectation of the family nucleus (5 questions); 5) Rating of the level of affectation of the family nucleus (6 questions); 6) Information on the family nucleus (part a: 17 questions and part b: 27 questions).□</p> <p>In addition, the survey included a section to define the humanitarian assistance required, the evaluator's data, and a photograph of the dwelling and the respondent.□</p> <p>The areas (neighborhoods, precincts, and communities) selected for the evaluation were determined in two ways: 1. by inter-institutional designation within the EOCs, and 2. by direct identification by ERC of affected places not prioritized by the SNDGR for evaluation and relief.□</p> <p>During March and April, technical response personnel from other institutions, such as the SNDGR and some GADs, had incidents of assaults and threats during the evaluation and assistance activities. As a result, the ERC established an operational response structure with a field security officer, who was responsible for developing a security protocol and monitoring the safe behavior of personnel.□</p> <p>Although the National Society is well accepted at the community level, it is important to note that due to the violence, extortion, kidnappings and homicides that have increased mainly in the coastal area, families in the</p>



communities were not willing to share personal data such as telephone, the number of family members, economic activities, information of relatives with some vulnerability criteria, due to the fear of being victims of extortion and kidnapping by organized crime.

Each of the ERC Provincial Branches (Azuay, Bolivar, Cotopaxi, Chimborazo, El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Imbabura, Loja, Los Rios, Manabí, Napo, Pichincha, Santo Domingo, Santa Elena), prepared a final report on the impact on their territory, as well as the identification of the possibility of developing a response operation.□

Floods in Esmeraldas:

Once the flooding was registered, the Esmeraldas Provincial Board activated 25 local technicians to assess flooded areas assigned to the ERC on a short-time basis.□

In support of the Secretariat for Risk Management (SGR, by its initials in Spanish), information on damages and a family census is being collected using the SNDGR standardized tool with paper records, given the danger of taking electronic devices to affected areas. The evaluation forms are uploaded in the crisis room at the Provincial Board with the participation of 12 volunteers, including program coordinators and technical personnel from different sectors.

The provincial telecommunications system is being evaluated to identify and solve connectivity issues. Given this inconvenience, the staff is working through telephone communication.

To date, 331 families located in the Valle Hermoso neighborhood and the temporary housing of the Vicente Cueva Educational Unit have been surveyed.

23 volunteers affected by the floods in Esmeraldas have also been identified.

## Coordination

Rainy Season and Earthquake:

The authorities of the ERC participate in coordination spaces of the SNDGR through the Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) and specific inter-institutional meetings. Emergency Response activities are mainly carried out with the support of the Decentralized Autonomous Government of the 15 affected provinces and with the Secretariat of Risk Management, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, and the Ministry of Public Health.□

The ERC also supports the Technical Working Groups at the national and provincial levels, especially in health, water, humanitarian assistance, emergency shelter, and rescue actions, with public and private entities linked to the emergency.

Floods in Esmeraldas:

The President of the Provincial Board is participating in the Esmeraldas Cantonal EOC and the Provincial EOC meetings. Also, technical staff attends the Technical Working Groups on Water, Health, Humanitarian Assistance, and Shelter. In addition, the National Risk Management Coordinator was deployed to the field from Headquarters to provide technical support to local authorities a



	<p>nd the local team regarding inter-institutional work in the short and medium term required.</p>
<b>Resource Mobilization</b>	<p><b>Rainy Season and Earthquake:</b> Through the Planning office, approaches have been made to obtain support from key actors such as General Motors for loaning a 4x4 vehicle to be assigned to the Alausí operation due to the terrain conditions in the intervention zone.</p> <p><b>Floods in Esmeralda:</b> The Provincial Branch is supporting with their resources the delivery of hot meals for affected families in the areas near the provincial offices. In addition, a global action plan is being developed at the Head Office to manage funding for different components in the mid-term.</p>
<b>Activation Of Contingency Plans</b>	<p>The ERC has a National Response Plan and a contingency scenario for El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) - related floods. These have been activated to provide facilities and technical support to the provinces affected by heavy rains in the country.□</p> <p>In addition, the provinces of Guayas, Pichincha, Loja, Los Ríos, Bolívar, Santa Elena, Esmeraldas, Manabí, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Napo and Azuay activated their provincial response plans to face the effects of the rains.</p>
<b>National Society EOC</b>	<p><b>Rainy Season and Earthquake:</b> As part of activating the National Plan and the Provincial Response Plans, the Ecuadorian Red Cross set up Crisis Management Committees in all Provincial Branches and at Headquarters, improving the coordination locally and permanently supporting the analysis of the data collected in the field.□</p> <p><b>Floods in Esmeralda:</b> The 24-hour crisis room is active at the Provincial Board and Headquarters to coordinate actions in response to the floods.</p>
<b>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</b>	<p><b>Rainy Season and Earthquake:</b> With the activation of the network of strategic warehouses, the National Society delivered 73 shelter tool kits to affected families in El Oro and Santo Domingo provinces with institutional pre-positioned stock.</p> <p>In addition, in the case of Chimborazo, with the approval of the DREF to respond to Landslides in March, 100 shelter tool kits have been delivered to affected families.</p> <p><b>Flood in Esmeraldas:</b> 50 shelter tool kits, 100 tarpaulins, 12 kitchen kits, 54 household kits, 100 blankets, and 35 sets of tableware for temporary shelters have been deployed for distribution to the affected population identified in the initial rapid assessments.</p>
	<p><b>Rainy Season and Earthquake:</b> Considering that different emergencies struck the same provinces, 15 Provincial Branches deployed pre-hospital care, mental health, and psychosocial support teams at different moments to respond immediately to those affect-</p>



<p><b>Health</b></p>	<p>ed or evacuated during the floods and the earthquake.□</p> <p>Floods in Esmeraldas: A team of 10 volunteers was deployed to implement search and rescue and health care activities in the "50 houses" sector. To date, ten people trapped in their homes have been evacuated. Additionally, 38 people (44% men and 66% women) have been treated for medical emergencies (minor traumas, injuries, impacts with blunt objects, asphyxia, and submersion in aquatic contexts).</p> <p>The ERC staff is trained in Basic First Aid; therefore, during the emergency, the support being provided was complemented by the deployment of an ambulance to support safe referral to specialized healthcare centers.</p> <p>Mental health care was provided to 344 people affected (44%men and 56%women) by heavy rains and the overflowing of the Teaone River in the " 50 Casas" neighborhood in the south of Esmeraldas city.</p>
<p><b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b></p>	<p>Rainy Season and Earthquake: With the pre-positioned stock in strategic warehouses, it was possible to provide initial attention to the population with 120 cleaning kits, 120 hygiene kits, 636 mosquito nets, and 96 jerry cans during the first weeks of the floods and the earthquake. Those items were complementary to the relief provided by the work of the SGR and the GADs of the provinces of Santo Domingo, El Oro, Manabí, and Guayas.□</p> <p>Floods in Esmeralda: As support to the Provincial Branch, a team was activated to assist in the evaluation of the needs for water, sanitation, and hygiene and the installation of a 30-liter chlorinator for the production of 1% hypochlorite for the disinfection of surfaces and water treatment at the household level after the emergency. To prevent the spread of vector-borne diseases, 200 repellent creams, infographics with prevention messages, and a kit for home visits were sent to complement the work of the GADs and SGRs of the province of Esmeraldas. So far, 60 liters of sodium hypochlorite have been produced for delivery to 120 families. Between June 4 and June 20, 1,968 people benefited from chlorine delivery.</p>
<p><b>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</b></p>	<p>Rainy Season and Earthquake: All activities carried out by the ERC currently seek a PGI approach at the community level and in areas where rights violations may occur, for example, in temporary shelters, humanitarian assistance distributions, and capacity-building actions.</p> <p>Floods in Esmeraldas: Currently, a local volunteer is working on applying the PGI approach in all activities carried out in the field and strengthening their capacities to outline the minimum PGI standards so that they become part of the future PGI referents at the national level. In addition, permanent dissemination of messages on the prevention of Gender-Based Violence and rights violations are maintained with emphasis on priority groups such as women and children.□</p> <p>The National Society is strengthening volunteer capacities at the national level by implementing a training scheme that allows the activation of fixed and mobile RFL attention points and the delivery of various RFL services (</p>



search requests, family news, connectivity service, and attention to people in vulnerable situations) according to needs.

## Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

<p><b>IFRC</b></p>	<p>The IFRC has a Program Office in Ecuador with a team of 3 people that allows regular communication and coordination with the National Society and the head of Country Cluster Delegation when this type of emergency occurs. In addition, there is technical support from the IFRC's Americas Regional Office for the request of a DREF to respond to these situations.</p> <p>As part of the support during the evaluation phase, the IFRC deployed a PMER officer for one month to support the analysis of data and development of the evaluation report and Operations Update.</p>
<p><b>ICRC</b></p>	<p>No actions of ICRC for this emergency.</p>
<p><b>Participating National Societies</b></p>	<p>During the emergencies related to the winter season, the ERC received support and financing from the Spanish, Italian and German Red Cross through the PPP Project, which covered some of the needs for the deployment of equipment and the distribution of humanitarian assistance to the affected families. PPP funds have been used to restock Ecuadorian Red Cross warehouses with goods that were needed for the immediate response to other emergencies, such as hygiene and cleaning kits, which are not being included in this DREF Application. The coordination for the use of these funds, within the Ecuadorian Red Cross, is carried out through the Planning Department, ensuring that the allocation of funds responds to the needs of ongoing operations and avoids duplication of financing.</p>

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<p><b>Government has requested international assistance</b></p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>National authorities</b></p>	<p>The Risk Management Secretariat is the state entity that guarantees the protection and safety of people and communities against the effects of disasters. In addition, it promotes policies and strategies to install capacities to identify and reduce risks associated with hazards or minimize their effects, as well as to avoid the generation of new risks and to prepare for and respond to disaster situations.</p> <p>Rainy Season and Earthquake: In coordination with GADs, shelters have been set up to guarantee basic services, bathrooms, dormitories, dining rooms and kitchens, and medical attention points.</p> <p>The Presidency of the Republic, through the Secretariat of Risk Management (SGR) and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, has delivered emergency vouchers, food kits, personal hygiene, cleaning kits, sleeping kits,</p>



crocery, kitchenware, among others, to families affected by the floods and the earthquake.□

Other key actors that have intervened in the rehabilitation of affected services or assistance to the population are the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transportation and Public Works, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Ministry of Water, and Electric Company, among others.

Floods in Esmeraldas:  
 Considering the magnitude of the event, on 5 June, the President of the Republic and his ministerial cabinet visited the province of Esmeraldas for an evaluation and coordination with key local stakeholders.

**UN or other actors** No actions to mention so far.

**Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?**

As part of the response operations, the SNDGR activated the Emergency Operations Committee (EOC) to coordinate the different actions of public and private institutions that provide care at different levels. The ERC participates especially in the water, health, education, humanitarian assistance, productivity, and infrastructure committees at the cantonal, provincial, and national levels.

This emergency coordination system ensures that the information and assistance are not duplicated. It is also the means for analysis and decision-making.

The EOC Manual describes the structure of the SNDGR for the coordination of care and response in case of emergencies and disasters.



# Needs (Gaps) Identified



## Health

The heavy rains in recent months and the March 2023 earthquake have had various impacts on the health, environment, and social sectors. These impacts have affected not only the population but also the infrastructure and equipment of healthcare facilities.

Consequently, the health of the population has been affected, leading to:

- Respiratory diseases caused by temperature changes and exposure, skin diseases resulting from contact with contaminated water, and vector-borne diseases due to the proliferation of mosquitoes in areas with poor drainage of stagnant water.
- Lack of medical supplies that force the limitation or breaks of health services, increasing the risk of transmission of contagious diseases, or the aggravation of the health condition of people without access to medicines for chronic diseases or treatments.
- Saturation of first-level health facilities due to the demand for care in transfers or transfers of cases from smaller localities, which exceeds the response capacity. Damage or difficulty of access to health facilities by the population, given the damage or cuts in first, second or third-order roads, considering that road blockades or closures force people to take alternate routes, which increases costs and/or time invested.
- In the case of pre-hospital care, the main injuries correspond to patients with multisystem trauma, i.e., injuries affecting more than one body system, including the pulmonary, circulatory, neurological, gastrointestinal, musculoskeletal and integumentary systems, drowning, respiratory distress, electrocuted persons, blunt force injuries, injuries to the skull, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or multisystem, fractures, hemorrhages and respiratory disorders. It is necessary to support the local Ambulance and Pre-hospital Medicine System, because there is limited access to health sub-centers, health centers and hospitals due to the blockage of streets, avenues and highways due to water flooding or possible landslides.
- The emotional health of the population is affected by the exposure to the effects caused by emergencies such as floods and earthquakes, added to the current insecurity situation in the country since the risk of being a victim of an attack in public establishments (including hospitals) has been increasing over the months. In addition, there is a population that is going through mourning processes due to the loss or death of family members and loved ones during emergencies. Among the main priority groups exposed to mental health damage are children and adolescents, with whom the National Society will work on grief management techniques and psychosocial support without neglecting the community's general need.

In this sector and considering that the attention to the population is provided by the ERC's volunteers and hired personnel, it is necessary to carry out capacity building and transfer processes within the institution, as well as care and self-care actions for the intervening person permanently, to prevent mental health problems.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Communities have a much higher risk than in previous years due to increased violence in the country. Therefore, it is essential to incorporate the protection, gender and inclusion approach and to apply basic standards in



emergencies: DAPS (Dignity, Access, Participation and Security), to ensure the humanitarian response contributes to the reduction of these vulnerabilities.

According to Ecuador's political Constitution, vulnerable groups include children, adolescents, pregnant women, women victims of gender-based violence, older adults, people with disabilities, people with chronic diseases, migrants in transit, people deprived of liberty, and the LGBTIQ+ population.

To ensure that the operation meets the PGI standards, the following actions should be implemented: 1) Dissemination of information and guidance on mechanisms and routes in each province focused on the access victims of gender-based violence, children, and people with disabilities to rights and services provided during the operation. 2) Analyze the data collected and adapt the assistance provided to meet the differential needs of the vulnerable groups identified.



## Shelter Housing And Settlements

Based on the results of 3,708 family surveys collected in the 15 provinces that were part of the needs assessment, three types of damage were observed:

- Total damage: in the case of the earthquake, of the 291 uninhabitable houses, 185 (64%) are registered only in El Oro province.
- Partial damage but habitable: houses that had damage due to collapse or cracking of walls in the basic structure, in bathrooms or doors, windows or roofs. However, it is not considered unsafe;
- Minimal damage: even though the water reached more than 70 cm, these houses did not get relevant damage to the structures or their property.

It should also be mentioned that 804 houses have no reports of major damages, meaning the water level reached less than 10 cm in height and was drained immediately.

The needs identified were based on the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MIDUVI, by its initials in Spanish) traffic light reports and the evaluation of the ERC teams through direct observation. At the end of the surveys, the following housing results were obtained:

Affected (requires specialized evaluation) = 1,637;  
Partial damage (habitable) = 778;  
Total damage not habitable = 21;  
Destroyed = 185;  
Not habitable (according to a technical report from a specialized institution) = 3;  
Pending verification (no access for internal evaluation) = 90  
No report of damage = 804;  
Housing in impact/risk zone = 18;

In the case of Esmeraldas, according to preliminary information from rapid assessments carried out by inter-institutional teams, it is estimated that 5,437 homes have been affected, and at least 360 are destroyed. This information is still under evaluation, considering that during the night, the water receded, and the population could return to their homes to verify the damages and losses. The main needs are removing debris, and cleaning and rehabilitating infrastructure, especially in areas less than 100 meters from the riverbanks, trying to look for a solution for at least 1,986 people (570 families) currently in active emergency shelters.

On the coast, 70% of the houses are of mixed construction with a cement base, wood or block structure, and zinc and are raised off the ground to avoid damage during the rainy season. The first floor normally stores work tools



or rests in hammocks. Meanwhile, the most current houses in the highlands are mainly made of cement, block, zinc, or tile. However, there are also old houses made of tiles and adobe, an ancient technique where a mixture of mud or clay mixed with water and straw is used for fixing

These characteristics affect the condition of the houses after a flood, landslide, or earthquake, especially because in less than 30% of the cases, the structures are built based on previously approved plans or with quality materials. Therefore, families must invest in reconstructing their homes or paying for other rental places until they can complete repairs

Although the National Government is indeed managing the delivery of emergency bonds, these have not yet been distributed in their totality to the affected population since there is a high number of people in need. Therefore, it is necessary to intervene to provide support to the affected families, so that they can rebuild their homes, rehabilitate access roads and trade routes, and ensure safe housing



## Community Engagement And Accountability

The Ecuadorian Red Cross works permanently with the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach in different activities, especially in emergencies, which allows the adoption of interventions that respond to the community's real needs.

To ensure this, it is important to involve as many stakeholders as possible (including Decentralized Autonomous Governments, Risk Management Secretariat, and other local organizations present in the area). However, priority should be given to the participation of the affected community, providing them with timely and adequate information about ERC's work, and actively listening to the needs identified from their point of view. □

These activities encourage communities so they can express their opinions and involve them in the planning, monitoring, and evaluation activities.



## Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Floods leave people homeless, without access to food and livelihoods, which means they need help to survive and are at immediate risk of disease and injury due to lack of adequate food and environment. It is imperative to support the affected population to recover part of what they have lost

Due to the intensity of the rains, and consequent flooding, hectares of beans, corn, barley, rice, fruit varieties, and herb for animal feed have been lost, also affecting cattle, pig, and beef production. Additionally, access roads have been interrupted, so producers who managed to recover their crops or who did not suffer consequences from the floods cannot take their products to market, so they often lose them or have to sell them locally at lower cost

According to the assessment carried out, agriculture is the main economic activity of the families surveyed, being the main means of subsistence for 80% (1,052) of families. The intense rains have caused damage to beans, corn, barley, rice, grass, banana, and fruit crops. According to the Chamber of Agriculture, the losses are estimated at approximately 250 million dollars: 70 million in cocoa, 40 million in rice, 40 million in cane, 30 million in bananas, and 70 million in other products.



45% (784) of the total number of families that provided information on the status of their main economic activity (1,725) reported having been affected, with agriculture and livestock being the most affected activities. In relation to livestock, the raising of bovines and pigs, and their derived products (meat and dairy), have been affected by the lack of food, poultry have died from flooding and aquaculture registers losses in the production of shrimp and river fish.

13% (220) of families that responded about the status of their family assets (1,727) mentioned having suffered a total loss, mainly the low-income population being affected. Added to this is the low capacity to respond to the crisis in the affected areas, since the sources of employment (agricultural and livestock activities) and the means of production (cultivation land and animals) have been lost. This situation could increase unemployment figures in the country, calculated at 4.4% in 2022, as well as underemployment, estimated at 22.2%.

Immediate needs of the affected population correspond to daily food, protective equipment against weather conditions and vector-borne diseases in temporary homes, rental, and reconditioning of homes, and purchase of medicines, clothing, and money for transportation and incidentals.

In this regard, the population has seen its main economic activity and source of income affected, making it necessary to provide assistance so that families have an emergency income that allows them to pay for food, housing, and health expenses



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

The Damage and Needs Assessments conducted indicate an important need for rehabilitation or strengthening of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services in Guayas, Manabi, Los Rios, and Santo Domingo. Access to safe water in quantity and quality is the main need in the face of the effects of floods, considering its use: human consumption and hygiene, as well as domestic use for cleaning. Also, the systems of the Water Branches (responsible for the collection, treatment, and provision of water at the community level) have been affected by the collapse of capacity, accumulation of debris, and damage due to electrical storms, especially in the suction pumps, contamination of collection points, and damage to distribution pipeline

In addition to the needs outlined above, there was damage caused by the fall of a tree on the tension cables in the San Mateo water collection plant (responsible for the collection, treatment, and supply of water) that supplies Esmeraldas, Atacames, Río Verde and the upper part of Quinindé, which has caused the temporary cut of drinking water supply, leaving about 11,500 people without this service. It is important to mention that, in the province of Esmeraldas, there are limited safe water distribution vehicles (tankers) that do not conserve 100% of the water. Besides, families do not have a culture of storing water or consumption properly.

On the other hand, limited access to safe drinking water forces the population to use river water (which is sometimes contaminated by mixing with physiological waste or garbage due to flooding), rainwater collected from roofs without the corresponding cleaning or distributed by tankers, but with poor storage practices at the household level. This is the main cause of gastrointestinal and skin infections, especially dangerous for children under five, pregnant women, and older adults.

To support Disaster Response Authorities, it is necessary to work at two levels:

- 1) Community: through activities and awareness sessions about proper water management in homes and cleanliness of outdoors.
- 2) Institutional (Water Branches and GADs): through the analysis of water quality, treatment, and distribution systems, as well as the strategic planning of response to the provision of sinks and showers and toilets in temporary shelters if necessary.



Regarding sanitation and hygiene needs, actions will be complemented with the possibility of delivering humanitarian assistance to families affected by the effects of the rains and who have limited access to hygiene kits, cleaning tools and/or safe water storage

## **Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment**

During the implementation of the assessments, the following limitations were encountered:

- The authorities of the Ecuadorian State, through the Secretariat of Risk Management, promote the use of the Initial Needs Assessment (EVIN), with the intention of generating standardized information and unique databases of the information collected by the organizations that conform to the Decentralized National System of Risk Management. However, volunteers had been using the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis (DANA) for several years, which has generated a longer adaptation time to the new methodology. Nevertheless, for this assessment exercise, emphasis was placed on training and familiarizing staff with the new tools in order to reduce the learning curve.
- Due to the variability in the frequency of rainfall in the country, which increased between March and April, but decreased in May, some families had already returned to their daily work when the evaluation team was deployed, so it was not possible to collect information in all cases. The needs identified in this population group were covered by the Risk Management Secretariat.□
- In several localities, the people assessed often receive material assistance in exchange for providing information to state entities or other organizations, so representatives of all affected households did not want to participate in the survey. Likewise, families expressed their discomfort with the organizations that were in the zones previously, indicating that information had been collected but the requested assistance has not been received. This situation was found mainly in the province of Loja.
- The evaluation was designed considering the deployment of an Assessment Coordinator, in Surge modality, who could provide technical assistance to the Ecuadorian Red Cross in the organization, implementation, and processing of evaluation results. However, the requested profile was not found, so it was necessary to opt for a P MER Officer, who joined at the end of the evaluation and supported the processing of the information collected and partial development of the Evaluation Report and Operations Update.□
- The main limitation of the implementation of the evaluation was the current context of insecurity in Ecuador, which has generated mistrust among the population in state institutions and humanitarian organizations, especially when requesting personal information. Due to the increase in criminality in the country, and mainly in the areas where the evaluation was going to be carried out, where organized crime has taken control of different towns, it was not possible to collect all the information expected, as the population refused to participate in the surveys and it was necessary to avoid access routes to remote areas that represented a high level of risk for volunteers and ERC staff.

## **Operational Strategy**

### **Overall objective of the operation**

Through this DREF Plan of Action, the Ecuadorian Red Cross aims to provide humanitarian assistance to 8,850 people (1,500 families) affected by the effects of the rainy season and Earthquake in the provinces of El Oro, Esmeral-



das, Guayas, Loja, Los Rios, Manabí, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, through the implementation of activities under Shelter, Health, WASH and Multipurpose Cash. Additionally, 200,000 people will be reached indirectly through the dissemination of key messages with Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) and Community, Engagement, and Accountability (CEA) approaches.

## Operation strategy rationale

The intervention strategy has been designed based on the experience of the Ecuadorian Red Cross in providing humanitarian assistance during and after crises caused by natural events and on the needs identified through the D REF for Assessment carried out between April and May 2023. Considering that the ERC is part of the National Decentralized Risk Management System, the response strategy has been designed in coordination with the authorities of the different Autonomous Decentralized Governments, community leaders and other key stakeholders. Thus, actions have been prioritized in the following components:

### Health:

As a result of the assessment, it was identified that the main health needs of the affected population are mainly concentrated on: (i) Health promotion and dissemination of key care messages, with focus on people affected by chronic diseases, vector-borne diseases and unsafe water consumption, (ii) Prevention and control measures for vector-borne diseases, (iii) Psychosocial and psychological support. Additionally, due to the emergency in Esmeraldas, there is a need to provide (iv) pre-hospital care and evacuation for the affected population.

Therefore, the health strategy to attend these needs will be focused on:

- Health promotion and Community Based Surveillance: Talks and awareness-raising campaigns by volunteers in the use of safe water, healthy living, nutrition habits and vector-borne diseases prevention aimed at community members; and home visits to detect possible risks to the health of the family and the community.
- Distribution of impregnated mosquito nets and training in vector-borne disease prevention.
- Psychosocial support will be given through individual, family and group activities in community spaces and temporary shelters, to alleviate the current suffering of affected people and prevent further damage to their mental health.
- Mental health and psychosocial support for Ecuadorian Red Cross staff and volunteers will be provided at the facilities of the respective Provincial Branch, and care for external personnel will be carried out based on prior inter-institutional coordination.
- Pre-hospital care and evacuation for the affected population in Esmeraldas. In this case, the preparation of the team is being considered to carry out possible evacuation cases, considering that the emergency continues and new events of intense rains and affectation that require immediate attention are expected.

Through health-related activities, 5,000 people will be reached through health promotion. Additionally, of this, 400 families (1,600 people) will be reached with mosquito nets in El Oro, Guayas, Loja, Los Rios, Manabí, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, and another 500 families (2,000 people) will be reached in Esmeraldas.

### Shelter, Housing and Settlements:

Families who suffered partial or total damage to their homes will be assisted through the delivery of shelter toolkits for the reconstruction of their homes or the adaptation of their temporary accommodation, with an emphasis on families who are staying in shelters or host families until the water level decreases. The shelter toolkits will help families to clean the mud in living spaces, make the adequacy of the land, enable the structure of partially affected housing, and cleaning points of accumulation of garbage or drains to keep the water drainage channels clean. Each family will receive a shelter toolkit, composed of 1 roll of polypropylene rope, 1 wood saw, 3 nail sleeves, 1 steel shovel, 1 steel hoe, 1 machete, 1 pair of metal shears, 1 roll of wire and 1 hammer, plus 2 plastic tarpaulins.

Through shelter-related activities, 387 families (1,548 people) will be reached. Of this, 137 families (548 people) will be assisted in El Oro, Guayas, Loja, Los Rios, Manabí, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, while the remaining



250 families (1,000 people) will be assisted in Esmeraldas.

#### Multipurpose cash:

Based on the assessments conducted, it was determined that the affected population has experienced significant disruption to their primary economic activity and source of income. Consequently, it is imperative to provide assistance so that families have an emergency income to ensure that they can cover essential expenses such as food, housing, and healthcare.□

Because of this, a cash transfer program will be implemented for 650 families, who will withdraw the money from the nearest bank, being Banco Pichincha the most common in the country. The amount per family will be CHF 260 (292 USD) delivered in one allocation, which has been calculated considering the basic family basket of 734 dollars and discounting the amount corresponding to support from other organizations, the State and local economic reactivation. The money delivered will be prioritized for food, but also includes a percentage to cover housing and rent, clothing, health, education, and transportation.

The ERC has extensive experience implementing cash transfer programs to assist Ecuadorian families and people from other nationalities affected by crisis and disasters. Since 2016, 8,331 families have been assisted through the mobilization of 1,866,485 USD through various mechanisms such as international debit cards, supermarket coupons, consumer cards, and cardless withdrawal in ATMs, this last one being the most used due to the nationwide coverage and low cost of the service.

During these seven years of experience implementing cash transfer programs, the ERC has intervened in 18 of the 24 provinces of the country, with the support of more than 500 volunteers. Currently, the ERC has enough capacity to develop CBI that includes trained staff and strong financial partners.□

Through multipurpose cash related activities, 650 families (2,600 people) will be reached. Of this, 300 families (1,200 people) will be assisted in El Oro, Guayas, Loja, Los Rios, Manabí, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, while the remaining 350 families (1,400 people) will be assisted in Esmeraldas.

#### Water, sanitation and hygiene:

The water supply systems for human consumption and sewerage have been affected, impeding families' access to safe water for daily consumption and hygiene. The floods caused the overflow of wastewater, which caused contamination and health risks, specially to vulnerable people, such as children, adolescents, pregnant women, the elderly and people with chronic and acute diseases.□

In this regard, it is necessary to carry out actions that guarantee the consumption of safe water, through the production and distribution of sodium hypochlorite, and holding awareness talks for the community on the proper management of water, after holding update workshops for ERC volunteers and staff. For this activity, chlorinators owned by the National Society will be used to support the production of chlorine at the ERC National WASH Center, where 3,500 units of chlorine will be produced to supply 1,500 families.

Through WASH-related activities, 1,500 families (6,000 people) will be reached. Of this, 650 families (2,600 people) will be assisted in El Oro, Guayas, Loja, Los Rios, Manabí, Santa Elena, Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, while the remaining 850 families (3,400 people) will be assisted in Esmeraldas.

#### Protection Gender and Inclusion:

Being an intervention in different provinces with diversity of cultures, languages and customs, it is important to ensure that all activities carried out in the field include an approach of interculturality, inclusion, respect and protection. Likewise, due to the magnitude of the event, work must be done to sensitize all key actors and institutional staff on protection and gender issues, in order to reduce the risks that may arise in crowded situations or during the distribution of assistance. Consequently, all intervention sectors will be sensitized to the protection approach through



h three workshops with special emphasis on the prevention of gender violence in emergencies and RF

A workshop on the PGI approach will be held to strengthen the capacities of the Ecuadorian Red Cross personnel in the minimum standards of PGI in emergencies "Dignity, Access, Participation and Safety (DAPS)". In addition, during the lessons learned workshops, it is intended to have a space to evaluate the minimum implementation of the DAPS standards in the response stage.

Additionally, three 20-second micro spots on key messages for the operation and protection and prevention of violence in emergency situations will be recorded for social networks. This activity will be measured through a report on the scope of the area of communication in social networks.

RFL: Disasters correspond to one of the situations where family contact restoration services are activated. In the current context, this service will be provided through the contracting of mass messaging issued by WhatsApp, which will disseminate infographics with self-care measures and the RFL national service number.

### Community, Engagement and Accountability

As a transversal approach to all the activities of the operation, the CEA component will work hand in hand with the operating units to ensure that the messages disseminated are adapted to the community and adequately respond to its needs. For this reason, as part of the CVA programme, technical assistance will be provided for the implementation of feedback mechanisms from and for the community. Additionally, as part of the feedback mechanisms, a final satisfaction survey will be implemented at the national level, with random samples, as a feedback mechanism. In those Provinces where, due to security issues or contexts specific to their environment, it is not feasible to carry out the satisfaction survey, other feedback mechanisms such as Focus Groups will be applied.□

Having recognized in the DREF for Assessment the need to foster the confidence of the population in the Ecuadorian Red Cross, messages focused on the role of the Ecuadorian Red Cross as auxiliary to the State will be disseminated including: (i) Messages from the Red Cross as an auxiliary of the State, but as an independent body, and (ii) Messages about the ERC institutional work. Finally, staff will be trained on CEA concepts, in order to keep volunteers and staff updated on the application of this approach

Through these transversal activities, 200,000 indirect beneficiaries between 18 and 70 years of age are aimed to be reached in all 8 provinces with diffusion of key messages with a PGI approach using micro-spots for social media, diffusion of key messages with RFL approach, diffusion of key messages with a CEA approach, and CVA feedback mechanisms. The means of verification will be the report sent by the company selected for the provision of the service.□

### National Society Strengthening:

The Auxiliary Role of the ERC will be disseminated among public powers in the humanitarian field, aimed at public actors and NGOs involved in the emergency response, taking into account the electoral context in the country. In addition, rapid update workshops will be organized with the staff of the Esmeraldas Provincial Branch, prior to the scheduled humanitarian emergency operations. Finally, there will be a lessons learned workshop and a DREF Training with the support of the Americas Regional Office

As part of the intervention strategy, the most vulnerable population will be prioritized to be assisted, considering the criteria included in the "Targeting Strategy" section. These criteria will be applied to all areas of intervention mentioned but adapting them to the reality of each community.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?



8,850 people were affected by the effects of the rainy season, earthquakes, and floods in the provinces of El Oro, Esmeraldas, Guayas, Loja, Los Rios, Manabí, Santa Elena, and Santo Domingo de los Tsáchilas, whose home or livelihoods were within the impact zone, or who have lost a family member due to the emergencies will be assisted.□

Special attention will be given to vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly. The national society has networks at the community level that allow it to identify these groups and also collaborates with local institutions to facilitate the identification of this specific population.□

The logic behind targeting these particular groups is to ensure that assistance reaches those who are most at risk and least able to recover from the disaster on their own. By prioritizing vulnerable households, marginalized communities, and individuals with specific needs, the National Society aims to provide targeted and tailored support, maximizing the impact of the DREF operation and promoting equitable relief efforts.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

Criteria of vulnerability that will allow prioritizing assistance:

- Families with destroyed homes.
- Single-parent families.
- At least one member of the family has some type of disability.
- At least one member of the family is breastfeeding.
- Families with at least one person suffering from a chronic or severe illness.
- Pregnant women in the family.
- Families with elderly adults.
- Families with children under 5 years of age.

The following strategies will be used to corroborate the lists of beneficiaries:□

- Family information recorded in the survey conducted by the ERC or the General Secretariat of the Republic.
- Information validated with community leaders.

## Total Targeted Population

Women:	<b>3,398</b>	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	<b>1,912</b>	<b>30.00 %</b>	<b>70.00 %</b>
Men:	<b>2,266</b>	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	<b>1,274</b>	<b>1.00 %</b>	
Total targeted population:	<b>8,850</b>		

## Risk and security considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Robberies of volunteers and humanitarian personnel in mission activities	Application of the operational safety manual and recommendations for safe behavior.



Likelihood of aggression and retention of volunteers and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public campaign to disseminate the humanitarian role in emergencies and the auxiliary role of the ERC.</li> <li>- Application of ERC's safe behavior recommendations.</li> </ul>
Criminal violence in intervention zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Security protocol for the evaluation and distribution of humanitarian assistance.</li> <li>- Dissemination of the ERC safe behaviors booklet.</li> <li>- Form and train Red Cross community brigades as first responders to improve access, perception and acceptance of the ERC.□</li> <li>- Constant security monitoring of volunteers and staff.</li> <li>- Organize and ensure the deactivation of personnel and volunteers involved in response actions when facing high risks.</li> </ul>
Humanitarian personnel of the Ecuadorian Red Cross may be victims of sexual harassment or abuse during the operation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Make sure that the teams are mixed. In no case should they be all-female teams.</li> <li>- Before going out on the operation, recognize the location of the nearest Community Police Unit (CPU).</li> <li>- Respect the operating hours established by Operational Security.</li> <li>- In case of sexual harassment or abuse, individuals must (1) Immediately leave the area or place where the incident has occurred, (2) Immediately inform the Operational Security representative of their province, (3) Call 911 or go to the nearest Community Police Unit (CPU).</li> <li>-□ Ensure compliance with the PSEA policies of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, which are aligned with the IFCR guidelines: the Code of Conduct, which applies to paid and volunteer personnel, and the Internal Work Regulations for paid personnel.</li> </ul>
Volunteers and humanitarian personnel could be victims of extortion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conduct ongoing security risk context analysis.</li> <li>- Apply the operational safety manual and recommendations for safe behavior.</li> </ul>
Transmission of vector-associated and water-borne diseases in ERC humanitarian workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivery of key prevention messages.□</li> <li>- Delivery of disease prevention kits for dengue and COVID-19.</li> <li>- Verify that personnel have the corresponding vaccination schedule (Yellow Fever, Tetanus, Influenza and COVID-19).</li> </ul>
Limited access to affected areas, due to hazardous events related to the winter season (mass movements, flooding, structural collapse, and loss of roads).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Permanent monitoring of the state of the climate and the state of the access roads to the affected areas.</li> <li>- Carry out permanent context analysis of security risks.</li> </ul>
Likelihood that volunteers and humanitarian personnel will be collateral victims of crossfire.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Apply the recommendations for safe behaviors.</li> <li>- Report security risks and incidents.</li> </ul>

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

Ecuador is going through a complex scenario of criminal violence, and social, economic, and political crisis, generating a context of insecurity nationwide. According to information from the Ministry of the Interior of Ecuador, 2022 was one of the most violent years, ending with 4,450 homicide victims; with 30% of these murders occurring in the city of Guayaquil. During the first quarter of 2023, there is evidence of an increase in the rates of insecurity, organized crime, armed robbery, and kidnappings, among others, mainly in the provinces of Guayas, El Oro, P



ichincha, Los Ríos, Manabí, Domingo de los Tsáchilas, Esmeraldas and Santa Elena, which has generated concern among volunteers and humanitarian personnel of the ERC.□

According to the security assessment conducted, 14 security risks were identified, of which 8 were categorized with a HIGH potential risk level, among which the following stand out: Probability of criminal violence in the intervention zones, aggressions and retention of volunteer and hired personnel, robberies, extortion victim, collateral victims of crossfire, collateral victims of explosive devices, health affectations due to the lack of use of personal protective equipment in the face of active dangerous events and traffic accidents. For this reason, it is essential to continue raising awareness and improving the knowledge of volunteers and humanitarian personnel of the Provincial Branches that are exposed to the above-mentioned risks, through workshops, videos, and artwork with key messages to improve the understanding of the minimum operational security standards in the context of disasters and insecurity.□

In addition, it is important to mention that due to the violence, extortion, kidnappings, and homicides that occur mainly in the coastal zone, during the information gathering, families in the communities were not willing to share personal data such as telephone numbers, family data, economic activities, among others, due to the fear of being victims of the mentioned situations or putting their family members at risk. In view of this context, and as was done during the damage assessment and needs analysis process, the ERC will continue to work in the following manner:

- With an operational response structure that includes a mandatory field security officer.□
- Socialization of safe behavior recommendations for personnel and application of a safety protocol for the assessment process.

Security context in Esmeraldas:

In 2022, the province of Esmeraldas was one of the most affected by violence in Ecuador. According to official statistics, 518 violent deaths were recorded, equivalent to a rate of 80 violent deaths per 100 thousand inhabitants. Of this total, 76.5% occurred in the canton of Esmeraldas. Within the Esmeraldas canton, the following neighborhoods stand out for their high level of danger: Valle Hermoso, El Arenal, La Tolita, Colectiva, Santa Martha, Bellavista Norte, Guacharaca, Aire Libre, Santas Vainas, Codesa, Esmeraldas Libre, Propicia and Cordero Crespo.

Given this scenario, there is limited access to the communities due to the presence of criminal organizations that control the territories, a situation that currently limits the actions of the Provincial Branch's indirect interventions. As part of the strategies identified to mitigate risk, the following are included: close work with community leaders, inter-institutional coordination with the cantonal and Provincial Emergency Operations Committee, and the formation of Ecuadorian Red Cross brigades, dissemination of key messages regarding our auxiliary role, humanitarian action framed in our principle of neutrality, impartiality, and independence, to improve access and acceptance.□

On the other hand, on 17 May 2023, the President of the Republic of Ecuador, by Executive Decree No. 741, resolved to dissolve the National Assembly due to a serious political crisis and internal commotion and calls for elections for the positions of President, Vice President of the Republic and Assembly members. According to the calendar approved by the National Electoral Council (CNE), the first round of elections will be held on 20 August 2023 and the second round will be on 15 October 2023, so it is expected that the delivery of credentials for the President and Vice President will be in November 2023.□

This political context keeps the National Society on a state of alert, facing the possibility of social unrest. To mitigate the risks during CVA, it will be necessary to take into account elements of security context, family needs, market conditions, and availability of financial providers, in order to establish the most appropriate mechanisms adapted to the safety of participants, volunteers, and hired personnel.□

The selection of participants will be a key activity where the selection criteria should be clearly specified so that those not selected are clearly aware of the transparency of the process. The selection of the financial distribution mechanism should guarantee security for technical staff, volunteers, and the community. To avoid possible risks of




extortion against participants, the most appropriate moment for the distribution of economic assistance will be established once the markets and financial services have been re-established.



# Planned Intervention

	<b>Multi-purpose Cash</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 189,730
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	2600
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
Number of families who receive Multipurpose Cash assistance to cover basic needs	650		

	<b>Shelter Housing And Settlements</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 57,807
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	1548
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
Number of families who receive 1 toolkit + 2 tarpaulines	387		
Number of families who receive training in proper use of toolkits and tarpaulines	387		

	<b>Secretariat Services</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 20,129
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	0
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
Monitoring visits	1	0	

	<b>National Society Strengthening</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 119,963
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	0
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
Number of staff and volunteers provided with uniforms and personal protective equipment	200		
DREF Training	1		
Lessons learned workshop	1		

Number of volunteers and personnel trained in the auxiliary role of the ERC in emergencies (2 workshops)	30	
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	<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 4,260
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	5000
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
Number of volunteers and staff members trained in CEA approach (1 virtual workshop)	32		
Number of families that participate in the implementation of feedback mechanisms from and for the community (CVA)	213		
Number of people who receive key messages focused on reinforcing trust in the Ecuadorian Red Cross	5000		

	<b>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 6,603
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	200000
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
Number of volunteers trained in RFL procedures, PGI approach and minimum standards in emergencies (1 virtual workshop)	32		
Number of people indirectly reached through the dissemination of key messages with the PGI approach (3 microspots)	10000		
Number of people indirectly reached through the dissemination of self-care messages to prevent the breakup of family bonds (mass messaging)	200000		

	<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 14,298
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	6000
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	



Number of families who receive sodium hypochlorite	1500	
Number of sensitised families in proper use of safe water	1500	

	<b>Health</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 29,021
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	5000
<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Actual</b>	
Number of people who receive MHPSS	1000		
Number of people who receive health promotion	5000		
Number of people who receive mosquito nets and training in vector-borne disease prevention	3600		
Number of people assisted through pre-hospital care and evacuation	100		

# About Support Services

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

315 volunteers and 60 staff will be part of this operation, with 75 volunteers assigned to Esmeraldas and 240 to the seven remaining provinces. For this operation, three profiles will be hired with 100% dedication to the intervention:

- Project Coordinator: Will manage the implementation of the intervention in coordination with the technical areas of Headquarters and the Provincial Branches, ensuring compliance with the ERC and IFRC guidelines and instruments within the established deadlines.

- Logistics Assistant: The national technician will support logistically and administratively the planning, execution, and justification of the activities approved in the project. A professional with experience in operational work will be hired, including warehouse management, inventory management, drafting and filing of administrative documents, and implementation reports.

- Finance Assistant: Will provide support in the financial, administrative, and accounting processes for the fulfillment of the planned activities, ensuring compliance with the policies and regulations of the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

## **If there is procurement, will it be done by National Society or IFRC?**

All procurement processes will be carried out by the National Society in accordance with the procurement regulations, with the exception of tarpaulins and mosquito nets which will be managed by the Regional Logistics Unit of the IFRC Regional Office.

## **How will this operation be monitored?**

The activities carried out in the field will be supervised and advised through the National Risk Management Coordinator and the National Response Technique, as well as through the different national coordination programs

The Planning and Financial Management will implement a strategy of follow-up, evaluation, and monitoring of activities with fortnightly meetings to evaluate progress and identify deviations between planned and executed activities, as well as the implementation of a monitoring matrix, in which the fulfillment of indicators and goals will be programmed on a fortnightly basis, which will be reported from those responsible for technical lines and project coordination. This file will be uploaded in virtual access for real-time use. These activities will be reported monthly to review compliance and progress and will be finalized with the lessons learned workshop. In terms of budget monitoring, work will be carried out with assessed schedules and a procurement plan to ensure compliance with deadlines and specific line items.

## **Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation.**

Clear and concise information will be disseminated, with short and direct messages, so that they are easily understandable by all audiences, including those with a low level of literacy or limited access to technology. To ensure effective and efficient communication in response to, and subsequent to the execution of the DREF, different communication channels will be used to reach different audiences effectively:

- Social networks: Informative notes, infographics, and audiovisual materials will be published on the social networks of the Ecuadorian Red Cross to inform the community about the situation and the actions that are being carried out to help those affected, such as the activation of psychosocial support lines, mental health, restoration of family contact, water and sanitation, and pre-hospital care.

- Radio: Radio messages will be broadcast on local and national stations to inform the population about the actions that are being carried out. Short and direct messages will be used so that they are easily understandable.

- Audiovisual material: Audiovisual material will be produced to show the work of the Ecuadorian Red Cross at a general level, taking into account inclusion characteristics with sign language or adaptation to indigenous languages.



# Contact Information

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

- **National Society contact:** Juan Carlos Vizcarra, Secretary General, [jvizcarra@cruzroja.org.ec](mailto:jvizcarra@cruzroja.org.ec)
- **IFRC Appeal Manager:**  
Ruben Romero, Head of Country Cluster Delegation for Andean Countries, [ruben.romero@ifrc.org](mailto:ruben.romero@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC Project Manager:** Julian Perez, Coordinator, Programs and Operations, [julian.perez@ifrc.org](mailto:julian.perez@ifrc.org)
- **IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Pamela Guzman, PMER Senior Officer, [pamela.guzman@ifrc.org](mailto:pamela.guzman@ifrc.org)
- **Media Contact:** Susana Arroyo, Regional Communications Manager, [susana.arroyo@ifrc.org](mailto:susana.arroyo@ifrc.org)

[Click here for the reference](#)





## DREF OPERATION

### MDREC021 - Ecuadorian Red Cross Floods and Earthquake

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>301.719</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	57.807
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	189.730
Health	29.021
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	14.298
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	6.603
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	4.260
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>140.091</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	20.129
National Society Strengthening	119.963
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>441.810</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*