



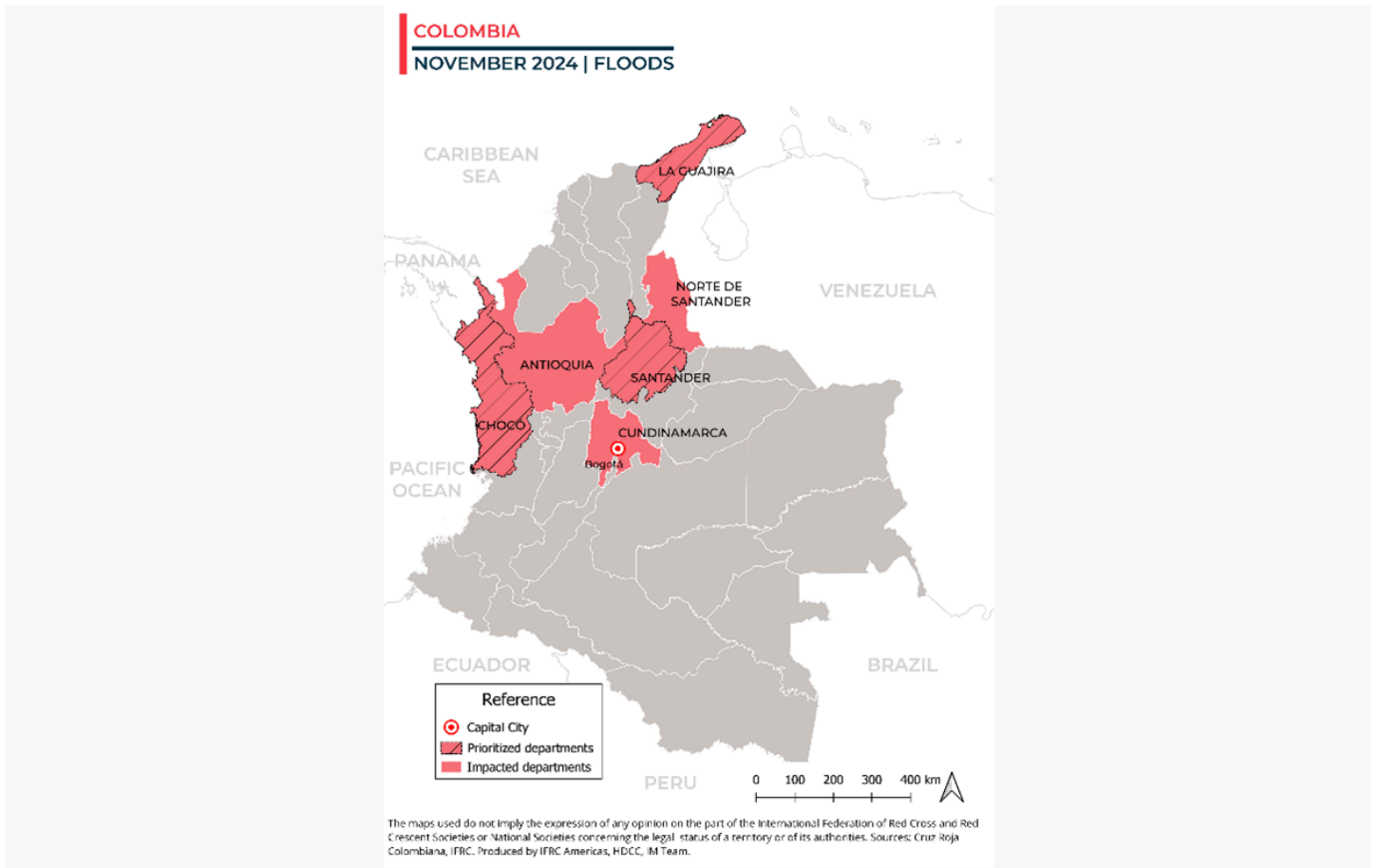
Floods in the Department of Choco, Colombia. November 2024. Source: Vanguardia.

Appeal: MDRCO028	Country: Colombia	Hazard: Flood	Type of DREF: Response
Crisis Category: Yellow	Event Onset: Sudden	DREF Allocation: CHF 450,016	
Glide Number: FL-2024-000214-COL	People Affected: 254,253 people	People Targeted: 8,000 people	
Operation Start Date: 21-11-2024	Operation Timeframe: 5 months	Operation End Date: 30-04-2025	DREF Published: 22-11-2024
Targeted Areas: Choco, La Guajira, Santander			

Description of the Event

Date of event

13-11-2024



Flood crisis categorization map in Colombia, developed by the IFRC.

What happened, where and when?

Timeline:

- 8 November 2024: Governor's Office of La Guajira issues Decree No. 0907 of 2024, declaring public calamity in the department.
- 8 November 2024: Mayor's Office of San Vicente de Chucurí municipality in the department of Santander issues Decree No. 0240 of 2024, declaring public calamity in the municipality following torrential floods.
- 9 November 2024: Governor of Chocó issues Decree No. 0282 of 2024, declaring public calamity in the department.
- 10 November 2024: The President of the Republic after convening a Unified Command Post (PMU), announced the decision to declare a National Disaster Situation due to climate variability.
- 11 November 2024: The Disaster Risk Manager of the department of Santander, after convening a Unified Command Post (PMU), announced public calamity in 56 municipalities.
- 13 November 2024: The President of the Republic issues Decree No. 1372 of 2024, declaring a National Disaster Situation.

The second rainy season in Colombia extends between September and November, where rainfall is more prolonged and constant, especially in the Andean region. In coastal areas, rainfall is also frequent, varying in intensity according to the region, influenced by climatic factors such as altitude, proximity to the sea and climatic phenomena such as La Niña. Additionally, during this season, the Caribbean region will experience the Tropical Cyclone Season, which may aggravate risk scenarios for the population. According to IDEAM's climate forecast report, a 71% ENSO La Niña phase is expected, which could last until the first quarter of 2025, altering conditions in the Caribbean, Pacific and Andean regions. Preliminary data from the National Risk Management Unit (UNGRD) indicates that during the last quarter more than 250 thousand people have been affected by adverse events derived from heavy rains. So far, the departments of Chocó, Antioquia, Santander, La Guajira and Cundinamarca have been significantly affected, aggravating the conditions of food security, safe access to drinking water, health and housing. The department of Chocó is the most affected.

In particular, the most recent situation report from the Governor's Office of Chocó informs that, due to the effects of the last few days, at least 27 municipalities are in an emergency situation, caused by heavy rains and the collapse of three river basins - Alto y Medio Baudó, the Atrato river basin and the San Juan river basin - (PMU Chocó). The department of La Guajira has been strongly impacted by the passage of Hurricane Rafael, as heavy rainfall has caused flooding in the municipalities of Uribia, Riohacha, Maicao, Manure and Dibulla (PMU La Guajira). It is important to note that both departments have limited resources that limit adequate and immediate attention to all the victims, which is aggravated by the needs that the country is presenting in the rest of the territory.

Meanwhile, in the department of Santander, the Las Cruces stream rose, causing a torrential flood in the municipality of San Vicente de Chucurí, where so far it has been reported that five houses have collapsed, fifteen houses have been affected, four bridges and other tertiary roads have collapsed, the infrastructure of the municipal aqueduct has been affected, one person died and two people are missing (PMU Santander). Due to the increasing rains in the department of Norte de Santander, the Disaster Risk Management Office has declared maximum alert in 20 municipalities, where landslides, floods, damage to crops and household goods have occurred. In Antioquia, 87 municipalities are on alert for landslides and 9 municipalities have been affected by floods. In addition, the District Institute for Risk Management and Climate Change (IDIGER) of Bogota has reported the occurrence of 56 events in the last hours, in relation to the heavy rains that have occurred in the capital of the country, highlighting 16 floods, 23 reports of damage to utility networks, 3 situations due to mass movements, among others.

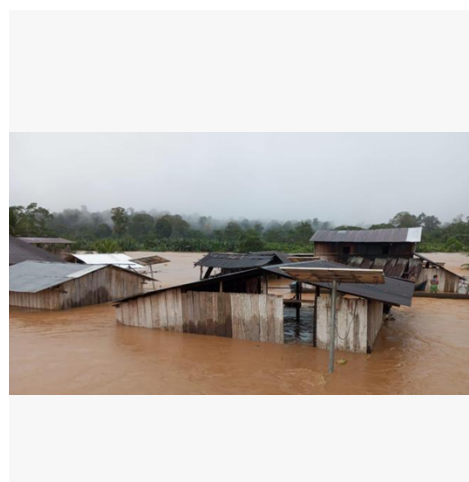
This scenario indicates that the effects will continue to increase during the next quarter, which requires the institutions that are part of the National Disaster Risk Management System to take response actions to meet the needs of the affected people in the country and mitigate the negative effects of heavy rains and floods.



Humanitarian assistance through food kits. Colombian Red Cross, November 2024. Quibdó, Choco department.



Volunteer of Colombian Red Cross delivering humanitarian assistance. Quibdó, Choco. November 2024.



Floods in Choco, November 2024. Source: Eltiempo.com.

Scope and Scale

The risk scenarios identified that are already affecting several regions of the country are: floods, mass movements, torrential floods, thunderstorms and hailstorms. IDEAM reports that more than 75% of the country's municipalities are at risk due to rains. The most serious situation is in the department of Chocó, where more than 80% of the department has been affected by flooding, due to the collapse of water sources as a result of the heavy rains of the last few days, with the aggravating factor that there is also a restriction to mobility in the department due to the armed strike that is taking place in the area. On the other hand, the effects left by tropical storm Rafael after its passage through the Colombian Caribbean has generated significant damages in the department of La Guajira, which is added to the families affected by the strong winter wave.

Additionally, the IDEAM has reported that at least 20 departments of the country are under Red Alert due to landslides, where Antioquia, Chocó and Santander top the list regarding people affected and the department of Cundinamarca has at least 8 municipalities under Red Alert and 32 municipalities under Orange Alert. In this sense, it is estimated that the increase in precipitation above the reference climatology will continue during the next quarter, which will cause an increase in the number of reported damages in the country.

As of 12 November 2024, according to the National Consolidated Report of the UNGRD more than 56 thousand families have been affected in the country, with a total of 254,253 people affected across 27 of the 32 departments of the country, in a total of 192 municipalities with the highest number of damages occurring during the last week of November

Summary of the affected departments and people in need

DEPARTAMENT	FAMILIES	PEOPLE
CUNDINAMARCA	414	1,080
CHOCO	40,675	199,870
LA GUAJIRA	6,054	22,493
VALLE DEL CAUCA	77	327
CAUCA	51	221
HUILA	36	152
CALDAS	375	1,435
NORTE DE SANTANDER	18	90
ANTIOQUIA	1,092	4,353
SANTANDER	533	2,447
RISARALDA	48	200
MAGDALENA	595	2.381
BOLIVAR	2,793	3,636
NARIÑO	546	1,724
ATLANTICO	2,384	9,335
QUINDIO	33	43
CORDOBA	65	165
CASANARE	15	60
BOYACA	50	180
AMAZONAS	535	2,640
SUCRE	60	290
CESAR	0	0
CAQUETA	16	84
SAN ANDRES	250	1,000
META	3	15
TOLIMA	8	32
ARAUCA	0	0
Total	56,726	254,253

Source: UNGRD, 12 November 2024

Due to the magnitude of the floods, the extent and local capacities among the departments mentioned above, the departments that have reported the most damage and people in need in the last week are Choco (199,870 people), La Guajira (22,493 people) and Santander (2,447 people), representing at least 224,810 people with the greatest needs. The department of Antioquia has also been significantly affected, but some needs have already been covered with local capacities.

The municipalities that have reported the greatest damage in these departments are:

- Chocó: Alto Baudó, Atrato, Bagadó, Bahía Solano, Bajo Baudó, Bojayá, Carmen del Darién, Litoral de San Juan, itsmina, Juradó, Medio Atrato, Rio Quito, Riosucio, Nóvita, Unguía, Lloró, El Cantón de San Pablo, Nuquí, Medio San Juan.
- La Guajira: Manaure, Maicao, Riohacha, Uribia, Dibulla.
- Santander: San Vicente de Chucurí.

In addition to the above, it is important to mention that the department of Chocó is part of one of the poorest regions in Colombia, with the greatest social inequalities, food insecurity, lack of resources and presence of several irregular armed groups.

Historically, Colombia, according to its topographic characteristics and its hydrometeorological regime, has large areas susceptible to flooding, and according to the IDEAM climate forecast, for November a prediction of rainy above-normal category is expected in areas of most of the departments that make up the national territory with probabilities between 45% and 70%. In addition, during the month of December an above-normal category is expected in large areas of the national and insular Caribbean territory with probabilities between 45% and 60%; and probabilities equal to or higher than 70% will be concentrated between the Caribbean region and the center of the Andean region.

Among the population mainly affected are families located in rural areas and areas of difficult access, whose livelihoods are based on agricultural sources; families in a situation of multiple affectation, which hinders their access to basic needs and access to assistance and health services for the elderly and people with mobility limitations; as well as families located in areas of informal urbanization and/or located in risk areas, affectation and loss of social infrastructure is identified. In addition to the above, this emergency has been aggravated in the Colombian Caribbean region because of the hurricane season.



Source Information

Source Name	Source Link
1. Decree No. 1372 of 2024, declaring a National Disaster Situation	https://www.presidencia.gov.co/Documents/241113-Decreto-1372-13-de-noviembre-2024.pdf
2. Decree No. 0907 of 2024, declaring public calamity in La Guajira department	https://www.laguajira.gov.co/Prensa/SaladePrensa/Paginas/gobernacion-declara-calamidad-publica-ante-emergencia-invernal-y-paso-de-la-tormenta-tropical-rafael.aspx
3. Decree No. 0282 of 2024, declaring public calamity in the Chocó department	https://www.choco.gov.co/normatividad/decreto-no-0282-de-2024--declaracion-de-calamidad
4. Daily Technical Report on Hydrometeorological Conditions, Warnings and Forecasts (ITD)	https://www.ideam.gov.co/sala-de-prensa/boletines/ultimo/Informe-T%C3%A9cnico-Diario-de-Condiciones-Hidrometeorol%C3%B3gicas,-Alertas-y-Pron%C3%B3sticos-(ITD)
5. Short-, medium- and long-term climate prediction report	https://www.ideam.gov.co/sala-de-prensa/boletines/Informe-de-predicci%C3%B3n-clim%C3%A1tica-a-corto,-mediano-y-largo-plazo
6. PMU conclusions in San Vicente de Chucurí, Santander	https://caracol.com.co/2024/11/10/conclusiones-del-pmu-en-san-vicente-de-chucuri/
7. Reports, Rainy season 2024, UNGRD	http://201.130.16.28:8080/HOME/HOME#

Previous Operations

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

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

-

Lessons learned:

The Colombian Red Cross Society has implemented several DREF operations to address flooding emergencies, including MDRCO021 in 2022 (targeting the departments of Sucre, Bolívar, and Magdalena), MDRCO022 in 2022/2023 (targeting the departments of Cauca, Cundinamarca, Huila, La Guajira, and Valle del Cauca), and MDRCO024 in 2023/2024 (targeting the departments of Atlántico, Bolívar, and Magdalena).

While previous flooding events have affected some of the same regions, this DREF operation will focus on Chocó, La Guajira, and Santander. Among these, only La Guajira was previously targeted in 2022, but the prioritized municipalities and communities differ in the current operation.

Furthermore, past DREF operations have provided valuable lessons at both the administrative and operational levels:

The advancement of funds from the National Society's emergency fund for the implementation of activities has been a good practice in the past and has been used on this occasion to advance the implementation of activities in Choco.

The elaboration of a specific action plan to respond to floods, identifying and prioritizing lines of action by sector, budget, among other actions, is a good coordination and implementation practice that has been put into practice on this occasion.

In previous DREFs, at the level of implementation in the WASH sector, the need to add a cloth and a brush to the family water treatment kits to improve the cleaning practices of the water filters and increase their useful life has been evidenced. In line with the Movement's mandate to develop sustainable solutions that enhance community resilience in response to emergencies and disasters, the provision of family water treatment kits is seen not only as a solution to an immediate problem but also as a means of providing long-lasting tools that will benefit the community over time. This practice has been taken into account for this operation.

The incorporation of needs assessments at the beginning of the operation, rapid deployment of response teams and dispatch of available humanitarian assistance is another lesson learned that has been identified in previous operations and has been realized in this operation.

Socialization prior to the start of the DREF Operation with the Sections where the actions are planned to be developed, facilitates a better articulation and execution of the activities in each line of intervention, which allows speeding up the work with the communities and territorial entities.

Finally, the importance of conducting a field visit prior to planning the operation is recognized, which will facilitate that the operational strategy is oriented through primary sources of observation and that coordination at the local level is ensured so that administrative needs are covered in a timely manner.

Current National Society Actions

Start date of National Society actions

10-11-2024

Livelihoods And Basic Needs	<p>250 family food kits were sent to Choco and are currently being distributed, these costs will also be re-covered by this operation.</p> <p>Additionally, the Norte de Santander Branch, by their own means, has begun to deliver Emergency Humanitarian Assistance, including 200 hygiene kits, 200 food kits, 200 kitchen kits and 200 night kits.</p>
Water, Sanitation And Hygiene	<p>70 family water filters and 350 family hygiene kits have been sent to Choco and are in distribution. The costs of these will be recovered by this operation.</p> <p>An additional 2,000 hygiene kits are expected to be included under the agreement with Ecopetrol, and the National Society is in the process of facilitating their delivery.</p> <p>A water purification plant is ready to be activated in Choco.</p>
Coordination	<p>The National President and the National Executive Director of the Colombian Red Cross lead the coordination, guidelines and actions that will be part of the Action Plan for the response.</p> <p>The Colombian Red Cross has developed a Movement Meeting to review technical and financial capacities of the IFRC network.</p> <p>Participation in the National Crisis Room, National Disaster Management Committee and National Unified Command Post convened by the UNGRD.</p>



Assessment	On 12 November, the Disaster Management Officer, together with a team from the Colombian Red Cross, traveled to the municipality of Quibdó, department of Chocó, one of the most affected municipalities, to verify the impact in the department, support the Branch in humanitarian assistance and review the operational aspects necessary to continue the National Society's Response Plan in the other municipalities of the department.
Activation Of Contingency Plans	The Colombian Red Cross has activated its Contingency Plan for the second Rainy Season at the National and Branch levels to provide humanitarian assistance to affected and vulnerable communities due to flooding, as well as to guide its action plan for the response.
National Society EOC	<p>The Colombian Red Cross has activated the Crisis Room at the national and Branch levels.</p> <p>The Information and Telecommunications Center (CITEL) is monitoring and validating the conditions of the departments with Red Alert, in coordination with IDEAM and NOAA.</p> <p>The Colombian Red Cross has prepared 3 SITREPs with updated information on the emergency.</p>
Other	<p>350 kitchen kits and 400 sleeping kits consisting of 400 hammocks and 400 mosquito-nets are also being distributed. These costs will also be re-covered by this operation.</p> <p>Deployment in Communication network such as Caracol and RCN to share the current actions developed by the NS.</p>

IFRC Network Actions Related To The Current Event

Secretariat	<p>The IFRC Country Delegation in Colombia provides support to the Colombian Red Cross in finance, operations, PMER, internal coordination with in-country Movement partners and external coordination with the humanitarian country team.</p> <p>For this emergency, IFRC team in Colombia supported the formulation of this DREF operation and provided inputs for the construction of the National Response Plan to the adverse events caused by the current rainy season in the country.</p> <p>In addition, support is being provided to identify the departments and municipalities with the greatest needs, gaps and priority actions.</p>
Participating National Societies	<p>Participating National Societies present in the country -American, German, Spanish and Norwegian Red Cross-, together with the Colombian Red Cross, have convened a meeting of Movement partners to define the lines of support and coordination within the Response Plan.</p> <p>The German Red Cross is supporting the National Society with humanitarian assistance kits and has made available a mobile health unit to provide health services if needed.</p> <p>The Norwegian Red Cross has made available a rapid health response team in case additional health actions are required.</p> <p>The Spanish Red Cross and the American Red Cross are following the identification of needs to support the National Society response.</p> <p>The Canadian, Italian and Swedish Red Cross are currently monitoring the situation.</p>



ICRC Actions Related To The Current Event

The ICRC has presence in the country and develops coordination actions with the Colombian Red Cross through its Operational Partnership Agreement. For this intervention, it is planned to coordinate with the ICRC to ensure that security conditions and Safer Access are present for the intervention of staff and volunteers of the National Society in the field.

Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<p>Government has requested international assistance</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>National authorities</p>	<p>On 10 November 2024, the President of the Republic led the National Unified Command Post, where the declaration of national disaster due to climate variability was approved, and on 13 November Decree No. 1372 of 2024 was issued.</p> <p>In Chocó and La Guajira, the departmental government declared a Public Calamity for six months, in order to prioritize the attention to the affected communities. The distribution of the first Emergency Humanitarian Assistance kits is expected to begin in the department.</p> <p>Several unified command posts (PMU) have been set up at the national, departmental and local levels in the departments of Choco, La Guajira and Santander to monitor the impact of the emergency and coordinate actions on the ground.</p> <p>The National Army, as well as the Aerospace Forces of Colombia have deployed efforts to assist the government delivery of humanitarian aid in the most affected communities.</p>
<p>UN or other actors</p>	<p>The Quibdó OCHA Office, in coordination with the local coordination team, have developed Sitrep No. 1, which identifies the primary humanitarian needs faced by the department and its affected municipalities.</p> <p>Some food banks in major cities in Colombia are channeling food assistance kits to Choco and Guajira, however, the needs remain enormous due to the number of people affected.</p>

Are there major coordination mechanism in place?

At the national level, the National Unit for Disaster Risk Management is the institution in charge of coordinating the response to the emergency together with the National System. In this case, the President of the Republic has made the decision to announce his interest in issuing a National Disaster Decree due to the critical effects caused by climate variability, where the increase in rainfall above its reference margin has generated great effects in a large part of the national territory, mainly in the departments of Chocó, La Guajira, Cundinamarca and Santander.

The Colombian Red Cross is part of the following coordination mechanisms; at the Movement level, the Crisis Room of the National Society is developed together with the Branches to coordinate the operation, and Movement coordination meetings are also held with the participation of the IFRC, ICRC and the PNSs present in the country (German, American, Spanish and Norwegian RC), to deepen efforts as a Movement.

The Colombian Red Cross participates in the Unified Command Post (PMU) and Territorial Disaster Risk Management Councils in the departments; through the leadership of the UNGRD. The Colombian Red Cross together with other response institutions and scientific and technical monitoring institutions, such as the IDEAM, also participates in the National Crisis Rooms, National Disaster Committee and coordination spaces at the Departmental and Municipal levels, which allow the National Society to make decisions based on evidence and knowledge.



Needs (Gaps) Identified



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Floods and torrential floods that have occurred in the country have mainly caused damage to homes and settlements, particularly in the departments of Chocó, La Guajira and Santander. According to the latest updates presented by the UNGRD, in the department of Chocó, 3,596 houses have been preliminarily affected in 6 municipalities. According to the data supplied by the UNGRD, in Quibdó 4 houses have been destroyed and 9 have been damaged; in Juradó several indigenous communities have been submerged, and several schools are severely damaged; in El Cantón de San Pablo 985 houses are damaged. The data presented evidence that the communities whose housing and settlements have been affected by the floods are in desperate need of assistance regarding temporary resettlement, provision of basic housing and shelter items, as well as the eventual recovery of their lost homes.

Additionally, it is imperative to consider that community centers, churches and schools, which are generally used as evacuation centers or temporary shelters, have been affected, flooded or destroyed. Therefore, it is necessary to consider the implementation of strategies for resettlement, infrastructure protection and eventual recovery of affected housing. The CRC notes that the UNGRD and other Humanitarian Actors present in the affected regions will focus on the collective shelter needs and recovery of the affected housing of the affected communities, whereas the CRC will provide the communities in need of sleeping kits (mosquito nets and hammocks).



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

The farming and agricultural sectors are highly vulnerable to flooding events, causing the loss of crops, livestock and other basic means of subsistence, which are necessary for the food security of families. The current floods have not only caused great economic losses for producer families, but may also affect consumers in these production chains, causing food insecurity in the most vulnerable communities. In addition, the floods have caused several municipalities in the country -especially in the departments of Chocó and Santander- to lose their belongings and basic necessities, and in some cases to completely lose their homes.

According to the data presented by different sources, such as OCHA and the UNGRD, nearly 49,321 families have been among the most affected. Additionally, it is important to note that in emergencies such as flooding, considering that the primary resources such as crops and livestock are in danger, and that the main roads can be affected, immediate food assistance is one of the prioritized lines of intervention. Therefore, the CRC takes the delivery of food kits as a priority.



Health

Floods and related events have caused an increase in Acute Diarrheal Disease (ADD) and Dengue, especially in the most affected municipalities in the department of Chocó. Additionally, it is important to note that reports updated until October 2024, note that the Department of Chocó is the most affected by Malaria outbreaks in Colombia, making the possible proliferation of this disease a point to consider in the detail risks assessment. In the department of La Guajira, it has been reported that it has been difficult to access health centers due to damage to road infrastructure or the impossibility of circulation due to flooding, generating isolation of communities and a consequent worsening of the health conditions of critically ill people.

Therefore, it is considered necessary to prioritize health care in municipalities where communities find it difficult to access and move around by their own means, due to their risk of developing inadequate hygiene practices that may increase their vulnerability to diseases.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Water supply infrastructures in municipal and rural areas are at risk of being affected by floods, causing difficulties in access to drinking water for the development of basic needs at the family level, for food, hydration and implementation of daily hygiene and sanitation practices. The departments most affected by the winter wave have reported significant damage to their aqueduct infrastructure, mainly those affected by torrential floods. Access to unreliable water sources represents a significant risk to people's health, especially as a potential cause of gastrointestinal diseases, skin diseases and vector-borne diseases.

Therefore, among the most urgent needs is safe access to water for human consumption and also for daily hygiene practices by the



affected communities and the most vulnerable population groups, as well as ensuring that the populations have technical information and knowledge to apply it in their homes, and the promotion of vector mitigation habits. Furthermore, in accordance with OCHA's Sitrep No. 1, a need for the delivery of hygiene items and menstrual hygiene products, as well as hygiene promotion sessions, has been identified.



Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

Floods are a frequent hazard in Colombia, increasingly exacerbated by the impacts of climate change. This highlights the need to validate and strengthen Community Risk Management Plans, as well as enhance the preparedness and knowledge of local actors, to build more resilient communities that are aware of the hazards and risks they face.

In light of the limited capacity of local authorities in the affected departments, it is essential to strengthen community committees and boards. Efforts should focus on promoting dialogue and actions related to family emergency plans, evacuation route identification, emergency coordination, response planning, and the development of climate-smart solutions.

Considering that the greatest impact of the current emergency has occurred during the last few days, it is necessary to validate the capacity of institutions in the process of disaster risk reduction, through the articulation with communities through early warning systems and climate adaptation actions, to ensure that recovery efforts have sustainability in the territory.



Environment Sustainability

Floods and torrential floods generate important needs for the recovery and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as the loss of the natural capacity of these systems to prevent hydrological risks. These events can affect the speed with which communities, which are mainly located in rural areas, reestablish their minimum conditions of dignity, where, for example, one of the main needs is to restore water sources that have been contaminated and the quality of water sources, among others.

Any identified gaps/limitations in the assessment

One of the primary limitations identified is restricted access to the affected areas. Flooding has caused significant mobility challenges, including collapsed or destroyed roads, navigation difficulties on maritime routes, and limited transportation capacity. Additionally, the presence of armed groups further complicates access.

Since 12 November, the Colombian Red Cross has deployed a national team to the Chocó department to support the branch in conducting a needs analysis. It is expected that the number of affected people will continue to rise in the most severely impacted areas as the operation progresses.

Operational Strategy

Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF allocation, the Colombian Red Cross aims at supporting 8,000 people (2,000 families) in need affected by the floods in the departments of Choco, La Guajira and Santander for 5 months, through the implementation of actions in the sectors of Shelter, Housing and Settlements, Livelihoods and basic needs, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Disaster Risk Reduction and Community Engagement and Accountability.

Operation strategy rationale

This IFRC-DREF Operation will support the Action Plan "Floods 2024", developed by the Colombian Red Cross, to respond to the negative effects caused by the heavy rains in the country, to be developed during 2024 and part of 2025. To achieve greater coverage and avoid duplication of people reached through the prioritized sectors, activities are carried out in different municipalities. This response strategy seeks to reach the most affected people in the most affected municipalities in the prioritized departments.

Due to the institutional trajectory and recognition of the Colombian Red Cross in the communities, humanitarian access is a privileged condition to reach the communities.



This operational strategy aims to support and complement the response of the National Unit for Risk Management in the communities most affected. For example, the WASH sector will address gaps in the ongoing response that are not covered by the government. With the support of Red Cross Movement partners in the country, the CRC will complement emergency humanitarian assistance and health actions.

The description of the intervention includes:

To better understand the needs, the National Society will conduct a multisectoral needs assessment in the three departments to better understand the needs and gaps in the communities and inform decision-making.

SHELTER, HOUSING AND SETTLEMENTS

At the moment, collective shelters have not been established, in such case the national unit for risk management is the one who would coordinate and lead the assistance in such spaces by government mandate, if necessary the NS could support with complementary services such as health with the support of other partners of the movement. The sleeping kits and kitchen sets procured through this DREF will be a replenishment to NS actions.

The Colombian Red Cross will procure and distribute sleeping kits, which include hammock and mosquito net (2 per family), for the families affected by the floods that are still in their homes or in the homes of family members. These kits are expected to be distributed mainly to the indigenous population prioritized in the needs assessments.

Kitchen kits will be distributed to families who have lost their kitchen items, prioritization will be done taking into account the criteria for prioritizing the target population described below, focusing on those who have not received assistance from the government or other partners.

LIVELIHOODS AND BASIC NEEDS

With the aim to ensure the food security and basic needs of the families affected by floods. Procurement and distribution of family food kits to the families affected by the floods will be developed by the Colombian Red Cross, in accordance with the administrative processes established. These families will also take part in the delivery of water filters. A family food kit can cover the food needs of a family of 4 people for one week.

WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE

The Colombian Red Cross Society has pre-positioned a water treatment plant in department of Chocó to be mobilized and operational. The water treatment plant will be deployed to the municipalities selected, depending on the following criteria:

The manifest need of the municipalities.

The level of affectation of the area to be served.

The municipality must ensure the safety of the equipment.

The water quality of the effluent must be suitable for human consumption and can be obtained by means of primary treatment.

The municipality ensures the safe distribution of water, in terms of quality.

For the operation of this plant, institutional transport is required to allow the transfer of the plant, equipment and supplies necessary for the operation. Likewise, two laboratory tests are required to characterize the water, both before and after treatment. Maintenance for the treatment plant and the mobilization of a water tanker to support the distribution of water in each treatment system have also been budgeted for.

For the other activities, a variable team of volunteers is planned, who will be in charge of delivering the elements for water treatment at the household level and the activities corresponding to hygiene promotion. This team will receive support to cover the costs of transport, accommodation, food, walking allowance and will be provided with personal protection items such as safety boots, work gloves, nitrile gloves, goggles, face shields, sunscreen and repellent.

Family kits for household water storage and treatment will be distributed (50-litre water storage tank, 20-litre water canister for transport and family filter). This kit can be provided to families who have a water source that alternatively supplies water for their daily activities but require elements that allow them to maintain or improve the characteristics of the water they receive. The duration of these kits is greater than 6 months and in the best case several years depending on the care of the water filter which will improve with the addition of a cleaning kit (cloth and brush) and the awareness of people in the care of the same, so its cost is quite small compared to the functionality, utility and durability of the same.

Through the proposed actions, the Colombian Red Cross Society aims to produce approximately 1,800,000 liters of water in two months of operation. With the home treatment kits, 8,000 people (2,000 families) are expected to take care of their health by having access to safe water.

Finally, prevention and promotion of hygiene and basic sanitation will be carried out to optimize the use of water, control vectors and minimize skin diseases and STDs that can occur due to water quality.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

All planned activities will be carried out with the active participation of community leaders and in coordination with the Municipal Administration, in order to promote the active participation of the community and decision making in order to select the different alternative solutions, their adequate use to supply their basic needs in an adequate and quality way, with acceptance and giving sustainability to the elements or equipment delivered to the communities. During the awareness-raising and community hygiene promotion days, spaces will be provided so that people from the community can express their doubts, recommendations, complaints or claims. A contact will be provided so that they can communicate continuously during the operation and after the end of the intervention.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

In all components, seeking to respond adequately to the needs of the affected population, the intervention will adopt a differentiated approach to ensure that it effectively addresses the specific needs of women, children and other vulnerable groups, where applicable, in line with the principles of inclusion and non-discrimination.

NATIONAL SOCIETY STRENGTHENING

A virtual refresher and awareness sessions for the national and branch staff of the National Society, including administrative staff to ensure timely settlements and adherence to IFRC-DREF guidelines during the emergency operation. It is estimated that the IFRC Colombia Delegation will provide constant support and follow-up to ensure the National Society receives updated information about the implementation of this operation.

A Lessons Learned Workshop will be held with the branches on the response, which will present the experiences and the actions that were implemented in the territories.

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

The actions proposed for this operation are framed within the Response Lines that make up the Colombian Red Cross Society's Action Plan "Floods, 2024", which includes the following Lines of Action: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health, Food Security, Livelihoods, Cash Transfers, Community Resilience and Risk Communication, among others. The DREF operation will be articulated with actions supported through other funds.

Due to the timing of the emergency and the capacities of the Colombian Red Cross on the ground with the support of other partners of the movement in Colombia, health actions were not prioritized in this operation as these needs could be covered with other funds, also for the cash sector whose implementation is quite complex especially in the department of Choco. Also, bearing in mind that not all families need all the emergency humanitarian assistance kits available, as some can be reached by the government or food banks, the analysis for the distribution of the kits will be done as the needs analysis is carried out with the communities.

Targeting Strategy

Who will be targeted through this operation?

This IFRC-DREF will prioritize attention to the most affected people in the departments of Choco, La Guajira and Santander mainly in rural and remote areas.

The departments and municipalities that have been prioritized within the framework of this operation have been carried out taking into account the presence of the Colombian Red Cross in the field, humanitarian access, logistical conditions, operational security, the presence of other humanitarian actors and other resources of the Colombian Red Cross with the support of other projects supported by Movement partners in Colombia.

In Chocó, 5 of the most affected municipalities have been prioritized (Bojayá, Riosucio, Jurado, Cantón de San Pablo, Quibdó) with the goal of reaching 1,500 families (6,000 people). This approach to the selection of municipalities has also been taken into account for the departments of La Guajira and Santander.

In La Guajira 3 municipalities will be prioritized (Maicao, Riohacha, Dibulla) with the goal of reaching 400 families (1,600 people).

As for Santander, the municipality of San Vicente de Chucurí will be prioritized, with the goal of reaching 100 families (400 people).

As the needs assessments progress, it is possible that the prioritized municipalities may be updated.



Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The criteria for prioritizing families and the population to be served are as follows:

- Families with children under 5 years old.
- Families with pregnant or breastfeeding women or adolescents.
- Families with members with special abilities (physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual) or with chronic or degenerative diseases that make it impossible for them to work.
- Families with two or more dependents per adult of working age and able to work (dependency ratio equal to or higher than 2); dependents are persons under 18 and over 60, and persons with disabilities.
- Persons at risk of protection (due to armed conflict)
- Single adult heads of household with dependent children.
- People over 60 years of age.

Priority will be given to families that have not been reached with humanitarian assistance by the national risk management unit or families that require additional and complementary support from the Colombian Red Cross.

Total Targeted Population

Women	3,200	Rural	57%
Girls (under 18)	960	Urban	43%
Men	3,120	People with disabilities (estimated)	1%
Boys (under 18)	720		
Total targeted population	8,000		

Risk and Security Considerations

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

Risk	Mitigation action
Health risks due to exposure to non-drinking water sources, determinants in the risk of burnout syndrome, exposure to gastrointestinal diseases and vectors that cause diseases such as Dengue, Zika, Chikungunya and Malaria.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strict use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for volunteers and staff supporting the operation. - Attention to self-care and public health measures for National Society staff.
Security risks due to the presence of armed actors in the area, especially in the department of Choco, where there is currently an armed strike in some of the department's municipalities and therefore armed confrontations can be a risk to the access of some areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ensure that all personnel have the required insurance before their deployment and have taken the security training courses required by the IFRC. -Induction and prior training in Operational Security, delivery of the 1000 Series Manual to the Branches and Operational personnel involved. -Operational communication with the delivery of the Humanitarian Intervention summary to be delivered by the CRC in the areas of intervention, as well as a proper briefing session before any mission. -Prior security monitoring with the support of the ICRC at the local and national level. -Institutional visibility and identification, through the provision of Red Cross flags as indicative and protective flags for all vehicles used in the operation, as well as "No Weapons" stickers for institutional vehicles. -Continuous reporting and monitoring during the development of humanitarian intervention activities.

Risks of access to some communities. Given the conditions of flooding, landslides and other events related to the rainy season, the mobility of the teams in the field may be limited, causing delays in the execution of some of the planned actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An initial field survey ensured that there are currently ways to access the communities by river and land means of transportation in accordance with the current conditions of the territory. - Coordination with river authorities operating in the area is proposed. - Synergy with the UNGRD and the Municipal DRM Councils.
Administrative and supply chain risks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of compliance measures with suppliers in relation to the logistics processes linked to the contract.

Please indicate any security and safety concerns for this operation

Currently, the affected area of the Department of Choco is involved in armed conflict scenarios, such as the armed strike led by the National Liberation Army (ELN) guerilla, which is still ongoing to date. For this reason, the Colombian Red Cross has monitored the minimum-security conditions and the current humanitarian assistance delivery efforts carried out in the Department have not presented any security contingency. The National Society has the acceptance of all parties and therefore has guaranteed safe access to the affected area, maintaining constant monitoring if any new developments occur to activate its action protocol, which includes prevention and security measures for personnel on the ground.

All the actions developed by the Colombian Red Cross and other Movement members present in the territory are obliged to follow the security norms, protocols and procedures, as well as the compliance of the Movement Principles. To ensure this, the Operational Security Manual (Serie 100) will be applied, as well as the provisions established on the Tripartite Agreement between the IFRC, the ICRC and The Colombian Red Cross.

Has the child safeguarding risk analysis assessment been completed?

No

Planned Intervention



Shelter Housing And Settlements

Budget: CHF 25,198
Targeted Persons: 2,200

Indicators

Title	Target
# of families reached with sleeping kits	200
# of families reached with kitchen kits	350

Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of the sleeping kits, which include hammock and mosquito net (2 kits per family), to the families affected by the floods
- Procurement and distribution of kitchen kits for families affected by floods.



Livelihoods And Basic Needs

Budget: CHF 52,133



Targeted Persons: 8,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of families reached with food kits	2,000

Priority Actions

- Procurement and distribution of family food kits to the families affected by the floods. These families will also take part in the delivery of water filters.



Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Budget: CHF 244,652

Targeted Persons: 8,000

Indicators

Title	Target
# of water treatment plants deployed	1
# of liters of drinking water delivered through mobilization and operation of mobile water treatment plants	1,800,000
# of families reached with water transportation, storage and treatment kits	2,000
# of families reached with hygiene kits	350

Priority Actions

- Identification of the target population
- WASH needs analysis and water quality analysis
- Delivery of drinking water produced by mobile Drinking Water Treatment Plant
- Training of volunteers in the management of the water plant
- Operation and maintenance of water treatment plant
- Distribution of kits with elements for household water treatment and storage
- Distribution of Hygiene kits.
- Water quality testing.



Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Budget: CHF 0

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
# of documents formulated with the risk analysis for the protection of children within the framework of the operation	1

Priority Actions

- Preparation of the Child Protection Risk Analysis document



Community Engagement And Accountability

Budget: CHF 3,053

Targeted Persons: 100

Indicators

Title	Target
# of rapid context and needs analysis of the communities in the prioritized departments	3
# of activated feedback mechanisms	1
# of staff/volunteers oriented (Refresher training) on CEA and community feedback mechanism	30
# of people participating in community focus group and interviews for feedback	100

Priority Actions

- Rapid context and needs analysis (1 per department)
- Activate a feedback mechanism to receive and address complaints from communities
- Conduct virtual refresher sessions and orientation on Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) for volunteers and staff



Secretariat Services

Budget: CHF 20,108

Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
# of need assessment visits conducted	2
# of monitoring visits conducted	3
# of Surge deployments	1

Priority Actions

- Need assessment visits
- Monitoring visits
- Surge deployment - 1x Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer



National Society Strengthening

Budget: CHF 104,872



Targeted Persons: 0

Indicators

Title	Target
# of national intervention teams deployed	4
# of field missions conducted by the communications team	2
# of monitoring visits	6
# of volunteers that receive uniforms and PPE for their activities	80
# of lessons learned workshops	1
# of staff trained on DREF guidelines and aware of the standard procedures	30

Priority Actions

- Deployment of 4 NIT volunteers (Choco: 1 general, 1 IM, and 1 WASH) (La Guajira: 1 general).
- Production of communication videos that highlight the scale of the emergency, share personal life stories, and illustrate the impact of the intervention.
- Recruit and deploy all locally based operational staff at both the National Headquarters (NHQ) and branch levels
- Conduct monitoring visits to identify gaps and good practices.
- Ensure all volunteers have visibility and PPE throughout the operation.
- Conduct lessons learned workshop to capture insights and improvements.
- Conduct virtual refresher and awareness sessions for the national and branch staff of the National Society, including administrative staff to make sure the timely settlement and follow the IFRC-DREF guidelines during the emergency operation.

About Support Services

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

Approximately 80 volunteers from the prioritized branches will be involved in the implementation of this IFRC-DREF Operation by supporting the activities in the field with total availability in the activities for which they are called and programmed.

The Colombian Red Cross Society has an insurance plan through the policyholder, the National Disaster Risk Management Unit (UNGRD), which includes Civil Defense, Firefighters, and CRCS volunteers. The insurance covers CRCS volunteers through life and accident insurance through Law 782 of 2002 with Decree 2012 of 2003. This insurance is renewed periodically, and the CRC receives the respective documentation.

Additionally, the staff directly supported by IFRC-DREF funding include:

- 1x National Coordinator with 100% dedication to the project, who will be responsible for managing the administrative, technical, and operational implementation of the project; ensuring the implementation of the response cycle and the execution of the technical and financial objectives of this Fund.
- 1x Accounting Assistant Personnel with 100% dedication to the project, who will be responsible for the financial records in the Financial Information System managed by the Colombian Red Cross Society, monthly reconciliations, review of budgets, and support in the consolidation of financial information.
- 1x National Administrative Assistant Staff with 100% dedication to the project, will be responsible for accompanying the legalization process and financial follow-up, and procurement management.
- 2x Local Administrative Assistants Technical staff contracted for the project in percentage and proportionally with the preparation hired per 2 moths. They will support activities in the branches with 100% dedication to the project. Responsible for facilitating the technical and administrative development of the activities in their branches, accompanying the volunteers on a more constant basis.
- 4 NIT (national intervention team) 2 specialized in disaster risk management, 1 in Information Management, and 1 in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, with 100% dedication to the operation.



Staff supporting the operation funded by own resources:

- 1x Disaster/Crisis Management Manager: Technical leader and strategic articulator with the internal and external actors involved in the humanitarian response, who provides the operation with implementation supervision. 20% dedication to the project.
- 1x National WASH Programme Officer: Officer responsible for supporting the WASH component in the technical, professional and operational aspects required according to the needs of the operation with 30% dedication to the project.
- 1x Professional accountant: Professional responsible for ensuring the orderly reporting of the financial and accounting status of the project, including the balance of income, expenses, and legalization of the operation's resources with 15% dedication to the project.
- 1x Project Portfolio Officer: Member of the Project team responsible for ensuring the correct formulation of the IFRC-DREF, the relationship with the Partner, and the verification that it is managed in compliance with the administrative, technical, and financial rules of the Colombian Red Cross Society with 15% dedication to the project.
- 1x PMER Officer: Member of the Project team responsible for developing the project monitoring plan, accompanying the management of information and technical committees, supporting the preparation of reports and validation of means of verification, and supporting the systematization of information obtained with 15% dedication to the project.

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

1x Surge Humanitarian Information Analysis Officer, will be deployed to support the evaluation phase and systematization of data for 2 months.

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

The Colombian Red Cross Society will carry out all procurement locally, following the procedures and protocols established in the contracting process and the National Society's quality management manual, and following the amounts and items detailed to ensure the eligibility of the resource. Suppliers will submit their quotations in accordance with the selection criteria managed by the Institution, which will be supported by a procurement plan that seeks access from the beginning of the intervention to the purchase of humanitarian assistance elements, according to their technical characteristics established by the Humanitarian Aid Standardization Manual of the National Disaster Risk Management System, focused on quality and quantity according to the identified needs of the community.

The mobilization of personnel and equipment will be based on the capacity of vehicles and equipment. However, to mobilize a large amount of material and due to the dynamics of the emergency area, it may eventually be necessary to hire and rent cargo vehicles.

How will this operation be monitored?

The Colombian Red Cross Society will have a Project Portfolio Officer and a PMER Officer to monitor the financial and technical execution of the IFRC-DREF Operation, through coordination with the implementing teams, monthly monitoring committees, data reporting, and validation of the means of verification, to categorize the state of progress of the activities, and the generation of internal alerts if deviations in the execution are identified that represent a compliance or reputational risk for the operation, and that require the adoption of measures and actions to remedy the delay in the activities.

Finally, monitoring visits will be carried out to the prioritized branches, with the objective of analyzing progress in the implementation of activities and the achievement of the expected result of the project, as well as identifying challenges, lessons learned, and unintended results obtained during its implementation. These visits will be led by the implementing team, in coordination to analyze progress in the implementation of activities and the achievement of the expected result of the project, as well as identification with the teams of the branches and in accompaniment with members of the IFRC Country Delegation for Colombia.

Please briefly explain the National Societies communication strategy for this operation

Institutional actions will be made visible through distinctive elements with the Colombian Red Cross Society emblem, which will facilitate the identification of the points available for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. These actions will be complemented by the collection of graphic material that will serve as inputs for the development of communication pieces that will be published on the social networks of the institution and the coordination spaces in which the review and validation of the processes developed at the humanitarian level are carried out. For this last aspect, the Colombian Red Cross Society Communications and Image Office will provide support. Finally, awareness-raising will be carried out with the prioritized communities, informing them about the implementation of the IFRC-DREF, as well as the actions and benefits of the assistance.



Budget Overview



DREF OPERATION

MDRCO028 - Colombian Red Cross Society Colombia: Floods

Operating Budget

Planned Operations	325,036
Shelter and Basic Household Items	25,198
Livelihoods	52,133
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	244,652
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	0
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	0
Community Engagement and Accountability	3,053
Environmental Sustainability	0
Enabling Approaches	124,980
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	20,108
National Society Strengthening	104,872
TOTAL BUDGET	450,016

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, Regional Communications Manager, susana.arroyo@ifrc.org

[Click here for the reference](#)

