



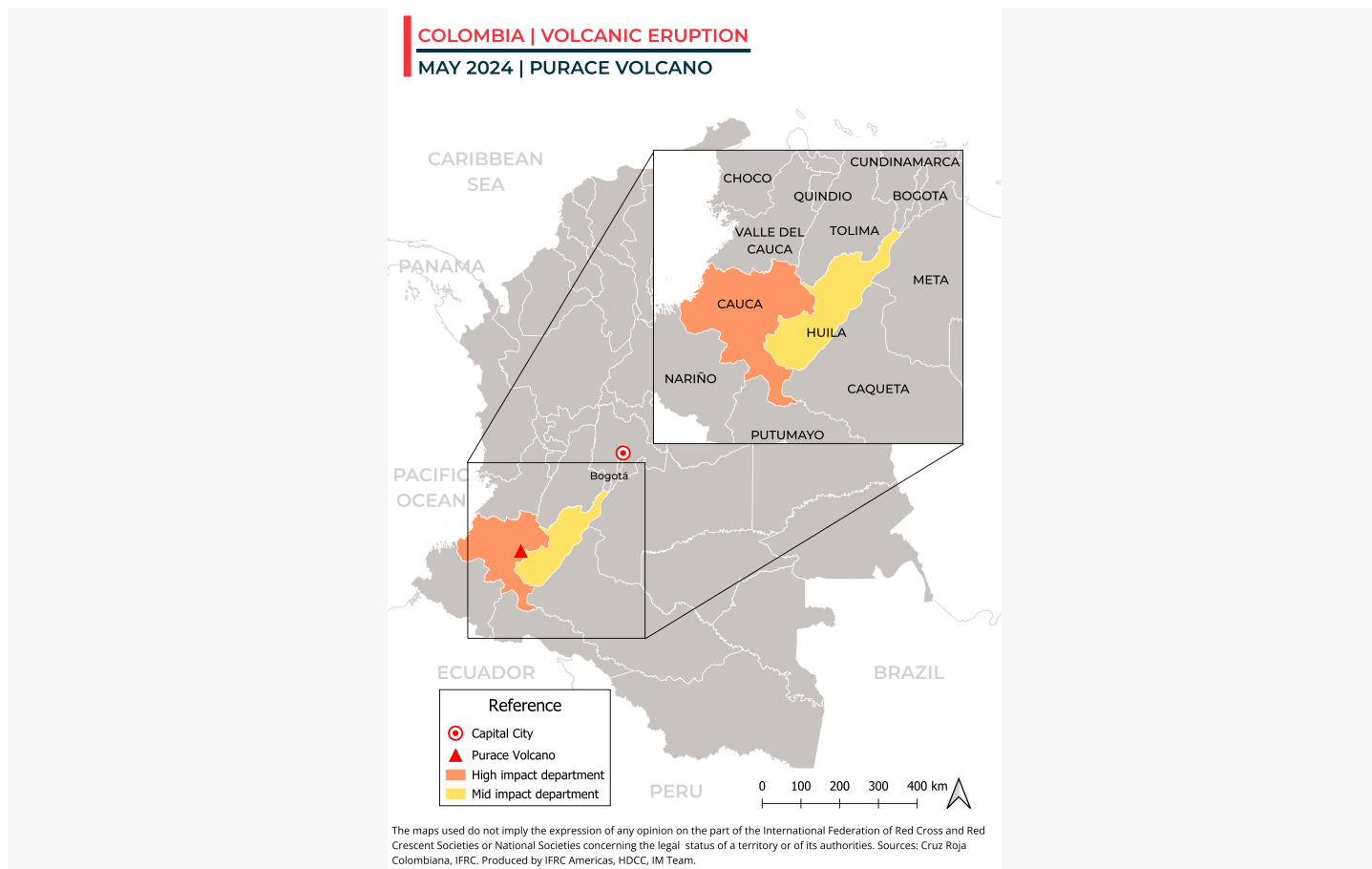
Puracé Volcano – Los Coconucos Volcanic Chain. May, 2024. Source: Colombian Geological Service

Appeal: <b>MDRCO026</b>	Country: <b>Colombia</b>	Hazard: <b>Volcanic Eruption</b>	Type of DREF: <b>Imminent</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 149,930</b>	
Glide Number: -	People Affected: <b>40,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>4,500 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>27-05-2024</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>3 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>31-08-2024</b>	DREF Published: <b>28-05-2024</b>
Targeted Areas: <b>Cauca</b>			

# Description of the Event

## Approximate date of impact

According to the Colombian Geological Service (SGC), the alert level of the Puracé Volcano changed from Yellow Level (I) to Orange Level (II) on May 3, 2024, which represents a probable eruption in a matter of days or weeks, prompting local authorities to take preparedness, mitigation, and communication actions.



Source: <http://repositorio.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/handle/20.500.11762/40953>

## Provide any updates in the situation since the field report and explain what is expected to happen.

The alert status to ORANGE indicates that the monitored parameters show considerable variations or fluctuations (they may increase or decrease) and raise the probability of one or more major eruptions (those of great scope and height that can significantly affect the lives of people and animals, the ecosystem and infrastructure, bridges, buildings, roads, etc.). Seismicity increases considerably, in both earthquakes associated with the breaking and cracking of rocks inside the volcano, as well as those associated with the movement of fluids (gases, ash, magma, and water vapor) inside the volcano.

There is an increase in the outflow of gases, with strong odors, often accompanied by volcanic ash, which may begin to come out more regularly, generating what are called minor eruptions (those with little scope and impact), some of which may expel blocks of rocks that could affect people, animals, or infrastructure living near the volcano. Strong explosions can be heard in the crater, and a significant increase in temperature can be observed at the bottom of the crater. Domes (protuberances or plugs) may be produced at the bottom of the crater and destroyed. Small avalanches (lahars) may be generated in the rivers that originate in the volcano.

The Colombian Geological Service issues daily bulletins on the situation and status of the volcano. As of May 21, 2024, 21 bulletins have been issued, and the Orange alert status is maintained. In case there are changes in the behavior of the volcano that merit a change in the alert status, an extraordinary bulletin will be issued.

Orange level:



- Possible eruption in days or weeks with a moderate or high degree of danger
- Possible eruptive event (s) of explosive or effusive character, coupled with volcanic activity phenomena on yellow alert.
- Effects: Nasal irritation and discharge, throat irritation, and burning, sometimes accompanied by dry cough or respiratory distress, eye or skin irritation, indirect effects such as increased likelihood of traffic accidents, contamination of water sources, and risk of roof subsidence.

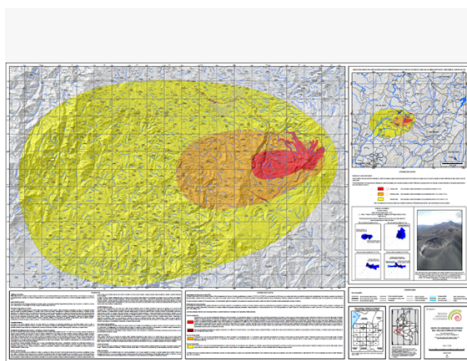
Red level:

- Erupting volcano or eruptive process in progress whose climax can occur in a matter of hours.
- It is characterized by multi-causality.
- Associated with pyroclasts falls, lava flows, ballistic projectiles, torrential floods, landslides, lahars, and forest fires.
- Effects: Injuries; loss of life; loss of farm animals, wildlife, and livelihoods; loss of housing and community infrastructure; isolation of communities; loss of crops, harvests, and subsistence items for food security and income generation; water shortages; sanitation and hygiene systems affected; increase and proliferation of vectors; high risk due to chemical elements, as well as risks of accidents or incidents due to contamination by weapons (antipersonnel mines - APM, unexploded ordnance - UXO - and booby traps - ET); damage to infrastructure; the disappearance of people; and psychological impact on the region's inhabitants.

Map of areas affected by the emergency

The territories identified under the zone of influence of the Puracé volcano in the department of Cauca are: Puracé, Popayán, Sotará-Paisbamba, Timbío, Rosas, El Tambo, La Sierra, Patía, Bolívar, Sucre, La Vega, Totoró; and in the department of Huila they are: San Agustín, Isnos, Saladoblanco and La Argentina. Thus, according to the Colombian Geological Service and Cauca branch, around 40,000 people live under the influence of the volcano and could be affected.

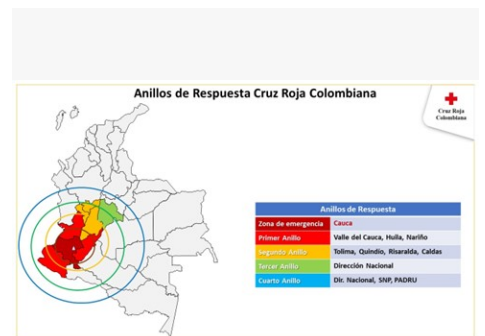
The Volcanic Hazard Map of Puracé Volcano (second version), is the graphic interpretation of the evaluation of the threat posed by this volcano, resulting from the study of past eruptive activity (geological and historical records).



Volcanic Hazard Map of Puracé Volcano - Second Version 2014. Source: Servicio Geológico Colombiano



Geospatial location of the communities living in the area of influence of the Puracé volcano. Version 2018. Colombian Geological Service. Source: <http://www.volcanriesgoyterritorio.gov.co/informacion-de-herramientas-aw>



Colombian Red Cross Response Rings. Source: Disaster Risk Management Team of the Colombian Red Cross

## Why your National Society is acting now and what criteria is used to launch this operation.

The Colombian Red Cross Society has contemplated the following triggers:

Trigger 1 (Readiness):

According to the recommendations of the Colombian Geological Service and the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, for local authorities and the community, the change of alert level from Yellow to Orange requires the implementation of preparedness and readiness actions by authorities and communities.

Trigger 2 (Early Actions):

In the event that the Colombian Geological Service reports an increase in the activity of the Puracé volcano, early actions will be considered.

Trigger 3 (Response):

The trigger for response actions would be the change in the activity level of the Puracé volcano from orange to red, which means an imminent eruption or one in process with a high degree of danger for all populations located in the high-threat zone for debris avalanches, pyroclastic flow, ballistic projectiles, mudflows or lahars, and the high threat zone for ash fall, therefore, it requires that the



populations located in the area of influence evacuate and the institutions implement response actions.

The National Society of the Colombian Red Cross Society has a National Contingency Plan for the response to emergencies caused by the different events that may be caused by the Puracé Volcano. In this plan, the Colombian Red Cross Society has structured its respective response rings according to the places of occurrence of possible events, taking into account the first ring, travel times, and specialized personnel in search and rescue, as well as rescue in collapsed structures. The second ring is structured with the Branches that have specialized personnel and at a shorter distance from the impact zone. To structure the relief of the teams and support the needs identified in the operation in case the response capacity of the Cauca Branch is exceeded. The third ring will be structured in terms of capacity and availability of support.

Following the above, the Colombian Red Cross Society has decided to activate the operational actions based on the conditions of the Puracé Volcano, according to the actions determined for the Orange Alert level, and implement preventive measures for the protection of communities located in High-Risk areas, as well as communities at medium and low risk. Through its Branches, Municipal Units (UM), and Support Groups (GA), it will have a preventive enlistment of volunteers and staff to carry out humanitarian assistance actions, if necessary.

## Scope and Scale

An Orange alert status in a volcano results in important changes in all or several of the parameters that are continuously monitored by experts. These include seismicity with moderate to high levels that may be associated with fluid dynamics or seismicity associated with fracturing of rocks inside the volcano; considerable deformation of the surface; important changes in degassing levels (increase or drastic decrease in the frequency of sulfur dioxide or other magmatic gas emissions); increase in the height of the water vapor column and gases.

It is also possible that nearby populations may notice surface manifestations such as frequent ash emissions; explosions or incandescence, significant thermal anomalies; noise; strong and irritating odors in areas near the volcano, sulfur precipitation in the vicinity of the volcanic edifice; significant release of gases that may cause the death of small animals near the volcano; and cracks in the ground.

The historical activity of the Puracé volcano shows that explosions with ash emissions are the most common events, and the most recent activity of this volcano has resulted in a great variety of pyroclastic material, both falling and flowing, which in turn represents the most important threat in future eruptions. Therefore, the recommendation from the National Disaster Risk Management System is not to approach the crater area, where people are at risk of being affected by gases or ash emissions that may occur suddenly, and the community is requested to keep informed of the bulletins issued by official government sources.

According to the volcanic threat map of the Puracé volcano, prepared by the Colombian Geological Service-SGC in 2014, the area of influence of this geological structure is mainly inhabited by indigenous and peasant communities. The municipalities with the highest threat risk in the event of a significant eruption are Puracé, Popayán and Sotará, located in the department of Cauca. Also, the Puracé, Coconuco and Paletará Indigenous Reservation, the Juan Tama indigenous resettlement of the Páez ethnic group (Nasa people) and the settlement of the Misak people, indigenous territories belonging to the Coconuco ethnic group or people. Among the population most at risk are the elderly, people with disabilities, pregnant women, children under 5 years of age, and people living in rural areas or with limited access to early warning systems.

## Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Crisis room of May 3, 2024. Conducted by the National Unit for Disaster of Colombia with the entities of the National Disaster Risk Management System.	<a href="https://portal.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/Paginas/Noticias/2024/Volcan-Purace-estado-de-alerta-cambia-de-amarillo-a-naranja.aspx">https://portal.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/Paginas/Noticias/2024/Volcan-Purace-estado-de-alerta-cambia-de-amarillo-a-naranja.aspx</a>
2. Circular No. 034. Guidelines for the preparation for the response, readiness, and emergency response to the State of Orange Alert of the Puracé Volcano	<a href="http://repositorio.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/handle/20.500.11762/40953">http://repositorio.gestiondelriesgo.gov.co/handle/20.500.11762/40953</a>
3. Detail of Puracé Volcano, Colombian Geological Service	<a href="https://sgc.gov.co/detallevolcan/2/">https://sgc.gov.co/detallevolcan/2/</a>





4. Extraordinary bulletins of the Colombian Geological Service, for the period between April 30 and May 21 (21 bulletins have been generated).

<https://www2.sgc.gov.co/Noticias/Paginas/Boletines-extraordinarios.aspx>

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	No
Did it affect the same population group?	-
Did the National Society respond?	-
Did the National Society request funding form DREF for that event(s)	-
If yes, please specify which operation	-

**If you have answered yes to all questions above, justify why the use of DREF for a recurrent event, or how this event should not be considered recurrent:**

-

### Lessons learned:

The Colombian Red Cross Society has implemented multiple IFRC-DREF operations in response to emergencies caused by floods, torrential rains, and other natural phenomena. These include the La Niña Phenomenon (MDRCO018) in January 2018, Floods (MDRCO021/MDRCO022) in July and December 2022, Volcanic Eruption (MDRCO023) in April 2023 and Floods (MDRCO024) in November 2023. These operations have provided lessons learned on administrative and operational issues that are being considered for this operation.

In the case of this operation, the Branch has been involved in the design from the beginning, which ensures the coherence and contextualization of the proposed activities. To improve the closing and reporting processes, it has also been necessary to reinforce the administrative training processes of the teams and volunteers who have coordinated the operations, development, and supervision of the Procurement Plans, to ensure that all processes are carried out promptly.

It has also been essential to have a timeline that facilitates tracking of all activities of the operation, which is reviewed in the weekly monitoring of IFRC operations since 2023.

Based on the lessons learned from the Nevado del Ruiz Volcano IFRC-DREF, at the institutional level, it became evident that holding a preparedness workshop with the Branch and the first response ring, and with members of the System is a good practice, as it allows improving local and regional capacities, which will be replicated in the activities of this operation.

On the other hand, it has been taken into account to work more with the local system of Disaster Risk Management and a higher level of community activities. Keeping in mind the challenge due to the fact that some of the families are located in dispersed areas, and in this case, some of them are indigenous communities. Therefore, more community activities have been considered at the level of preparedness and prepositioning for community response and early action.

## Current National Society Actions

### National Society anticipatory actions started

03-05-2024

Health	Preventive activation of Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs)
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	The Colombian Red Cross Society is currently reviewing the capacities in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene line for the deployment of a drinking water treatment plant with



	<p>the Branches close to the department of Cauca.</p> <p>The logistics for the prepositioning of the Drinking Water Treatment Plant, which will be located and ready for deployment and operation if required, are coordinated with the Cauca Branch.</p> <p>An analysis will be carried out with the Cauca Branch of the communities that are most affected to prioritize the delivery of humanitarian assistance for water treatment at the household level.</p>
<b>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</b>	<p>Coordination actions will be taken between the Peace Building and Institutional Doctrine teams of the National Directorate, and the Cauca Branch.</p> <p>Safety mapping in the area in the face of situations that may affect the activities of the equipment and affect the operation (Cauca Branch).</p> <p>In terms of Operational Communication, the implementation capacities of the line were reviewed with the Peace Building Leader of the Cauca Branch, as well as identifying the possibility and relevance of implementing actions to accompany the possibly affected population in terms of human rights protection.</p> <p>The Weapons Contamination Line has personnel certified in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education, to reach the affected communities and reduce the risk of explosive devices in the department at the time of evacuation, with 26 people in the Cauca Branch.</p>
<b>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery</b>	<p>At the national level, actions will be taken to support the national risk management unit in risk identification.</p> <p>At the local level, support is needed for the identification of community needs around the influence of the volcano, and the identification of evacuation routes.</p> <p>The Leader of the National Disaster Risk Management Team carried out a mission to the Cauca Branch to coordinate processes related to the Contingency Plan; strengthen the capacities and knowledge of the Branch team in volcanic activity risk scenarios and volcano, risk, and territory communication strategy; and coordinate processes with the Volcanological and Seismological Observatory of Popayán – Colombian Geological Service. In addition, a field visit was made to the indigenous cabildos of Puracé and the Coconucos.</p>
<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	<p>Coordination actions for response have been developed in conjunction with community leaders for the diagnosis of needs and capacities required for response in the event of a volcanic eruption. The National Society has been in constant communication with the indigenous cabildos and has developed field visits with the objective of establishing participatory preparedness processes.</p>
<b>Coordination</b>	<p>Participation in meetings of the National Committee for Disaster Management and Crisis Rooms convened by the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management and Municipal and Departmental Councils for Disaster Risk Management</p>
<b>National Society Readiness</b>	<p>Update of the National Society's capacities and needs</p>
<b>Assessment</b>	<p>Field visits in some of the communities located in the area of influence</p>
<b>Activation Of Contingency Plans</b>	<p>Activation of the National Contingency Plan. Update of the Cauca Branch Contingency Plan</p>
<b>National Society EOC</b>	<p>Activation of the National and Branch Crisis room</p>



# IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	<p>On May 6, a field report was generated on the IFRC's GO platform to update the geological information of the risk zone. Likewise, permanent communication has been maintained with the IFRC on the evolution of this event. Based on the forecasts, the IFRC Delegation in Colombia has been supporting the formulation of an IFRC-DREF for an imminent event.</p>
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	<p>The Colombian Red Cross Society maintains constant coordination with the Movement partners present in the country. In Colombia, the German, American, Spanish, and Norwegian Red Cross are present through the Country Delegation respectively, and are part of the coordination processes to provide technical and operational guidance to the National Society.</p>

# ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC is present in the country and carries out coordination activities with the Colombian Red Cross through its Operational Partnership Agreement. In the affected area, the ICRC, through the Cali Sub-delegation, works in coordination with the Cauca Branch to ensure safety conditions and Safer Access for the National Society's staff and volunteers.

# Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	<p>No</p>
<b>National authorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At the National Level: On May 3, 2024, the Crisis Room of the National System for Disaster Risk Management -PMU is convened due to the Change of Alert Level of the Puracé Volcano from Yellow to Orange.</li> <li>- Regional Level: The City of Popayán, Department of Cauca held the Disaster Management Committee with the entities belonging to the National System for Disaster Risk Management.</li> <li>- At the Territorial Level: On May 4, 2024, the Geological Service, the Mayor's Office of the Municipality of Puracé, the Civil Defense, the Colombian Red Cross Cauca Branch, and the Community Leaders and Indigenous Authorities of the reservations and Disaster Risk Management of the Department participated in an informative meeting on the context of the change in the Activity of the Puracé Volcano, directed to the communities in the area of influence of the volcanic activity.</li> <li>- On May 7, 2024, the Municipal Council for Disaster Risk Management was held in the Indigenous Reservation of Coconuco with the organizations that are part of the National System for Disaster Risk Management of the Municipality of Popayán, Department of Cauca, with the participation of Community Leaders and Indigenous Authorities of the Reservation.</li> <li>- Departmental Level: On May 8, 2024, the Departmental Council for Disaster Risk Management was held in Popayán, with the agencies that are part of the National System for Disaster Risk Management.</li> <li>- At the Regional Level: On May 9, 2024, the Disaster Management Committee convened by the City of Popayán convened the agencies that are part of the National System for Disaster Risk Management.</li> </ul>
<b>UN or other actors</b>	<p>The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has made a field visit to support the capacity analysis in the health sector.</p>



The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has sent to all the Partners of the Humanitarian Team an extraordinary bulletin with update reports on the situation of the Puracé Volcano.

### Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The Colombian Red Cross Society coordinates the Disaster Risk Management processes with the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD, by its initials in Spanish), the governmental entity that coordinates and articulates the National Disaster Risk Management System in Colombia.

The UNGRD issued Circular No. 034 of May 8, 2024, which provides guidelines for emergency preparedness and response to the change in the alert status of the Puracé volcano. Through this circular, the Disaster Risk Management Councils are activated in the departments and municipalities in the area of influence of the Puracé volcano, which, in turn, and following the guidelines on risk preparedness, provided in the municipal and departmental Disaster Risk Management Strategies, initiate readiness actions along with specific protocols against the phenomenon of volcanic threat.

The Colombian Geological Service is the technical entity in charge of monitoring and evaluating the volcanic threat, the latter is the result of the interpretation of the geological analysis, eruptive history, and activity of the volcano, which determine the high, medium, and low threat zones, as well as the change in the volcanic alert status.

## Needs (Gaps) Identified



### Shelter Housing And Settlements

There is insufficient information on the capacities, conditions, and establishment of temporary shelters for the population located in the affected area. This is in case evacuation is required and these shelters meet the minimum standards for their operation, promote the dignity and well-being of the communities at risk. Likewise, the knowledge of the communities and their perception of risk is not clear in terms of an evacuation process and the use of temporary shelters, particularly in the areas closest to the volcano, rural and remote areas.

As such, vulnerability and capacity assessments on collective shelters in Cauca will be conducted with support from the IFRC Americas Regional Office to identify the needs of the shelters in case of evacuation, this will be done together with the institutions of the System, an Action Plan will be developed to strengthen them.



### Health

Due to the exposure to volcanic ash, a change in air quality is expected that could hurt some population groups, such as children, pregnant women, and older adults, increasing the risk of respiratory problems, dermatological conditions, and eye problems, among others, for which the need to support the communities with N95/FFP2 masks has become evident. The increased activity of the Puracé Volcano could have an impact on some people's mental health due to concerns about the imminence of a volcanic eruption and its associated risks.

Community sessions for health promotion, self-care, and key messages for the management of physical and psychosocial health risks are planned, especially in the communities within the area of greatest influence of the Puracé volcano.

It has been identified that the capacities of the health system in the municipality of Puracé are limited because there is no high-level center or capacity to attend to multiple injured people at the same time in the event of a volcanic eruption, which is why it is planned to support the local health system in the identification of potential expansion zones for the attention of multiple victims in the event of a volcanic eruption.

It has become evident that communities and first response groups such as volunteers from the Sectional, civil defense, and firefighters need to strengthen their first response capabilities by reinforcing their knowledge of first aid and psychosocial support. The project also contemplates the pre-positioning of first aid kits that will enable an immediate response in the event of a volcanic eruption.







## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Communities affected by volcanic ash face significant Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) challenges, highlighting the need to implement specific measures to ensure their well-being. Among the main needs in the community is the storage of and access to safe water. Considering that the quality of water sources can be affected by the presence of contaminants (particulate matter, gases) that can have implications on the health of people and animals.

Considering the possible change in the physicochemical and microbiological characteristics of the water sources from which they collect water in conventional water treatment systems such as rural and urban aqueducts. Some of the families do not have adequate water reservoirs, which would facilitate the exposure of the water to contaminating agents as previously mentioned.

Likewise, there is a need to understand in more detail the water storage and care practices of the population in the affected area, taking into account that most of the population at risk are indigenous communities and some live in rural and dispersed areas, which do not have an aqueduct that guarantees access to water with minimum quality standards for water treatment.

Therefore, the repositioning of a portable water treatment plant is a strategy to deploy and operate in a timely manner with an alternative source to supply water suitable for human consumption to the population affected by water shortages.

Education in personal hygiene practices is another latent need, so there is a clear need to provide information on how to handle ash safely to minimize exposure to harmful particles. Awareness campaigns and educational workshops can teach communities proper hand washing techniques, use of masks, and cleaning of clothing and footwear to reduce the risks of respiratory and skin problems associated with volcanic ash.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In the event of a volcanic ash emergency, it is necessary to integrate a Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI) strategy to ensure equitable access to prevention and care measures for the entire population, taking into account differences in sex, gender, socioeconomic status, disability and other particular circumstances. It is crucial that preventive and educational health actions address these dimensions to effectively protect all citizens.

In addition, information on the emergency, available services, and protection measures must be accessible in various formats and languages, following ancestral knowledge and a language adapted to the indigenous populations present in the affected area, when necessary, with special consideration for people with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups.

Ensure that people with disabilities have access to appropriate services and aids, including assistive devices, sign language interpreters, and, where possible, accessible transportation. It is also important to take accessibility needs into account in all actions being considered for implementation.

Given the location of the volcano around coverage of the Cauca Sectional, where the presence of actors linked to the armed conflict is significant, it is essential to strengthen the knowledge of volunteers in Operational Security in conjunction with the Minimum Protection Approach. The objective is to identify the risks for the personnel involved in the response and for the affected communities, as well as to establish analysis criteria to guarantee a harmless intervention.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

To maintain an effective response preparedness process, it is necessary to validate the Community Risk Management Plans of the communities located in the area affected by the Puracé volcano. Therefore, as an anticipatory measure, it has been identified that there is a need to make a diagnosis of the capacities and knowledge of the volcanic threat to which the neighboring communities are exposed, reinforce the communication network of the Branch, and strengthen the processes of organization, training, equipment, and preparation of the community.

There are limitations in the interventions of local authorities in disaster risk management, which evidences the need for actions to retrain previously formed community committees, as well as families in the affected territory, on issues such as family emergency plans, identification of evacuation routes, emergency coordination, and response planning.

Strengthening the capacities of community teams for emergency response, as well as ensuring knowledge of the Family Emergency Plan,



are key components to mitigate the adverse effects of a volcanic eruption and thus ensure that response processes are carried out in a timely manner in accordance with the effects of an Orange Alert and a probable Red Alert in the event of an imminent volcanic eruption.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

Due to the fact that most of the communities in the area of greatest influence of the Puracé volcano are indigenous communities, there is a need to promote spaces that encourage the participation of indigenous communities in order to identify and understand the perception of their risks and the needs of the community based on the context of the communities and their cultural beliefs. Based on this, it has become evident that there is a need to have a space for dialogue with community leaders, indigenous guards, and the community in general to strengthen community preparedness mechanisms under an ethnic and cultural approach. Likewise, the need to develop community materials adapted to the context of the different indigenous reserves in the most at-risk areas has been evidenced.

## Operational Strategy

### Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF Operation, the Colombian Red Cross Society aims to prepare the communities located in the area of greatest influence of the Puracé Volcano and the Cauca Branch with the participation of the Branches that are part of the first response ring of the Colombian Red Cross Society, to respond in an efficient, timely and early manner in case of an eruption of the Puracé Volcano, through the lines of Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Protection, Gender and Inclusion, Community Engagement and Accountability, Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery, Secretariat Services and National Society Strengthening.

### Operation strategy rationale

The National Society of the Colombian Red Cross, within the framework of its humanitarian and operational actions, has activated its contingency plans for this volcanic event, both at the national level and mainly in the Cauca Branch, as well as in the Branches of the first response ring: Nariño, Valle del Cauca and Huila.

From the moment the Colombian Geological Service issued the Extraordinary Bulletin of May 3, 2024, the National Directorate of the Colombian Red Cross and its branches activated their response capacities, as well as active participation in national, regional and local coordination spaces (crisis rooms, Unified Command Posts (PMU) and Disaster Management Committees).

Through this DREF, the main objective of the Colombian Red Cross is to carry out readiness and prepositioning activities and prioritize some early actions around influence of the volcano in order to reduce the impact as a result of an increase in the activity of the Puracé volcano or its eruption.

The following is a summary of the prioritized activities by sector:

#### Health

Priority has been given to the distribution of N95/FFP2 masks among the communities closest to the area of influence due to the deterioration of air quality. The communities and community first response teams will also be trained in first aid.

Likewise, priority has been given to the retraining in physical and psychological first aid of first response teams such as volunteers from the Cauca section, civil defense volunteers and firefighters, the pre-positioning of first aid equipment and tents to locate expansion areas in the event of a volcanic eruption, in coordination with the local health network.

#### Water, Sanitation and hygiene promotion

In the communities in the areas of influence of the volcanic activity, it is planned to strengthen the capacities of the households affected to improve the supply and quality of water suitable for human consumption, through the delivery of kits for the transport, treatment and storage of safe water at the household level, training and awareness of the communities in water treatment and safe storage of water at the household level, hygiene promotion, prevention of water-related diseases, basic sanitation and vectors, as well as the prepositioning of a Mobile Drinking Water Treatment Plant for response in case there is an increase in the activity of the Puracé volcano and the main water sources are affected, so that drinking water can be supplied to the affected communities at an early stage. We also plan to support the communities by conducting technical water quality tests to monitor water quality due to the high risk of contamination.

Additionally, a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergency and Community Workshop will be developed for employees and volunteers



of the Colombian Red Cross Cauca Branch to improve the response capacity of the Branch.

#### Risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery

Training sessions will be held with the communities in the area of influence of the Puracé volcano, in the department of Cauca, in order to build community risk management plans in a collaborative and participatory manner, emphasizing evacuation to safe areas and family emergency plans.

The following activities will be carried out with each community:

- Coordination meetings with community leaders
- Training of community risk management teams
- Provision of basic first response elements
- Delivery of informative material

It is planned to improve the signs of the current evacuation routes and/or provide new signs in case of absence, indicating the direction to safe places in case of a change of alert status in the event of an imminent eruption, in coordination with the institutions that are part of the system.

Finally, in order to maintain a response preparedness process, the Cauca Branch current telecommunications network will be maintained in order to maintain radio communication in the municipalities located in the high and medium threat area.

#### Shelter, housing and settlements

A capacity assessment will be carried out to identify the needs of the shelters in case of evacuation and, together with the institutions of the System, an Action Plan will be developed to strengthen them, as well as the integration of the Framework for Safer Access tool and the incorporation of awareness-raising workshops on Protection, Gender and Inclusion, which will ensure the dignity and well-being of the families affected by a possible volcanic eruption who will have to evacuate to a safe shelter during the emergency.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

In this stage of intervention, 4,500 people will be reached, who will be part of the capacity-building actions for the prevention of emergencies. The target population for the Orange Alert trigger is made up of people prioritized in the high and medium threat zones around the influence of the Puracé volcano in the departments of Cauca and Huila, specifically in the indigenous reservations of Puracé, Coconuco, Paletará and Juantama, characterized by the regional and local authorities.

Likewise, for institutional strengthening activities, Red Cross volunteers and personnel who are part of the first response ring in the departments of Cauca, Nariño, Huila, and Valle del Cauca will be reached.

Special consideration will be given to the needs of the most vulnerable people, such as: children and adolescents, pregnant and lactating women, people with chronic diseases, people with disabilities, and the elderly, as well as migrants, refugees, and people affected by internal displacement. Considering that most of the high-impact area is made up of indigenous and peasant populations.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The prioritization of the affected population will be made considering the area of greatest influence of the recent activity of the Puracé volcano and the governmental guidelines for preparedness and preventive evacuation. Local censuses conducted by the Red Cross and other relief and risk management groups will be taken into account, as well as the most vulnerable populations identified by the teams. It is planned to reach four indigenous reservations (Puracé, Coconuco, Paletará, and Juantama), among which three communities per reservation will be prioritized.

Emergency Humanitarian Assistance and anticipatory actions are focused on the populations located within the 15-kilometer ring, as they must currently evacuate. It is not possible to determine now whether they will lose their homes; however, with the current situation, they cannot be located at these sites, because of the risk and exposure to their physical and mental health due to the effects that can be generated by an eruptive event such as the one that is expected to happen. The ash, gases, high temperatures, and presence of pyroclasts are the most critical events that are not allowed to be in the area. Therefore, these people will be placed in shelters, refuges, and other areas different from their homes, and in this way, humanitarian assistance is prioritized to meet the call for preventive enlistment and meet their needs in a dignified manner.



Likewise, the main criterion will be to coordinate with governmental entities on the population that could not be assisted by the State, to avoid duplication, and to reach people who did not receive other forms of assistance.

## Total Targeted Population

Women	1,800	Rural	51%
Girls (under 18)	540	Urban	49%
Men	1,755	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	405		
Total targeted population	4,500		

## Risk and Security Considerations

Please indicate about potential operation risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
Shortage of resources, limited availability of essential resources such as water, food and medical supplies	<p>The National Society's response plan includes the support of the operation through the response rings of the closest branches to the department of Cauca.</p> <p>In addition, joint support and coordination with the National Headquarters is also envisaged, which will make it possible to cover the needs identified during a prolonged volcanic eruption.</p> <p>If the response capacity is exceeded, an extension of the operation will be considered.</p>
Supply chain risks	Compliance measures of the suppliers with respect to their stock and logistics, linked to the contract.
Protection risks, presence and territorial control of Organized Armed Groups	<p>Induction and previous training in Operational Safety, and delivery of the Manual Serie 1000 to the Branches and Operational personnel involved.</p> <p>Operational Communication with the delivery of the Summary of the Humanitarian Intervention to be carried out by the Colombian Red Cross Society around influence of the volcano.</p> <p>Prior security monitoring with the support of the ICRC at the national (Bogota) and local (Cali Sub-delegation) levels.</p> <p>Institutional Identification and Visibility, through the provision and/or delivery of Red Cross Flags as indicative or protective flags for all operational vehicles; Institutional Bibs for the operational personnel of the Sections activated for this contingency and "No Weapons" decals for institutional vehicles.</p> <p>Reports and permanent follow-up during the development of all activities in the humanitarian intervention zones.</p>
Rainfall, landslides and other events caused by the current rainy season may limit land access to the emergency zone.	<p>-Projection of transportation and logistics according to the current characteristics of the territory.</p> <p>- Coordination with authorities operating in the area.</p>



	- Coordination of activities with the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and the Territorial Disaster Risk Management Councils.
Health risks for people and animals due to falling pyroclasts or ashes that affect the respiratory system, visibility and limit land and air access to the emergency.	-Communication on health risks for people and animals due to falling pyroclasts or ashes -Preventive delivery of personal protective equipment to the exposed population in the high threat zone.
Insufficient or unavailable personnel to implement the response plan.	Enlistment and preparation of trained emergency response personnel.
Coordination risks	High demand for coordination spaces at the Sectional and National levels, with the System.
Psychological impact of the threat or occurrence of a volcanic eruption.	Psychological first aid training activity is included for first responders and volunteers who can manage this impact at the community level.
Risks in changes of seismic and volcanic activity and alert.	In case of red alert, activation of the response plan. The National Society team would formulate a response IFRC-DREF.  In case of yellow alert, there is a Branch and communities strengthened to respond to changes in the activity of the active volcano.
Disruptions in communications due to volcanic activity or severe weather conditions	The maintenance of the Cauca Branch's telecommunications network is included as part of the operation's activities to ensure communication and coordination of the response.
Evacuation risks	Work will be carried out jointly with the communities and the local Disaster Risk Management System to identify evacuation zones and mitigate risks that may arise during an evacuation process.

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

The area of influence of the Puracé Volcano corresponds to a strategic corridor for the organized armed groups involved in the conflict, i.e. for the National Liberation Army (ELN, by its initials in Spanish) and the Central General Staff of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP, by its initials in Spanish) through two Blocks (Western and Central), which constitutes a multi-threat and possibly multi-affecting scenario. In 2024, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has registered 58 events of violence (associated with armed actions in the department). The most critical areas are in the north and southwest of the department.

In this regard, the procedures established in the Colombian Red Cross Society Operational Security Manual (Series 1,000) 2024–2028 shall be applied unrestrictedly. Likewise, the provisions established in the Tripartite Agreement signed in 2009 by the IFRC, the ICRC, and the Colombian Red Cross Society, as well as in the framework of the Multilateral Coordination and Security Agreement signed in 2006 between the IFRC, the ICRC, and the PNSs, will be taken into account, considering the roles of each mandate and the responsibility to coordinate the security aspects that we develop in the country as a Movement (Seville Agreement 2.0). The Colombian Red Cross Society has the acceptance of all parties and therefore has guaranteed safe access to the area of influence of the volcano; however, in case of accident or incident, there is an action protocol, that includes preventive, proactive, and reactive security measures for personnel exposed in the field.

All actions will be carried out following the norms, protocols, and procedures established by the Colombian Red Cross Society, following full compliance with the Humanitarian Principles. For mobilization and permanently, the members of the Participating National Societies and components of the Movement will strictly follow the procedures and security measures provided for in the National Society Contingency Plan for the Puracé volcano.

**Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?**

No





# Planned Intervention



**Budget:** CHF 7,585

**Targeted Persons:** 30

## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of first responders trained in physical and psychological first aid	30
Number of first aid kits prepositioned at Red Cross branches	5

## Priority Actions

- Training the first responders (Red Cross volunteers, civil defense and firefighters) in physical and psychological first aid.
- Prepositioning of first aid kits for the Red Cross Branches.



**Budget:** CHF 55,943

**Targeted Persons:** 1,500

## Indicators

Title	Target
Number of people that received safe water storage, transport, and treatment kits	1,475
Number of Drinking Water Treatment Plants prepositioned in the Cauca Branch	1
Number of Staff and volunteers trained in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies	25

## Priority Actions

- Delivery of elements to strengthen and prepare families in communities located within the area of influence of the volcano so that they can safely transport, treat and store water, since the sources are usually contaminated in these events.
- A Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies Workshop will be held to train and strengthen the capacities of volunteers and staff of the Cauca Branch and thus have trained and prepared personnel for the response in this line.
- The Kit deliveries will be accompanied by sensitization and training for the target population on the use and maintenance of the elements, water-related diseases, lack of basic sanitation systems and vectors, hygiene promotion and safe water treatment and storage at the household level, so that in the event that the affected population is unable to access drinking water, they will have the capacity and knowledge to purify water with these home methods.
- A Drinking Water Treatment Plant will be pre-positioned, with technical testing for water quality monitoring, with all the equipment, supplies and elements required for the Cauca Branch of the Colombian Red Cross to be able to mobilize and immediately deploy this Immediate Response Team to supply drinking water to communities affected by the increased activity of the Puracé Volcano





## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 253

Targeted Persons: 25

### Indicators

Title	Target
Document formulated with the risk analysis for the protection of children within the framework of the operation.	1
% of people from the Colombian Red Cross Society and Cauca Branch, involved in the operation who improve their knowledge in the approach to Gender Based Violence and Sexual Violence.	80
% of people from the Colombian Red Cross Society and Cauca Branch, involved in the operation, who improve their knowledge regarding the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse	80

### Priority Actions

- Virtual training with Staff and volunteers involved in the action on child protection, prevention of Gender Based Violence and Sexual Violence and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.
- Preparation of the Child Protection Risk Analysis document.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 37,270

Targeted Persons: 3,000

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of members of the risk management system that improve their preparedness for a potential eruption of the Puracé volcano.	25
Number of people in the prioritized communities communities that carry out or update their family emergency plan.	2,975
Number of communities prepared and equipped to evacuate and respond in case of emergency	12

### Priority Actions

- A workshop that will target key stakeholders in the Disaster Risk Management System and the branches that are part of the first Red Cross response ring on actions that can be implemented in anticipation to an imminent eruption will be carried over. The workshop is taken as a preparation strategy for the response of the Branches and the System, in order to articulate activities, capacities and lines of action.
- For the communities located in the affected area, coordination meetings will be held with community leaders, training for Community Risk Management Teams, first response equipment and delivery of informative material.
- Maintenance of the Branch's telecommunication network and the state of evacuation routes in the communities surrounding the volcano.





## Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 2,326

Targeted Persons: 100

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of community focal groups for context and needs analysis, and feedback	4
Number of people participating in community focus groups and interviews for context and needs analysis, and feedback	100

### Priority Actions

- As a cross-cutting component, focus groups will be held to diagnose the capacities and needs of the target communities to respond to the adverse events of a possible volcanic eruption. These focus groups will allow the development of project actions in a participatory manner, as well as the establishment of mechanisms for Community Engagement and Accountability.

\*The 100 people targeted are part of the population benefiting from WASH and DRR activities



## Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 4,425

Targeted Persons: 0

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of monitoring visits	3

### Priority Actions

- Project monitoring visits for follow-up and timely decision-making in the operation
- IFRC will conduct a technical monitoring visit to support the National Society conduct a vulnerability and capacity assessments on collective shelters in Cauca to identify the needs of the shelters and better understand needs and capacities



## National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 42,128

Targeted Persons: -

### Indicators

Title	Target
Number of staff and volunteers providing feedback to the operation	25
Number of lessons learned workshop developed	1
Number of ENI deployed to support the operation	1



## Priority Actions

- Staff and volunteer training and staff engagement
- Deployment of ENI
- Development of lessons learned workshop.
- Procurement and delivery of uniforms for volunteers

# About Support Services

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

Approximately 180 volunteers will support the operation and must have experience in actions related to damage assessment and needs analysis, disaster risk reduction processes, prevention, livelihoods, emergency humanitarian aid, health assistance and health promotion with special attention to water, sanitation and hygiene. Also, 1x ENI volunteer will be in charge of leading the community activities in Puracé, the evaluations and diagnostics foreseen in the operational strategy, and coordinating the volunteers who will support the operation.

Additionally, the National Society plans to hire the following profiles:

- 1x IFRC-DREF Coordinator - To be hired for 3 months
- 1x Administrative Assistant - To be hired for 2 months
- 1x Accounting Assistant - To be hired for 2 months

1x IFRC-DREF coordinator will be in charge of managing, coordinating, and implementing the activities and resources allocated to the National Society under this operation, as well as preparing reports and ensuring the quality of technical and operational actions.

1x Administrative Assistant will provide support in the execution of the resource, as well as in the fulfillment of the approved budget, analyze the achievement of expenditures, and provide administrative support to the project coordinator.

1X Accounting Assistant will be in charge of expense accruals and recording and will support the preparation of the financial report.

The National Society will support the operational actions with contracted personnel, who will develop the DREF's intervention strategy with exclusive dedication to aspects related to procurement, purchasing, registration, financial monitoring, accounting, operational logistics, monitoring of field actions, operation reports and consolidation of information.

The Social and Humanitarian Development Unit Team of the National Society will support the technical coordination processes of the actions to be carried out in the operational lines, the staff has the knowledge, experience and expertise in processes of Health, Livelihoods, Protection, Preparedness, Emergency and Disaster Response, implementation and development of humanitarian projects, among others. This team will be a reference for the field work team and the management of the personnel that will be linked to the operation.

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

The Colombian Red Cross Society will manage all the logistics, procurements, and supply chain. The procedures and protocols established in the contracting procedure and in the Colombian Red Cross quality management manual will be followed, in accordance with the amounts and items detailed to guarantee the eligibility of the resource. All acquisitions will be made through local procurement, due to the challenges for the country of importing. Suppliers will submit their quotations under the selection criteria managed by the institution, which will be based on a purchase list that seeks access from the beginning of the intervention to the purchase of humanitarian aid items, according to their technical characteristics established by the National Disaster Risk Management System Manual, focused on quality and quantity according to the identified needs of the community.

Mobilization of personnel and equipment will be supported by the capacity of institutional vehicles and vessels; however, to mobilize a large amount of material and due to the dynamics of the emergency zone, it will eventually be necessary to hire and rent cargo vehicles and river vessels such as launches to mobilize cargo and personnel to access the affected areas.



## How will this operation be monitored?

The follow-up of this IFRC-DREF will be supported by the Project Office, which will monitor the data and information captured and processed by the Disaster Risk Management team, monitoring the timely management of technical and financial goals, accompanying the technical management and follow-up committees, providing feedback to the executing areas, generating implementation alerts and, if necessary, supporting the construction of improvement plans.

The Social and Humanitarian Development Unit team is responsible for the implementation of this plan, in coordination with the other directorates of the National Society. The IFRC will conduct periodic monitoring sessions with the Colombian Red Cross, to know the progress of actions to support the affected populations in each of the departments where DREF operations are being developed.

Likewise, the Colombian Red Cross Society will participate in the operational coordination spaces with the National Disaster Risk Management System and other humanitarian organizations or agencies present in the area. The National Directorate of the Colombian Red Cross Society and its Disaster Risk Management Team will make constant monitoring visits to the evolution of the situation in the zone and to geological events that may generate variations in the context of the zone.

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

Institutional actions will be made visible through the institution's social networks and coordination spaces, where the review and validation of the processes developed at the humanitarian level will be carried out. Expected products include the production of audiovisual pieces (short videos and photographic reports, among others) through the local and national communication team of the Colombian Red Cross Society. Likewise, visibility and identification elements will be used in the spaces where humanitarian aid is provided. These activities will be carried out in coordination and with the support of the IFRC.





# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

**MDRCO026 - Colombian Red Cross  
Colombia: Volcan Purace**

### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>103.377</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	7.585
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	55.943
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	253
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	37.270
Community Engagement and Accountability	2.326
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>46.553</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	4.425
National Society Strengthening	42.128
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>149.930</b>

*all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)*



# Contact Information

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

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[Click here for the reference](#)

