



Doctors in El Salvador warn that with the arrival of the rains the proliferation of the mosquito increases, which can further increase the number of dengue cases. Source: La Prensa Grafica

Appeal: MDRSV016	Total DREF Allocation: CHF 403,772	Crisis Category: Yellow	Hazard: Flood
Glide Number: 2024-000098	People Affected: 8,570 people	People Targeted: 8,570 people	
Event Onset: Sudden	Operation Start Date: 30-06-2024	New Operational End Date: 31-12-2024	Total Operating Timeframe: 6 months
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: 30-06-2024		Reporting Timeframe End Date: 15-07-2024	
Additional Allocation Requested: 59,753		Targeted Areas: Ahuachapán, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, La Paz, La Unión, San Vicente, Santa Ana, Sonsonate	

Description of the Event



Low pressure / El Salvador 2024



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Produced by IM Team.

Affected areas / most affected areas resulting from the national state of emergency due to low pressure. Source: IFRC.

Date of event

23-07-2024

What happened, where and when?

On 13 June, the Directorate of the Hazards Observatory (DOA) of El Salvador reported the presence of the Intertropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) along the Central American coasts and a wide area of low pressure, prompting the declaration of a nationwide green alert. During this period, a substantial flow of humidity from the Pacific affected the Salvadorean territory, resulting in moderate to heavy rains.

By 16 June, rainfall had intensified, reaching very heavy and persistent levels, particularly in the coastal areas and the volcanic mountain range. This led to multiple landslides affecting homes and roads, as well as overflowing rivers causing flooding. Additionally, accelerated winds with speeds of 20 to 40 km/h and gusts reaching between 50 and 70 km/h were reported.

Given the severity of the effects and the adverse forecast for the following days, the alert level was raised to red on 16 June, and the Legislative Assembly declared a State of Emergency (1).

Between June 16 and 18, significant rainfall was recorded, with 508 mm in Ahuachapán Centro, 371.7 mm in Santa Ana Oeste, 296.6 mm in San Miguel Centro, and 256.6 mm in San Vicente Sur, making these areas the most affected by the storms.

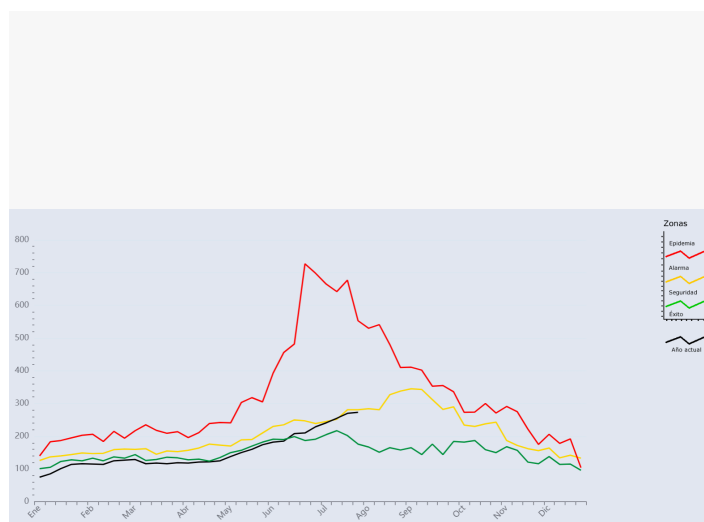
Due to the constant rains in El Salvador, the humid conditions and accumulation of water have led to a significant increase in the number of dengue cases. These conditions are ideal for the proliferation of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the vector of the disease, which has generated a worrying increase in the number of people affected. Since the end of June, according to data of epidemiological week 30, the situation of dengue is of concern, with 472 confirmed cases and an increasing trend, including 2 cases of severe dengue fever and 6 deaths.



In this context, the General Directorate of Civil Protection, based on epidemiological bulletin number 26 about dengue issued by the Ministry of Health, declared a national red alert for dengue on July 2, 2024. In response to this situation, national authorities have urged all national and international organizations present in the country to coordinate efforts to develop joint actions within the framework of the alert and thus avoid duplication of efforts. Following the declaration of the red alert, the Ministry of Health held meetings to determine the specific requirements that would be requested from organizations active in the country. Initially, the Ministry verbally requested the National Society to extend its coverage to three departments (Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, and Santa Ana) initially affected by the rains and now also by the increase in dengue cases. Subsequently, on July 23, the Ministry made a written request to donate some basic supplies, including mosquito nets, as part of the national strategy for preventing and controlling dengue.



Examples of messages on social networks about the actions of the Salvadoran Red Cross in emergencies. Source: SRCS



Epidemiological Corridor - Dengue - El Salvador 2024. Source: Ministry of Health

Scope and Scale

Since June 16, El Salvador has been facing a National Emergency due to heavy rains that have saturated most of the territory, exceeding the monthly average rainfall. The most affected areas include coastal and mountainous zones, with significant impacts in municipalities such as Ahuachapán Centro, Ahuachapán Sur, Sonsonate Oeste, Sonsonate Norte, San Luis La Herradura in La Paz, Tecoluca in San Vicente and San Alejo in La Unión. The low-pressure system has caused landslides, flooding in urban and rural areas, road blockages, river overflows, high winds, and high tides on the coasts.

As of June 24, 369 homes have been affected, 3,924 people have been sheltered and 19 deaths have been reported. In addition, El Salvador's Civil Protection has responded to 1,975 incidents, including 726 downed trees, 544 obstructed roads, 248 landslides, and numerous floods and damaged structures (3).

The rains have disproportionately affected vulnerable populations such as children, pregnant women, the elderly, and people with disabilities. With more rains expected, hundreds of people are being organized to evacuate from high-risk areas to 74 active shelters prepared by the Government of El Salvador.

The current situation highlights the increasing complexity and impact of climate change, which intensifies adverse weather events and disproportionately affects the most vulnerable communities.

In comparison to similar events, El Salvador suffered the impact of tropical storm Julia in 2022 with winds between 40 and 70 km per hour. Precipitation records indicated 182.4 mm in the department of La Libertad; 203.8 mm in Panchimalco; 166 mm in Guataggiagua, Morazán; and 112.4 mm of precipitation in 24 hours in the municipalities of Caluco, Izalco and Armenia in the department of Sonsonate. The reported impact of this storm was:

- The maximum number of people sheltered was 2,837.
- More than 100,000 quintals of agricultural products were at risk.



- There were 10,292 blocks of crops that could be affected in some way.
- There were 606 downed trees, 161 affected houses, 418 obstructed roads, 324 landslides, 45 overflowed rivers, 26 collapsed walls, 16 affected vehicles and 10 deaths.

Both events have had a significant impact on El Salvador, affecting thousands of people and causing damage to infrastructure and the environment. However, the June 2024 floods appear to have had a more severe impact in terms of loss of life and the number of people evacuated:

- The June 2024 floods caused at least 19 deaths and two missing persons.
- Nearly 4,000 people were evacuated.
- There were urban floods, flash floods that caused secondary rivers to overflow into main channels, land flooding in the coastal area of the country, and landslides in several mountainous areas.
- Nearly 600 Salvadorans were left homeless.
- Forty-six landslides were recorded in different areas of El Salvador.

In addition, according to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Latin America and the Caribbean will probably experience their “worst dengue season” during 2024, favored by the combination of the El Niño phenomenon and climate change.

The particular case of El Salvador, according to the latest available report, corresponding to epidemiological week 30, highlights the worrisome situation of dengue, with 472 confirmed cases and an increasing trend, including 2 cases of severe dengue and 6 deaths. So far, all cases involve young people under 19 years of age, and 60% of cases involve children under nine years of age. The virus serotypes present are DEN-1, DEN-2, DEN-3, and DEN-4, with DEN-3 predominating. This health situation is exacerbated by the climatic conditions in the region, especially the rains and floods that provide an ideal environment for the proliferation of the vector. Affected areas, such as Ahuachapán (north, center, south), La Paz, San Vicente, Sonsonate, Chalatenango and Santa Ana, show a slight level of affectation, but the risk is latent.

The rains have created optimal conditions for the reproduction of the transmitting mosquito, especially the formation of stagnant waters that serve as ideal breeding grounds. In addition, affected communities face increased exposure to mosquitoes due to interruptions in access to basic services and safe housing. Moisture and the presence of decaying organic matter in flooded areas also favor the reproduction of these vectors. In terms of the larval index, municipalities such as La Unión, San Vicente, Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, and Santa Ana are in the 4% range of the national average, while the rest of the prioritized municipalities exceed this average, confirming that they are high-risk areas. The relationship between flooding and the proliferation of vectors is clear and evident, underscoring the urgency of interventions aimed at mitigating these risks.

Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. National red alert for dengue	https://www.proteccioncivil.gob.sv/2024/07/03/alerta-roja-a-nivel-nacional-por-dengue-03-julio-2024/
2. Civil Protection of El Salvador: Affected by rains	https://www.proteccioncivil.gob.sv/2024/06/21/sistema-nacional-de-proteccion-civil-mantiene-atencion-constante-de-afectados-por-lluvias-21-junio-2024/
3. Civil Protection of El Salvador - National Emergency Declaration	https://www.proteccioncivil.gob.sv/2024/06/16/estado-de-emergencia-nacional-por-la-zona-de-convergencia-intertropical-y-campo-depresionario-sobre-centroamerica-16-junio-2024/

Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	No
Are you changing the operational strategy	Yes



Are you changing the target population of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the geographical location	Yes
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	Yes
Has the forecasted event materialize?	Yes

Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

Through this Operational Update No. 1, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society intends to inform about:

(i) A change in the geographical areas of intervention. In addition to the initially prioritized departments (Ahuachapán, La Paz, La Unión, San Vicente, and Sonsonate), Chalatenango, Cuscatlán, and Santa Ana will be included. Although these departments were also under the national emergency declared by the General Directorate of Civil Protection in June due to heavy rains, they were not included in the first phase of intervention. The decision to include these departments was made following a direct support request from the Ministry of Health, considering not only the effects of the rains but also the high rates of dengue cases, directly related to the precipitation and flooding.

(ii) A second allocation of CHF 59,753, for a total IFRC-DREF budget of CHF 403,772.

This decision is initially based on the red alert for dengue issued by the General Directorate of Civil Protection, supported by epidemiological bulletin number 26 from the Ministry of Health. National authorities have urged all organizations present in El Salvador to join efforts to implement coordinated actions and avoid duplication of efforts. Additionally, the decision is supported by a direct support request received by the National Society on July 23 from the Ministry of Health, for the donation of basic supplies, such as mosquito nets, which are essential in the national strategy for the prevention and control of dengue.

In response to these circumstances, the National Society has decided to expand its interventions to address the effects caused by the floods and the consequent increase in dengue cases, a situation that has led to the declaration of a red alert. This expansion includes the integration of three additional departments into the intervention, which requires an increase in the availability of human and financial resources, as well as in the target population. Additionally, the extra funds are needed to purchase specific supplies for dengue prevention and control measures in the all departments prioritized by the IFRC-DREF, for the mobilization of staff and volunteers, and for hiring a specialized health technician.

The operational update of the National Society, which includes these changes, is carried out days after the declaration of a red alert for dengue. The delay originated because it was waiting to receive specific instructions from the Ministry of Health, which were provided in periodic meetings. These instructions detailed the type of support required and the priority geographical areas to ensure an efficient response and avoid duplication of efforts by organizations active in the country.

These adjustments to the operational strategy and budget are essential to ensure an effective and coordinated response, in line with emerging needs and the guidelines established by national authorities.

Current National Society Actions

<p>Shelter, Housing And Settlements</p>	<p>The National Society has conducted needs assessments in various shelters and simultaneously provided support to 40 shelters located in nine departments: La Libertad, San Salvador, Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Ahuachapán, Usulután, La Paz, San Vicente and La Unión. This support has included psychosocial care days for the people housed and the distribution of 649 blankets and 82 mattresses.</p> <p>In addition, in the Jiquilisco shelter, Usulután Oeste, the National Society delivered 28 family cleaning kits, filters, water storage tanks, water bales and installed a 6,000 liter tank with a distribution ramp.</p>
<p>Health</p>	<p>The National Society has provided pre-hospital assistance and medical care to 1,030 people, treating conditions ranging from ulcers and wounds to respiratory illnesses such as acute pharyngitis and bronchopneumonia. It has also treated individuals with injuries</p>



	<p>caused by falls, including wounds, abrasions, fractures and dislocations. Additionally, it has carried out rescue operations for people trapped in vehicles and in white water, and has coordinated the evacuation to the municipal shelter in areas such as Sonsonate, Juayúa and El Caracol, where landslides have occurred.</p> <p>In addition, in view of the red alert for dengue in the country, the National Society has provided care in emergency clinics for patients with febrile symptoms.</p>
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	<p>The National Society has distributed 370 hygiene kits in shelters located in the western part of the country, specifically in Sonsonate and Santa Ana. It has also provided 28 water filters and 84 buckets for water storage.</p> <p>In the mega shelter of Jiquilisco, Usulután Oeste, 28 families received cleaning kits, filters, water storage tanks, water bales and a 6,000 liter tank with a distribution ramp.</p> <p>In addition, in view of the red alert for dengue fever in the country, the National Society has carried out two fumigation campaigns, reaching 547 students of the Montessoriano School and 900 members of the National Academy of Public Security (ANSP).</p>
Community Engagement And Accountability	<p>The National Society has disseminated key messages and informative videos on emergency operations through the official media of the Salvadorean Red Cross. This initiative has sought to keep the community informed about ongoing actions and relevant security measures during the emergency situation.</p>
Coordination	<p>The National Society has established effective coordination with multiple entities to comprehensively manage the emergency situation. This includes collaboration with the National Civil Protection Commission, as well as with the Departmental and Municipal Civil Protection Commissions through the branches and sectional offices of the National Society. In addition, they have coordinated with the Public Health Emergency Operations Center to ensure an adequate health response. The National Society has also worked together with the Humanitarian Country Team and its multi-sectoral committees, which has allowed for a more holistic and effective management of response efforts.</p>
National Society Readiness	<p>The National Society has activated specialized teams, such as the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Team (DANA), the National Intervention Teams (NIT), and the water and vehicle rescue teams, to ensure an effective and coordinated response. In addition, it has strategically prepared and pre-positioned the vehicle fleet, including boats and unimogs, in the eastern and western zones to facilitate rapid operations in the most affected areas. Simultaneously, the stock of supplies in the general warehouse has been updated, ensuring that the necessary resources are available and ready to be deployed immediately.</p> <p>In view of the red alert for dengue in the country, the National Society has initiated the process of maintaining the thermal foggers and has begun to generate key messages on dengue prevention, aligned with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health.</p>
Assessment	<p>The National Society has conducted damage assessments and needs analysis in the areas most affected by the low pressure. At the same time, it has implemented monitoring actions as part of a preventive strategy in the face of the emergency. Specifically, it has conducted field monitoring in high-risk areas, including rivers prone to overflow and areas vulnerable to landslides, to anticipate and mitigate potential impacts. In addition, it has maintained a rigorous follow-up of meteorological conditions and their evolution, based on information provided by the Hazards Observatory Directorate. Simultaneously, it has been attentive to alerts, bulletins, and special reports from the authorities, thus ensuring a prompt and effective response to critical changes in the environment.</p>
Resource Mobilization	<p>The National Society has established relationships with local companies that have contributed financially to humanitarian assistance activities. These resources have been instrumental in financing the necessary equipment for the affected people and the supply of essential supplies that cover the most urgent needs.</p>



Activation Of Contingency Plans	The National Society launched the Winter Contingency Plan, designed to operationalize actions to respond to floods and landslides caused by heavy rainfall affecting the country. This plan establishes concrete measures to mitigate the impacts and ensure the safety of vulnerable communities during the rainy season.
National Society EOC	<p>The National Society has implemented several proactive measures to manage the emergency situation effectively. These include the constant monitoring of alerts, bulletins and special reports through official channels, and the preparation of situation reports every 12 hours to keep all stakeholders informed. In addition, the National Society has carried out continuous preventive monitoring in critical areas such as streams, rivers and roads nationwide.</p> <p>In addition, in view of the red alert for dengue fever in the country, the National Society has been monitoring hospital discharges of suspected dengue cases through the Ministry of Health, as well as bulletins and information issued by the Ministry and other authorities.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	The formulation of this IFRC-DREF has had the support and accompaniment of the IFRC Central America country cluster delegation team, ensuring the effective collaboration of the National Society in this process.
Participating National Societies	The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has requested rapid action funds from the American Red Cross to support the departments of La Libertad and San Salvador. In parallel, support has been arranged through the Spanish Red Cross with funds from the ECHO PPP project, directed to the communities of Usulután and San Miguel, where the project has already carried out previous interventions. These funds are complementary and focus on different geographic areas concerning this IFRC-DREF.

ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

Although the ICRC is present in the country, it has not provided any collaboration in the planning of this IFRC-DREF, nor is any specific support planned on its part for its implementation.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

Government has requested international assistance	No
National authorities	<p>The General Directorate of Civil Protection has activated all sectoral technical commissions, including the Sectoral Technical Emergency Commission, of which the Salvadorean Red Cross Society is a member, and has declared a nationwide red alert to coordinate and optimize emergency response.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources has been constantly updating forecasts and issuing special reports on the situation, in addition to equipping shelters to face adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>The Ministry of Education has suspended classes at all levels, both in public and private institutions throughout the country, guaranteeing the safety of students and teaching staff.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health has activated the Public Health Emergency Operations Center (COE) to monitor and respond to the needs arising from the emergency.</p>

For its part, the Presidency of the Republic, based on Article 24 of the Civil Protection Law, has requested the Legislative Assembly to decree a State of Emergency due to forecasts of imminent impact. Due to the effects of the intertropical convergence zone and a low-pressure area over Central America, the Legislative Assembly has declared a national state of emergency.

In view of the issuance of the red alert for dengue on July 3, 2024, the General Directorate of Civil Protection, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, has initiated a national priority fumigation day in 30 districts with the highest rates of confirmed cases of dengue fever, located in the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador and in the interior of the country, with the participation of the Departmental, Municipal, and Community Civil Protection Commissions. During this day, abate has been delivered to families whose homes are fumigated.

Subsequently, verification inspections have been carried out to ensure that the elimination of mosquito breeding sites has been carried out correctly. The Ministry of Health has established technical guidelines for the fight against dengue fever.

UN or other actors

The Humanitarian Country Team conducts management meetings with various humanitarian assistance agencies in coordination with the National Civil Protection System to ensure a unified and effective response. On the other hand, the media have played a crucial role in disseminating updates on the states of alert, helping to keep the population informed about the situation and the necessary precautionary measures.

In addition, in the context of the national dengue red alert declaration, the Humanitarian Country Team is coordinating internal actions to meet the requirements of equipment and supplies needed to strengthen the response to the dengue alert. The request was made directly to the United Nations Resident Coordinator by the El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation.

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

The National Civil Protection System is an inter-institutional structure led by the General Directorate of Civil Protection. This system facilitates the effective coordination of first response institutions in emergency situations. Within this framework is the Health Emergency Operations Center, which plays a crucial role in health management and response during crises.

Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

The National Society has identified needs related to the provision of essential items for sheltering people. One of the most latent needs is the shortage of blankets and warm kits, especially for babies, essential to protect evacuees from the cold and humidity. In addition, the lack of adequate mattresses in the temporary housing centers further complicates the situation, preventing those affected from resting properly. The lack of these resources not only increases the risk of respiratory diseases, but also aggravates stress and anxiety among the affected communities. This need is exacerbated in the most vulnerable areas, where local response capacity is limited and shelter infrastructures are not always adequately equipped.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has identified multiple needs that affect the response and recovery capacity of affected communities. One of the most latent is the scarcity of immediate financial resources for families, complicating their ability to manage emergencies and meet basic needs, such as food, housing repairs, the replacement of household supplies, and the recovery of animals and crops. Likewise, interruptions in the activities of numerous informal workers due to road damage or suspension of activities undermine their ability to meet these essential needs.



Health

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has identified several significant gaps during the response to the low-pressure and flooding situation affecting the country. The shortage of essential medical supplies is one of the main ones, making it difficult to provide adequate medical care in the most isolated and severely affected areas. The lack of personal protective equipment for staff and volunteers in the field increases the risk of disease transmission.

There is a need to strengthen health promotion and prevention campaigns in response to emerging diseases due to this meteorological impact, such as vector-borne diseases, waterborne, respiratory and dermatological diseases, to mitigate their impact during the rainy season. Mosquito breeding sites are a persistent problem, influenced by factors such as the accumulation of water in open containers and building structures that facilitate water stagnation, particularly in communities with poor housing infrastructure.

Socioeconomic factors play a role in the proliferation of breeding sites, as low-income areas often lack the resources necessary for effective maintenance, and high population density complicates waste management and access to basic services such as water and sanitation. Breeding sites in cryptic locations, such as waste or abandoned areas, add to the complexity of vector control.

The population in the target areas of intervention shows limited knowledge about dengue transmission and prevention, which highlights the need to improve education on how to prevent this disease and encourage the adoption of preventive practices, especially among priority groups such as the informal sector, school-age children, and people who care for users with reduced mobility.

In addition, it is necessary to improve the identification of warning signs and symptoms of dengue to facilitate early and effective detection, to recognize when immediate medical attention is required, and to improve community surveillance for rapid detection and response to outbreaks.

Finally, the magnitude of the psychological and traumatic impact that climate emergencies can have on response teams highlights the importance of strengthening mental health and psychosocial support services in these situations.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

During low pressure in El Salvador, the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sector faces multiple gaps that aggravate public health conditions. One of the main ones is water contamination, exacerbated by floods and rains, which significantly increases the risk of waterborne diseases such as diarrhea and other gastrointestinal infections. In addition, the destruction of sanitation infrastructure, including latrines and sewage systems, contributes to the accumulation of waste and increases exposure to pathogens, further complicating the health situation. Vector proliferation is also driven by wet and stagnant conditions, creating a breeding environment for mosquitoes that transmit diseases such as dengue, malaria and chikungunya. In addition, there is a need to promote community engagement and active participation, which strengthens the capacity to implement effective preventive measures against waterborne diseases at the local level. This situation is aggravated by a deficiency in health education and promotion, which prevents communities from adopting proper hygiene and sanitation practices. In addition, the limited implementation of entomological control programs represents a significant gap that hinders effective monitoring and reduction of the disease-transmitting mosquito population, contributing to the increased risk of epidemic outbreaks.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

In El Salvador, the low pressure has revealed significant gaps that directly affect the most vulnerable communities. One of the main needs identified is the lack of awareness and inclusive and equitable practices at the community level, which prevents an adequate response to the needs of the most affected groups during climate emergencies. Despite efforts to promote the PGI approach through awareness-raising processes, there is still a critical need to improve the inclusion of individuals and groups in highly vulnerable situations, such as people with pre-existing diseases, women, people with disabilities, and the elderly, among others. This deficiency also translates into insufficient visibility of these people, which can lead to their specific needs not being fully addressed during and after crises.

Additionally, the implementation of PGI strategies often lacks adequate resources and training for volunteers and staff, limiting their effectiveness on the ground. The lack of specific tools and methodologies to assess and address needs from a gender and inclusion perspective is also a major barrier. This is especially critical when traditional support structures are compromised by the disaster, exacerbating the exclusion of vulnerable groups.





Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has identified several gaps, among them is the lack of promotion and implementation of anticipatory actions that allow communities to prepare effectively before disasters occur. In addition, there is a notable absence of contextualized actions, specifically designed for the needs and unique characteristics of the different geographic areas in the country, which reduces the effectiveness of interventions at critical moments.



Community Engagement And Accountability

The National Society has identified significant gaps in the area of community participation and accountability that negatively impact the effectiveness of emergency responses. A key gap is the insufficient inclusion of local communities in the planning and decision-making phases, leading to a disconnect between the interventions implemented and the real needs of the affected people. Another important gap is the limited use of adequate local communication channels, which hinders the exchange of relevant and continuous information, essential for relevant and effective responses. Additionally, there is a need at the community level to effectively monitor and evaluate activities carried out on their behalf, which weakens accountability and often results in the implementation of solutions that are neither sustainable nor appropriate to the specific situations.



Environment Sustainability

The National Society has identified several needs in environmental management, especially in urban areas and hostels. One of the most worrisome is the low environmental awareness among the population in these areas, where proper environmental management is essential. In addition, inadequate solid waste disposal contributes significantly to the blockage of drainage systems, considerably increasing the risk of flooding. This problem not only threatens infrastructure and public health, but also causes considerable deterioration of the local environment.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

The National Society has not experienced any inconvenience or delay in needs assessments and identification. This is because internal and external structures have effectively facilitated communication, coordination and joint collaboration.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this IFRC-DREF allocation, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society aims to contribute to the national low pressure emergency response as well as address the increase in number of dengue cases by providing direct support to cover the immediate needs of 8,570 people (1,714 families) in the sectors of multipurpose cash, health, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), shelter, risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI) and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) in the departments of Ahuachapán, Sonsonate, La Paz, San Vicente, La Unión, Santa Ana, Cuscatlan and Chalatenango for 6 months.

Operation strategy rationale

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society will implement a comprehensive operational strategy to address the national emergency caused by a low-pressure system affecting multiple departments in the country. This strategy will focus on meeting the immediate needs of affected families through interventions in several key sectors: multipurpose cash, health, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), risk reduction, climate adaptation and recovery, protection, gender and inclusion (PGI), and Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA). Activities will be deployed in the departments of Ahuachapán, Sonsonate, La Paz, San Vicente, La Unión, Santa Ana, Cuscatlán, and Chalatenango over a period of six months. Initially affected by the rains, the last three departments have also experienced an increase in dengue cases due to conditions favorable for the proliferation of the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, the main vector of dengue.

The prevention and management of dengue are crucial, especially in areas initially impacted by rains and floods, where humid conditions and stagnant water facilitate mosquito breeding. Implementing dengue control and prevention measures in all eight affected departments is vital not only to reduce transmission and the impact of the disease but also to protect vulnerable communities,



minimizing health complications and costs associated with treatment and medical emergency responses. It is essential to develop and implement specific strategies in these areas to break the transmission chain and ensure public health. Moreover, these actions are in line with the requirements of the Ministry of Health, ensuring that the interventions are consistent with national health policies and effectively respond to local needs.

Detailed sector strategies:

SHELTER HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS:

In the context of the heavy rains and floods in El Salvador, it is essential to carry out immediate response actions to mitigate the impact on the affected communities. Damage and needs assessment is the first critical step in understanding the extent of the devastation and prioritizing interventions. Next, the distribution of comfort kits, which include blankets and mattresses, provides immediate relief to those affected, improving their temporary living conditions and reducing the risk of diseases related to exposure to adverse conditions. Replenishment of these kits is essential to maintain continuous assistance, especially in the prolonged stages of the emergency. In addition, the purchase and distribution of warm baby kits, which include blanket, standard size pajamas, socks and hat, is crucial to protect the most vulnerable from low temperatures, avoiding additional health complications in this high-risk group.

MULTIPURPOSE CASH TRANSFERS:

The Cash Transfer Program (CTP) plays a crucial role in emergency response. Beginning with a feasibility study, this program assesses the viability of providing direct cash assistance to affected families. Once feasibility is confirmed, it is planned to distribute USD 400 to 250 selected families, and a similar amount to 50 vulnerable individuals, including people with disabilities, the elderly and victims of violence. In addition, direct support will be provided to 10 National Society volunteers who have also been affected, with a one-time distribution of USD 400 each. The implementation of CTP awareness workshops, aligned with the Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) approach, strengthens transparency and community participation. Post-distribution satisfaction surveys will also be developed to measure the effectiveness of the program, and specific trainings will be conducted for volunteers involved in the distributions.

HEALTH:

Various technical and strategic measures have been planned to mitigate the impacts on the health and well-being of the affected population. These include the provision of pre-hospital care and first response services, which are essential for immediate medical emergencies. Fumigation campaigns have also been organized and the repair of thermal foggers has been budgeted, thus contributing to control the proliferation of vectors in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines in view of the national dengue alert.

In addition, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society has planned to distribute 2,094 mosquito nets treated with repellent. This initiative is aligned with the Ministry of Health strategy for dengue prevention and is culturally accepted and implemented by the communities. In response to a specific request from the Ministry of Health to the National Society, 1,000 of these nets will be delivered directly to them for distribution at the three levels of health care nationwide. The remaining 1,094 nets will be provided as support to people who, during the course of the activities, present symptoms compatible with dengue and other arboviruses.

This strategy will be complemented with the distribution of individual repellents and the implementation of community psychosocial support workshops, along with the distribution of the corresponding kits. In addition, community health and first aid training workshops will be conducted, focusing on signs, symptoms, mosquito life cycles, prevention, etc. for volunteers, thus reinforcing preparedness and response to this health threat.

At the same time, workshops will be held in educational centers on signs, symptoms, mosquito life cycles, prevention, etc. The National Society will also distribute "La Untadita" kits containing bleach, brush, sponge, plastic bottle and stickers with key messages to facilitate this task at home. Educational actions will be reinforced through a community radio campaign, the socialization of key messages through social networks and the distribution of printed educational material for the destruction of breeding sites and general cleaning. Finally, psychosocial support workshops will be conducted to strengthen the resilience of staff and volunteers active in the operation.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH):

Several actions have been planned to ensure access to safe water and promote hygiene, thus mitigating public health risks. These actions include the procurement and distribution of water filters and drums, thus facilitating the storage and purification of water under emergency conditions. The distribution of water purifiers and specific hygiene kits for menstrual needs, children and the elderly are also planned, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations maintain adequate hygiene practices. In addition, hygiene promotion workshops will be organized, accompanied by the distribution of printed educational materials designed to socialize with communities on effective hygiene techniques and safe water use. In addition, the programmed distribution of drinking water will ensure that all affected people have access to safe water sources, which is essential to prevent diseases transmitted by contaminated water, a growing concern in the current context of flooding.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION (PGI):

These actions include the development of community-level workshops designed to raise awareness of the importance of integrating gender and inclusion perspectives into disaster response. These workshops will seek to promote more equitable and safe practices within the community, ensuring that all members, especially the most vulnerable, receive adequate care in emergency situations. In parallel, an



awareness campaign on PGI issues will be implemented through social media, with the aim of broadening the reach and deepening the impact of these initiatives. This campaign will use digital platforms to disseminate key messages, reaching a wider audience and fostering greater awareness and collective action around protection and inclusion during and after crises caused by natural disasters.

RISK REDUCTION, CLIMATE ADAPTATION, AND RECOVERY:

In response to the heavy rains and floods in El Salvador, the National Society has planned measures to contribute to the strengthening of disaster risk management. Among these, the development and distribution of informative material designed to socialize with the population on appropriate risk management practices in the context of the emergency stands out. This material seeks to increase awareness and preparedness for natural disasters, providing essential tools for risk mitigation. In addition, evacuations of people in high-risk areas have been coordinated, along with the implementation of search and rescue operations. These actions are crucial to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable communities, minimizing the human and material impact during adverse events.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA):

Community accountability days are planned as part of the emergency response and management strategy. These days will consist of meetings organized in the affected communities to facilitate transparency and the exchange of key information about the operation. During these meetings, the selection mechanisms for receiving specific assistance will be explained, possible changes in the operation will be discussed and the progress achieved will be socialized. These actions are fundamental to strengthen trust and cooperation between the National Society teams and the community, ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and can actively participate in all proposed activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Recycling awareness campaigns and community workshops are planned to promote greater environmental awareness. These activities aim to socialize with the population about the importance of sustainable waste management practices, which are essential to reduce the accumulation of waste that can clog drainage systems and exacerbate flooding. The workshops are designed to teach effective recycling and waste management techniques, thus promoting environmental responsibility and community participation in mitigating the negative impacts of natural disasters.

STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY:

Several actions have been planned to ensure an efficient operation. These include the remuneration of personnel recruited specifically for the operation, ensuring the availability and commitment of qualified human resources. In addition, visibility supplies will be procured for active volunteers, ensuring that they are easily identifiable during interventions. The purchase of water rescue vests and suits is also planned to replenish the equipment needed for rescue operations in flooded areas. The purchase of office supplies is essential to maintain efficient logistics and administration of the operation. Finally, a lessons learned workshop will be developed to continually evaluate and improve disaster response strategies based on the experience gained during the current emergency.

It is important to highlight that the Salvadorean Red Cross Society has implemented a coordinated financial strategy to maximize the impact of its intervention during the national emergency. Rapid action funds have been requested from the American Red Cross specifically to provide support to the departments of La Libertad and San Salvador. Simultaneously, additional support has been obtained through the Spanish Red Cross, with funds from the ECHO PPP project, earmarked for specific communities in the departments of Usulután and San Miguel, where previous interventions have already taken place. These funds are earmarked for geographic areas other than those covered by this IFRC-DREF, thus ensuring that there is no duplication of actions or areas of operation. The National Society is committed to maintaining effective coordination to ensure efficient management of resources and avoid overlapping efforts.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This IFRC-DREF aims to provide direct assistance to 1,714 families in communities in the eight departments most affected by both the rains and floods and dengue. The families to be assisted, predominantly low-income, live in areas susceptible to flooding and landslides, and many lack adequate housing and consistent access to basic services such as potable water and sanitation. This operation also focuses on families with a high incidence of dengue cases, identified as a priority in the operation. In addition, special attention will be given to groups in vulnerable situations, such as children, adolescents, older adults, pregnant women and people with physical disabilities who are disproportionately affected by climatic emergencies and dengue.

Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

To ensure equitable and effective distribution of assistance in response to rains and floods, as well as dengue in El Salvador, the National Society has established the following selection criteria to identify families to be assisted with IFRC-DREF actions:



a) Families that have suffered total or partial loss of their homes due to inclement weather and that may be unsafe or unsanitary after the floods.

b) Families who lack access to safe drinking water sources will be considered for priority assistance.

c) Families that have not received previous assistance from government institutions or non-governmental organizations during the current emergency will be included.

d) Families that include members belonging to vulnerable groups, such as children, adolescents, older adults, pregnant women and people with physical disabilities.

e) Families belonging to communities in departments with high rates of dengue fever according to epidemiological reports on dengue fever issued by the Ministry of Health.

The National Society will also consider families that, in addition to meeting some or all of the above criteria, are geographically isolated or belong to communities with specific characteristics that require a particular intervention approach.

Total Targeted Population

Women	5,779	Rural	95%
Girls (under 18)	1,089	Urban	5%
Men	621	People with disabilities (estimated)	5%
Boys (under 18)	1,081		
Total targeted population	8,570		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Landslides and rock falls due to water saturation in soils.	Constant monitoring of weather conditions and reports on possible landslide risks through official media and meteorological agencies.
Proliferation of diseases associated with water contamination, flooding of houses, respiratory diseases and skin diseases.	Distribution of Personal Protective Equipment to the team deployed in the field. Implementation of hygiene promotion and disease prevention education programs for the affected communities.
Delays in the distribution of aid and provision of services due to government protocols because of states of emergency regarding humanitarian assistance entering the country.	Maintain active humanitarian diplomacy between the National Society and local governments. Develop and have ready a contingency plan to adjust operations and reduce response times to changes in government protocols.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

The National Society has identified a risk of theft or robbery during the operation. To mitigate this risk, it has planned several preventive measures to reinforce security. First, collaboration will be established with local authorities to ensure safe access, especially in high-risk areas. Secondly, mobilization routes will be carefully selected, giving priority to those that have been evaluated and approved by the security focal point. In addition, constant monitoring of personnel and volunteers on the ground will be implemented, allowing for rapid intervention in the event of any incident.



Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 21,421

Targeted Persons: 500

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached through the distribution of comfort kits (blankets and mats).	400	0
Number of people reached through the distribution of warm kits for babies.	100	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has begun the process of acquiring blankets, mattresses, and warm kits for babies. At the same time, they have also begun the logistical planning necessary for the distribution of these supplies.



Multi Purpose Cash

Budget: CHF 124,621

Targeted Persons: 1,550

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of families reached with multipurpose cash distribution.	250	0
Number of people in vulnerable situations (people with disabilities, elderly and victims of violence) reached with multipurpose cash distribution.	50	0
Number of affected volunteers assisted with multipurpose cash distribution.	10	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has finalized the identification of the communities to be assisted by the Cash Transfer Program, in collaboration with representatives of Civil Protection. The National Society is currently conducting a final validation with the branches in the selected areas. At the same time, they are developing the terms of reference for the contracting of a financial services provider and working on the reactivation of an existing agreement with a local bank.

Budget: CHF 94,873

Targeted Persons: 8,570

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached with health actions in emergencies (pre-hospital care, mental health, fumigation campaigns, etc.)	8,570	0
Number of people reached with psychosocial support kits.	1,000	0
Number of people reached through the distribution of Untadita kits.	1,000	0
Number of children reached through educational sessions in schools.	500	0
People reached with dissemination material on hygiene promotion and dengue prevention.	8,570	0
Branches reached with medical supplies for first aid kits.	54	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has begun to share information on the actions it carries out in emergency situations, as well as on dengue prevention measures, in alignment with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health. In addition, the National Society has begun detailed planning of the supplies needed for each activity, considering the timing and requirements of each supplier.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 54,266

Targeted Persons: 8,570

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
People reached with Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Promotion (WASH) actions.	2,000	0
People reached with hygiene kits.	2,000	0
Families reached with water treatment supplies.	200	0
People reached through safe water distribution.	8,570	140

Progress Towards Outcome

As one of the first response actions, the Salvadorean Red Cross Society carried out an intervention to install safe water for 28 families in the Jiquilisco shelter. In addition, the National Society has begun the procurement solicitation process for water filters and purifiers.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 5,236

Targeted Persons: 8,570

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
People reached through PGI-related actions (community level/social networks).	3,570	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The Salvadoran Red Cross has not yet carried out specific actions in this sector.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Budget: CHF 22,373

Targeted Persons: 8,570

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Families reached with awareness talks on risks and practical actions for disaster response.	3,570	0
Families reached with dissemination material on awareness of adaptation practices in the face of climate change.	3,570	0
People reached with evacuation, search and/or rescue services.	1,300	1,300

Progress Towards Outcome

During the first response actions, the Salvadoran Red Cross provided assistance to 1,300 people through evacuation, search and rescue services. In most cases, these were preventive evacuations in coordination with the Directorate of Shelters and Civil Protection.



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 1,904

Targeted Persons: 8,570

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of community accountability days held.	2	0



Progress Towards Outcome

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has not yet carried out specific actions in this sector.



Environmental Sustainability

Budget: CHF 2,856

Targeted Persons: 8,570

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of people reached through recycling awareness campaigns.	8,570	0
Number of workshops conducted on environmental awareness.	2	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has not yet carried out specific actions in this sector.



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 12,852

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of field monitoring visits conducted.	4	0

Progress Towards Outcome

The IFRC Central America Cluster Delegation team held the first virtual follow-up meeting with the National Society. The objective was to review in detail the current planning and, based on this review, establish the follow-up mechanisms, both virtual and in the field.



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 63,370

Targeted Persons: 60

Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of volunteers equipped with visibility equipment during the operation.	60	0



Number of personnel specifically hired for the operation.	6	3
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Progress Towards Outcome

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has finalized the hiring of the IFRC-DREF coordinator and the two field technicians. Currently, the procurement technician and the finance technician are being hired and are expected to begin their functions in the first half of August. In addition, in response to the red alert for dengue in the country, the National Society has decided to include in this operational update the hiring of an additional technician, specifically to supervise health actions.

About Support Services

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

The National Society has 1,700 active volunteers distributed through the Salvadorean Red Cross Society branches throughout the country. For the implementation of the IFRC-DREF, the National Society expects to have a group of 60 core volunteers.

In addition, the National Society will ensure that specialized teams are mobilized to respond effectively to the needs that arise. These teams include the Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis Team and the National Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Intervention Teams. Psychosocial Support Teams and Distribution Teams will also be deployed, essential to provide emotional support and ensure the effective delivery of supplies to affected communities. In addition, the mobilization of volunteer teams specialized in water and vehicle rescue will be guaranteed.

Likewise, in order to ensure that the implementation of actions is carried out as planned and in accordance with internal and external requirements, the National Society has proposed hiring specific personnel for the operation:

1 Operation Coordinator: The main function is to manage relations with civilian authorities and direct the logistical, monitoring and control activities of the operation.

1 Health Technician: Responsible for the execution of community activities related to public health, in coordination with the operation coordinator.

2 Field Technician: Responsible for executing field activities, in coordination with the operation coordinator.

1 Procurement Technician: Responsible for managing all acquisitions, ensuring compliance with the purchasing processes established for the operation.

1 Financial Technician: In charge of controlling compliance with the registration and accountability processes, and acts as a reference for accounting issues and financial follow-up of the operation.

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

The Salvadorean Red Cross Society has a Procurement Unit responsible for managing the entire purchasing and contracting process, from the quotation of products and services to the payment of suppliers. This unit ensures that the National Society has the necessary capacity to manage the procurement required during emergencies. To ensure efficient resourcing of this IFRC-DREF, most procurement will be done locally, except for the mosquito nets, which will be managed through the IFRC Regional Logistics Unit. This approach not only optimizes the process of obtaining needed supplies in a timely and quality manner but also strengthens the immediate response capacity.

How will this operation be monitored?

The National Society will ensure monitoring of operational and financial progress through the Planning and Institutional Development Unit together with the Financial Accounting Unit. The Planning and Institutional Development Unit is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the projects and interventions implemented by the National Society throughout the country. In addition, there will be periodic follow-ups through virtual meetings and field visits by representatives of the Central America country cluster delegation team, which will ensure continuous and effective supervision of all activities.



Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

The National Society has carried out and will continue to carry out information campaigns to assist affected communities and the general population. To ensure a broad reach, it plan to continue disseminating digital material through social networks, in addition to radio and television spots. These initiatives are essential to keep citizens informed about prevention measures, available resources and relevant updates on the situation.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRSV016 - Salvadorean Red Cross El Salvador: Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	327.550
Shelter and Basic Household Items	21.421
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	124.621
Health	94.873
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	54.266
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	5.236
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	22.373
Community Engagement and Accountability	1.904
Environmental Sustainability	2.856
Enabling Approaches	76.222
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	12.852
National Society Strengthening	63.370
TOTAL BUDGET	403.772

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)



Contact Information

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[Click here for the reference](#)

