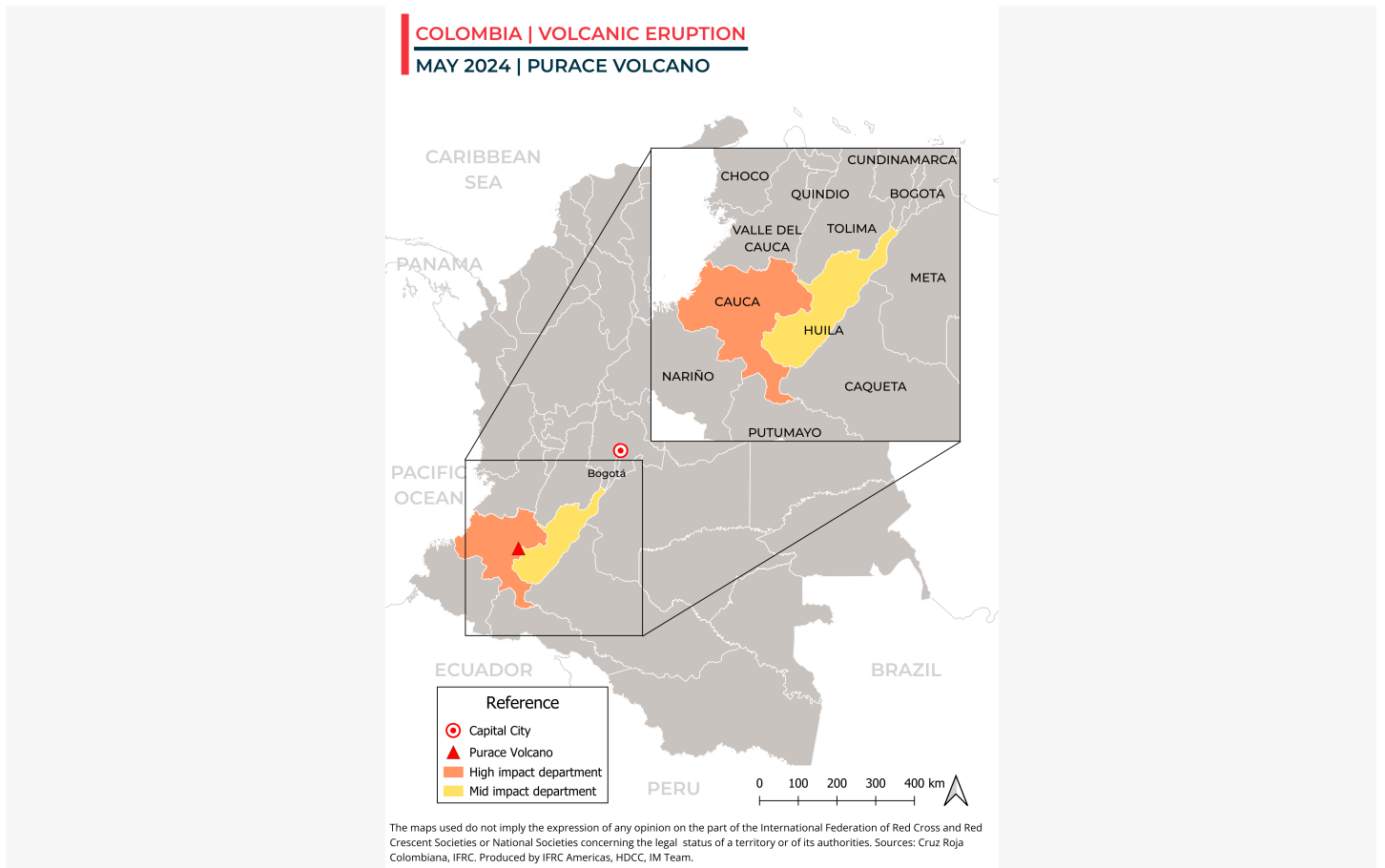




Community strengthening activities, Cauca Branch - Colombia Red Cross Society. May 2024. Popayán, Cauca.

Appeal: <b>MDRCO026</b>	Total DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 149,930</b>	Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Hazard: <b>Volcanic Eruption</b>
Glide Number: <b>VO-2024-000082-COL</b>	People Affected: <b>40,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>4,500 people</b>	
Event Onset: <b>Slow</b>	Operation Start Date: <b>27-05-2024</b>	New Operational End Date: <b>31-10-2024</b>	Total Operating Timeframe: <b>5 months</b>
Reporting Timeframe Start Date: <b>27-05-2024</b>		Reporting Timeframe End Date: <b>31-07-2024</b>	
Additional Allocation Requested: <b>0</b>		Targeted Areas: <b>Cauca</b>	

# Description of the Event



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

## Approximate date of impact

According to the Colombian Geological Service (SGC), the alert level of the Puracé Volcano changed from Orange Level (II) to Yellow Level (I) on 5 July 2024. This represents that volcanic activity has decreased, but should be closely monitored to detect possible increases in activity. The Yellow Alert also represents significant changes in its activity above normal levels, where it is recommended by the SGC to implement preparedness actions.

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

The Colombian Geological Service reported the change of Puracé Volcano Alert from Orange to Yellow on 5 July 2024, after identifying a gradual decrease in the seismicity inside the volcanic structure, as well as the stabilization of other monitoring parameters of the volcano's behavior. However, the Yellow alert status still indicates that the volcano presents changes in its behavior above a base level, where seismicity continues, but in smaller quantities, surface deformation continues to occur, without abrupt changes and fumaroles still remain on a downward trend, mentions the Colombian Geological Service. In addition, considering that the characteristics of an active volcano can increase its activity at any time and therefore the recommendation is to continue with the preparation processes with communities and authorities.

During the state of Yellow Alert it is possible that some phenomena may occur that can cause serious and even fatal damage to people, such as sporadic ash emissions (minor eruptions), fracture and fluid seismicity with moderate levels and episodes of occasional increases, small explosions in the crater, precipitation of elemental sulfur and hydrothermal mud in the near zones of the crater and hot springs, occurrence of minor lahars, among others. Therefore, the Colombian Geological Service emphasizes that a change in the alert level should not lead to complacency. Authorities and communities in the affected areas are expected to continue efforts in knowledge acquisition and preparedness.

The Colombian Geological Service issues weekly bulletins on the situation and status of the volcano. As of 5 July 2024, 6 bulletins have

been issued since the change to Yellow alert. 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.

According to the Colombian Geological Service, here is a summary of what is expected to happen:

Yellow level:

- Changes in the behavior of volcanic activity.
- Effects: There may be phenomena such as earthquake swarms, some of them noticeable; ash emissions; lahars; morphological changes; volcanic gas odors, among other, which may alter the quality of life in the area of volcanic influence.

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.

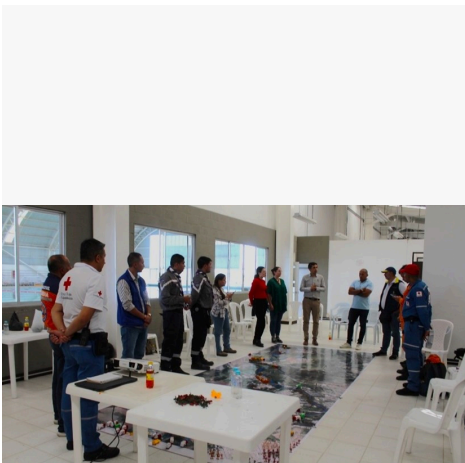
Red level:

- 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).



Cauca Branch team - Enlistment Meeting. August 2024. Popayán, Cauca.



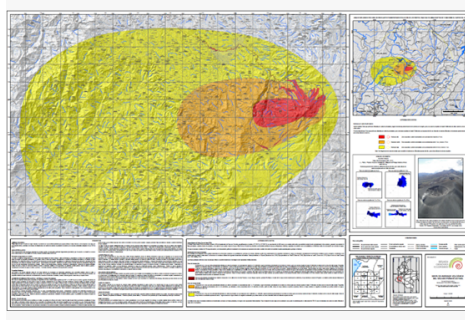
Articulation of actions with the indigenous authority of Puracé (Geological Service, Government of Cauca, and Red Cross). May 2024. Cauca, Colombia.



First Aid Workshop (physical and psychological) Cauca Branch, Colombian Red Cross. August 2024.



First Aid Workshop (physical and psychological) Cauca Branch, Colombian Red Cross Society. August 2024.



Volcanic Hazard Map of Puracé Volcano - Second Version, 2014. Source: Colombian Geological Service.



Disaster Preparedness for the Puracé Volcano activity Workshop. CRCS, Cauca Branch. August 2024. Popayán, Cauca.

## 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. Although the alert was decreased from orange to yellow, these activities are maintained in order to give continuity to the knowledge appropriation and disaster risk preparedness exercises carried out by the authorities and the community during the previous months.

### 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 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 maintain the activation of the operational actions based on the conditions of the Puracé Volcano, according to the actions determined for the Yellow Alert level and continue with those started during 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

The Yellow alert status indicates that the monitored parameters show the volcano is above its baseline state and that the system is unstable. This instability could lead to an increase or decrease in these levels and potentially result in volcanic activity that may impact the area of volcanic influence. According to the last weekly bulletin of 13 August 2024, prepared by the Colombian Geological Service, during this week there was an increase in the number of events, mainly those associated with fluid dynamics. The slow deformation process that began during the last two years continues to be registered. On the other hand, the volcanic gases, electromagnetic fields and acoustic sensors show stability.

Based on the above, the SGC recommends following closely the evolution of volcanic activity through its weekly bulletins and following the instructions of local and departmental authorities and the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD).

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 rural farming 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. 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 3 May 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).	<a href="https://www2.sgc.gov.co/Noticias/Paginas/Boletines-extraordinarios.aspx">https://www2.sgc.gov.co/Noticias/Paginas/Boletines-extraordinarios.aspx</a>
5. Colombian Geological Service (SGC), Week Bulletin. July, 2024.	<a href="https://www2.sgc.gov.co/Noticias/Paginas/El-volcan-Purace-regresa-a-estado-de-alerta-Amarilla.aspx">https://www2.sgc.gov.co/Noticias/Paginas/El-volcan-Purace-regresa-a-estado-de-alerta-Amarilla.aspx</a>

## Summary of Changes

Are you changing the timeframe of the operation	Yes
Are you changing the operational strategy	No
Are you changing the target population of the operation	No
Are you changing the geographical location	No
Are you making changes to the budget	Yes
Is this a request for a second allocation	No
Has the forecasted event materialize?	No

### Please explain the summary of changes and justification:

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

(i) A 2-month no cost timeframe extension (new end date: 31 October 2024)



The main change for this operational update is the request for a no-cost extension of two additional months. The above, maintaining the total budget, the logical framework and the total number of people to be reached approved in the original DREF Application. Some reallocations between budget lines have been made without affecting any activity, taking into account the quotations made by the National Society for the purchase processes.

**Justification summary:**

The start-up/readiness phase took longer than planned by the National Society. Specifically, the delay in the signing of the operational agreement between IFRC and the National Society caused delays in hiring personnel and initiating operational actions in the field.

Although the volcano's activity alert has decreased to yellow, the National Society has identified the high importance of continuing with the operation, as the volcano's activity continues with the potential to affect nearby communities. The yellow alert requires continuous preparedness and active surveillance to minimize risks and ensure an effective response to a possible emergency.

Therefore, maintaining institutional, community and family preparedness actions for the risk of volcanic eruption in yellow alert of the Puracé volcano is essential to minimize the negative impacts of a possible emergency. In this sense, it is crucial to continue with the activities defined in the operational strategy, thus reducing the vulnerability of communities and families by improving their capacity, knowledge and tools to face an eruption, plus the strengthening of institutional capacities. The two month no-cost extension was also planned to cover the time required by the National Society to close its operations.

## Current National Society Actions

### National Society anticipatory actions started

03-05-2024

<b>Health</b>	Preventive activation of Emergency Medical Teams (EMTs).
<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	<p>The Colombian Red Cross Society is currently reviewing the capacities in the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector for the deployment of a drinking water treatment plant with 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 sector 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 sector 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>	At the national level, actions will be taken to support the national risk management unit in risk identification. 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.



	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.
<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	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.
<b>Coordination</b>	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.
<b>National Society Readiness</b>	Update of the National Society's capacities and needs.
<b>Assessment</b>	Field visits in some of the communities located in the area of influence.
<b>Activation Of Contingency Plans</b>	Activation of the National Contingency Plan. Update of the Cauca Branch Contingency Plan.
<b>National Society EOC</b>	Activation of the National and Branch Crisis room.

## IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Secretariat</b>	On 6 May, 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.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	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.

## ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC is present in the country and carries out coordination activities with the Colombian Red Cross Society 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>	No
<b>National authorities</b>	- At the National Level: On 3 May 2024, the Crisis Room of the National System for Disaster Risk Management -PMU is convened due to the Change of Alert Level of the



	<p>Puracé Volcano from Yellow to Orange.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 4 May 2024, the Geological Service, the Mayor's Office of the Municipality of Puracé, the Civil Defense, the Colombian Red Cross Society 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 7 May 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 8 May 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 9 May 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>
<p><b>UN or other actors</b></p>	<p>The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) has made a field visit to support the capacity analysis in the health sector.</p> <p>The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has sent to all the Partners of the Humanitarian Team an extraordinary bulletin with update reports on the situation of the Puracé Volcano.</p>

**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 8 May 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 Purace 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 Purace volcano.

It has been identified that the capacities of the health system in the municipality of Purace 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 prepositioning 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 sectors 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 3 May 2024, the National Directorate of the Colombian Red Cross Society 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 Society 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. It is also planned 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 the readiness 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Projection of transportation and logistics according to the current characteristics of the territory.</li> <li>- Coordination with authorities operating in the area.</li> <li>- Coordination of activities with the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management (UNGRD) and the Territorial Disaster Risk Management Councils.</li> </ul>
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Communication on health risks for people and animals due to falling pyroclasts or ashes</li> <li>-Preventive delivery of personal protective equipment to the exposed population in the high threat zone.</li> </ul>
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.	<p>In case of red alert, activation of the response plan. The National Society team would formulate a response IFRC-DREF.</p> <p>In case of yellow alert, there is a Branch and communities strengthened to respond to changes in the activity of the active volcano.</p>
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, a dissident group of the now-demobilized 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 8,951

**Targeted Persons:** 30

### Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of first responders trained in physical and psychological first aid	30	29
Number of first aid kits prepositioned at Red Cross branches	5	-

### Progress Towards Outcome

- First Aid Workshop (psychological and physical) developed during August 9, 10 and 11 in the city of Popayán with a total participation of 29 people, including authorities and volunteers of the Red Cross.
- The National Society has already purchased the first aid kits and it is expected to be prepositioned in the Branch during the last week of August.



**Budget:** CHF 55,308

**Targeted Persons:** 1,500



## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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	1
Number of Staff and volunteers trained in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Emergencies	25	-

## Progress Towards Outcome

- The pre-positioning of the water treatment plant in the Cauca Branch was carried out on 2 August 2024.
- Technical evaluation of proposals for the acquisition of water treatment and storage was carried out.
- Training of volunteers in WASH in emergencies is planned for September.



## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

**Budget:** CHF 253

**Targeted Persons:** 25

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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	-

## Progress Towards Outcome

- Coordination with the referent of the GBV and Prevention in sexual exploitation and abuse program of the National Society to carry out the process of knowledge transfer to the Branch planned for the third week of August.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

**Budget:** CHF 35,905

**Targeted Persons:** 3,000

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of members of the risk management system that improve their preparedness for a potential eruption of the Puracé volcano.	25	27
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	-

## Progress Towards Outcome

- Dissemination of key messages on measures to take before, during and after a volcanic eruption through social networks and WhatsApp chat groups carried out by the Branch Cauca.
- Currently, the Branch is developing the characterization of the communities and families in the targeted zone.
- The National Society developed the Preparedness Workshop for the response to the Puracé Volcano activity, during August 22 and 23 in Popayán, Cauca, with the participation of a total of 27 people representing the Colombian Red Cross at national and Sectional level, representatives of the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management at departmental and municipal level, Colombian Geological Service, Firefighters, Civil Defense and leaders of the indigenous cabildos of Puracé, Coconucos, Paletará and Juan Tama.



## Community Engagement And Accountability

**Budget:** CHF 2,326

**Targeted Persons:** 100

## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
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	-

## Progress Towards Outcome

- Taking into account the CEA approach, the Cauca Branch has continued community strengthening and communication processes in Disaster Risk Management with the participation of the community and authorities. For this purpose, different community dialogue spaces have been held with the leaders and families to listen to their cosmological traditions in relation to their vision of the volcanoes and river sources, to understand their means of subsistence and cosmogony. Taking into account the organizational processes of the Puracé, Coconuco, Paletará, and Juantama indigenous communities, which allow linking the DRR knowledge provided with their tradition and thus ensure the participation of these communities in the project activities and the developing of community focal groups during the next weeks.



## Secretariat Services

**Budget:** CHF 4,425

**Targeted Persons:** 0



## Indicators

Title	Target	Actual
Number of monitoring visits	3	1

## Progress Towards Outcome

A monitoring visit to the Branch was developed from August 21 to 24, within the framework of the orientation workshops organized by the National Society, and with the main objective of monitoring the planned activities to be carried out regarding to the contingencies present during the enlistment process. A meeting was held with the President of the Cauca Sectional, the Executive Board and the Disaster Risk Management team to validate the pre-positioning of the water treatment plant, as well as the involvement of the NIT volunteer deployed in the area.

Likewise, meetings were held with the leaders of the four indigenous cabildos and with personnel from the fire department, civil defense, the Colombian geological Service and the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management, in order to validate the appropriation of the project in the field. Finally, the IFRC Delegation participated in the preparedness for response workshop held in the Branch. The PMER Officer and the Disaster Preparedness Intern participated in this monitoring visit.



## National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 42,762

Targeted Persons: 0

## Indicators

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

## Progress Towards Outcome

- NIT deployed and located in Popayán as of 2 August 2024.
- Knowledge transfer, two-hour virtual sessions planned for the month of August.
- Uniforms procurement process submitted.

## 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 NIT 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 Society 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 Society  
Colombia: Volcanic eruption

### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>102,743</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	8,951
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	55,308
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	253
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	35,905
Community Engagement and Accountability	2,326
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>47,187</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	4,425
National Society Strengthening	42,762
<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:

**National Society contact:** Juvenal Francisco Moreno, National Executive Director, francisco.moreno@cruzrojacolombiana.org

**IFRC Appeal Manager:** Tiziana Bonzon, Head of Country Delegation, tiziana.bonzon@ifrc.org

**IFRC Project Manager:** Edwin Armenta, Coordinator, Programs and Operations, edwin.armenta@ifrc.org

**IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Edwin Armenta, Coordinator, Programs and Operations, edwin.armenta@ifrc.org

**Media Contact:** Susana Arroyo, Manager, Regional Communications, susana.arroyo@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)

