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Emergency Plan of Action (EPoA) Ecuador: Civil Unrest (Potential Crisis)

 International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

DREF Operation MDREC009	
Date of issue: 12 August 2015	Date of disaster: 2 August 2015
Operation manager: Pabel Angeles – Regional Disaster Management Coordinator for South America	Point of contact: Paola Lopez - National Technical Response, Ecuadorian Red Cross (ERC)
Operation start date: 2 August 2015	Expected timeframe: 1 month
Overall operation budget: 55,281 Swiss francs (CHF)	
Number of people affected: Ongoing situation so figures are not clear at present.	Number of people to be assisted: Potential assistance to at least 2,000 people and support to 23 local Ecuadorian Red Cross branches.
Host National Society (no. of volunteers, staff, branches): National Ecuadorian Red Cross Headquarters; 24 Provincial Boards; 110 branches; 8,000 volunteers; 200 staff members	
Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners actively involved in the operation (if available and relevant): International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).	

[Click here for the DREF budget.](#) [Here for a map of the affected area.](#) [Here for the contact information](#)

A. Situation analysis

Description of the disaster

At the beginning of August, the indigenous communities from the area of Runakunapak Rikcharimuy called a national strike in the capital city of Quito for 13 August 2015, due to disagreements with government proposals. On 2 August, groups of protesters - primarily indigenous people - began marching from the south-eastern province of Zamora Chinchipe towards the capital city of Quito. The march has since passed through several cities including Loja, Zamora, Azuay, Cañar, Chimborazo, Tungurahua, Cotopaxi, Imbabura and Pichincha. Additionally, on 11 August, marches also started from the northern province of Imbabura and other union sectors are also joining the indigenous mobilization promoted by the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE) and the subsequent national strike announced by the United Workers Front. According to ongoing monitoring, the march is currently en route and some initial protesters are already reaching Quito. While the march proceeded peacefully in the first few days, incidents were reported on 7 August involving clashes with groups standing up against the mobilizations and the planned strike.

Ongoing monitoring conducted by the Ecuadorian Red Cross's telecommunication network reports that the marchers are continuing to move along the planned route, and confirmed that the official national strike was declared when protesters reached Salcedo and Latacunga on 10 August.

Over the past few months the socio-political situation in Ecuador has become increasingly tense, causing a level of uncertainty among the population that has generated an unstable situation, which could also continue and spread beyond the declared strike date of 13 August. Therefore, given its humanitarian role, the Ecuadorian Red Cross believes that it is essential and advisable, to be prepared to provide ongoing pre-hospital, first aid care to affected people and to be ready to respond to various possible scenarios.

Summary of current response

Overview of Host National Society

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has a National Office, 24 provincial branches, which in turn manage 110 local branches, 200 staff members and more than 8,000 volunteers across the country. Its humanitarian mandate includes projects and the provision of various care services to the population. The National Society's efforts are in line with its humanitarian mandate and with the Fundamental Principles and the Code of Conduct established by the Movement.

The presence of the National Society at many of the most emblematic instances of social conflict in the country and its provision of pre-hospital care to people during these events have been widely recognized. These events include the Indigenous Movements' mobilization in 1990, resulting in the first nationwide strike and subsequent ones in 1992, 1994, 1997 and 2000. The last two brought about changes at the political level.

Based on past and current contexts, the Ecuadorian Red Cross has drawn up a National Operational Plan that includes responding to various events at critical locations, such as population centres in provincial capitals, main access roads to the provinces, march routes from southern regions and places of mass concentration of people in Quito.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has been and continues to provide emergency pre-hospital care through its 23 branches, 40 ambulances and its response teams, which are comprised of 418 volunteers. The ERC will deploy its ambulances and staff to respond to any eventuality along the march route, in the capital and in the days and weeks after the strike. The National Society is continuing to monitor the situation and its branches are on alert, especially for the day of the strike.

23 branches covering the operation

Guayaquil Branch	Manabí Branch
Cuenca Branch	Carchi Branch
Pichincha Branch	Imbabura Branch
Cotopaxi Branch	Esmeraldas Branch
Santo Domingo Branch	Sucumbíos Branch
Tungurahua Branch	Orellana Branch
Chimborazo Branch	Cañar Branch
Bolívar Branch	Loja Branch
Pastaza Branch	El Oro Branch
Napo Branch	Zamora Branch
Los Ríos Branch	Morona Branch
Santa Elena Branch	

The National Society Headquarters have activated the National Technical Response Team, initially consisting of Telecommunications and Principles and Values, to provide information management follow-up and support to the Provincial Boards in Zamora, Loja, Azuay, Cañar, Chimborazo, Bolivar, Cotopaxi, Tungurahua, Pichincha and Imbabura through the Institutional Telecommunications, Operational Safety and Communications System. To this end, the inventory of resources and capacities of the Provincial Boards have been updated to help decide on the lines of action that will be taken and the support that will be needed depending on the events that may occur in each province.

The marches are being monitored by each Provincial Board's Telecommunications Centre and by ECU 911 (a comprehensive immediate response service for any given emergency in which the Red Cross is part of the National System for decentralized risk management) through National Society radio operators. This information is sent to the National Communications Centre, and is used to issue daily bulletins that track various events across the country. The Ecuadorian Red Cross has then been able to provide support and first aid care as required along the route.

While conducting response activities, the Ecuadorian Red Cross also held a training workshop to prepare response teams for any emergencies, and especially to prepare them for the day of the strike. This training was provided by National Society facilitators with support from the IFRC and the ICRC.

Overview of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement in country

The IFRC has a representation office in Peru that provides support to the Ecuadorian Red Cross and the Andean countries, as well as the Pan American Disaster Response Unit (PADRU), which is providing technical support and assistance to the operation. The IFRC PADRU regional disaster management coordinator for South America is on-site providing technical support to the National Society in terms of operational management, coordination and the development of the plan of action. The IFRC is assisting the National Society with the deployment of the Colombia Red Cross Society's Head of Security, who is providing technical assistance to review procedures and support to operational management during the national strike.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) through its regional office in Peru and Ecuador office (head of mission and team) is providing technical support to the National Society during its preparation for the operational management of security risks within the framework for a Safer access.

Movement Coordination

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is in permanent communication and coordination with the IFRC and ICRC. Regular meetings have been held to coordinate technical support and assistance for the operation.

Needs analysis, beneficiary selection, risk assessment and scenario planning

Taking into account the current situation in the country and the need to provide immediate and timely pre-hospital care in a neutral and impartial way to those people affected in the event of violence, the Ecuadorian Red Cross, is providing first aid care and is prepared to respond to more adverse scenarios if needed as per its humanitarian mandate. To do this, it requires further first aid supplies, personal protective equipment, as well as visibility material for volunteers, provincial branches and vehicles. In order to ensure the implementation of Safer Access and Keeping Safe standards in all its actions, it is essential to build National Society capacity through training courses and to reinforce technical and security capacities that are currently being utilised and may be required to respond to the various emergency situations during and after these demonstrations.

The National Society has already provided first aid care for injuries and trauma caused during the group clashes in several locations during the march. A further important factor being considered in the response is the presence of vulnerable people in the marches, such as children, older adults, people with disabilities and sick people and their particular needs. These mobilizations may cause related effects, such as dehydration, exhaustion, hypothermia, injuries to feet, cramp and heat stroke, among other things and this can be particularly extreme for these vulnerable groups.

Risk Assessment

Given the current uncertainty surrounding these demonstrations, the operation's implementation may be affected by situations of violence or clashes between different factions, which would increase pre-hospital care needs and jeopardize access to conflict areas and require the National Society to be flexible in its preparedness and response. Based on previous experience, there is also a real possibility that the tensions and violence could continue in the weeks immediately after the strike on the 13th.

B. Operational Plan and Strategy

Overall Objective

To provide immediate pre-hospital care to people requiring first aid care during the march and the mass gatherings.

Proposed Strategy

The strategy aims to support the Ecuadorian Red Cross operation currently being conducted according to the operation plan for such events and in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. All actions will be carried out according to the National Society's humanitarian mandate and to the Red Cross Movement's international guidelines for this type of context. Support from the DREF and complementary measures will allow the Ecuadorian Red Cross to provide first aid services and strengthen their response teams to address the situation.

The project will be led by the national disaster risk management coordinator in coordination with the president, executive secretariat and other areas of the Ecuadorian Red Cross.

Operational support services

Human resources

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has approximately 8,000 volunteers nationwide, of which 418 are active and have been mobilized in the provinces through which the social mobilizations are expected to march and in provinces on alert. Volunteers assisting in the operation have the profiles required to develop this operation and the basic security materials for visibility and to provide pre-hospital care. However, it is necessary to procure insurance and personal protective and visibility equipment for volunteers, such as:

Personal protective equipment

- Helmets
- Goggles and protective masks
- Gas masks
- Latex gloves

Visibility equipment

- Vests
- Uniforms

Logistics and supply chain

The procurement of all materials required will be handled according to procurement procedures of the Ecuadorian Red Cross, as well as quality control, transport and delivery to the Provincial Boards. Supplies and materials will be purchased locally, since all of them can be acquired in-country. These procedures have rigorous controls that measure quality, delivery time and guarantees offered by suppliers.

Materials and supplies purchased will be delivered to each Provincial Board to replenish the resources used and to ensure the minimum stock required while the provision of emergency care is ongoing.

Information Technology (IT)

The Ecuadorian Red Cross has a national telecommunications system; it operates under a central structure at the National Telecommunications Office, which coordinates and gathers information from Province and District Boards that have local telecommunication stations. In addition, it should be noted that the system is connected to the ECU 911 Integrated Security System, which has radio operators tracking and reporting on various events throughout the country.

In the event of an emergency, it also has the capacity to set up a basic mobile emergency telecommunications system to help internal operational communications, albeit for a short time and thus it is able to ensure the coordination of the initial emergency actions.

Communications

In accordance with emergency communications procedures, there are official spokespersons who must be kept updated regarding actions or emerging changes in scenarios in order to have complete information about the situation in general.

The Communications and Public Relations department issued a document to all Provincial Boards containing key messages and general information for both the designated spokespersons and volunteer staff in the field who could be approached by the media.

The National Institutional Communications Team is working on a permanent basis with Local Response Teams at the governmental and operations level to disseminate media management guidelines and procedures so as to minimize the risk of any obstacles to the delivery of information to the media at the local level.

It is important that all actors who may participate directly or indirectly during the mobilizations are aware of the Ecuadorian Red Cross's Operational Plan, mandate and Fundamental Principles, therefore the communications

strategy includes the preparation of a bulletin to be broadly disseminated to outline the National Society's position and work. The IFRC Communications Department is providing technical support and assistance to the communications strategy, and the IFRC communications officer will be deployed to support these activities.

Press releases will be issued as events unfold, sent to national media and uploaded onto the institutional website and social networks.

Security

For this operation, a security plan has been developed for the National Society that is based on the Safer Access and Keeping Safe operational security protocols and procedures. All mobilized personnel will be aware of the security guidelines. The National Society has appointed an operational security technician who is on permanent alert and monitoring operational activities and developments.

The response team will have the equipment, materials and resources to fulfil its humanitarian mission and ensure its visibility. While the National Society has insurance for volunteers at the country level, the DREF operation will provide access to the IFRC's insurance scheme to support the volunteers.

The Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values Department has prepared a document containing general guidelines to be followed by operational personnel while conducting field work, and an official document to be shared with the various social actors and public and private institutions in order to publicize Ecuadorian Red Cross efforts and the Fundamental Principles and Humanitarian Values that apply in situations of tension or crisis.

In order to support the security issues, the focal person in charge of security from the Colombian Red Cross Society will coordinate and provide support to the operation by providing advice, revising the security plan, procedures and following up with the response teams.

Planning, monitoring, evaluation, & reporting (PMER)

The national disaster risk management coordinator is responsible for the plan's implementation, and the coordinator will provide the appropriate monitoring. A report will be issued 30 days after the start of the operation and a final report at the end of the operation with the support of the Territorial Development Office and the Administrative/Financial Area Office, which are responsible for the management of established tracking, monitoring and evaluation protocols and procedures. This operation will conduct a lessons learned workshop, which will analyze strengths and aspects to improve so that these can be taken into account when updating plans and in future operations.

The IFRC's disaster management coordinator will continue to provide technical support, assistance and monitoring to the operation.

Administration and Finance

The Ecuadorian Red Cross will manage funds as per conditions laid down by the IFRC in the memorandum of understanding signed by both parties. National Society financial management will be according to its own financial and accounting procedures, for which it uses a flex line programme. The IFRC will provide technical assistance on the review, validation, justification and closing of financial processes as per the approved schedule.

C. DETAILED OPERATIONAL PLAN

Quality programming / Areas common to all sector

Objective	Indicators
Outcome 1: Continuous assessment and analysis is used to inform the design and implementation of the operation	No. of general and specific assessments
Output 1.1: Assessment of initial needs, operation management and operational security	No. of assessment reports and recommendations No. of situation reports
Output 1.2 : There is ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the situation and the plan of action	No. of monitoring visits No. of reports prepared No. of situational meetings
Outcome 2: The role and mission of the Ecuadorian Red Cross is recognized by the population, institutions, media and actors linked to the operation, facilitating and generating respect for its humanitarian actions.	No. of reports sent to other organizations No. of visits on National Society

		website			
Output 2.1: An emergency communications strategy is implemented.		No. of press releases and publications No. of media reports			
Activities	Weeks	1	2	3	4
Rapid scenario assessment by the National Society and the IFRC		X			
Review of action guidelines, procedures and protocols		X			
Assessment of the security situation		X			
Permanent assessment of the situation		X	X	X	X
Monitoring and tracking by the IFRC		X	X	X	X
Situation coordination meetings		X	X	X	X
Lessons learned workshop					X
Preparation of emergency communications strategy		X			
Dissemination and implementation of communications Strategy		X	X	X	X

Health and Care

Needs analysis:

Runakunapak Rikcharimuy indigenous communities are marching from the southern province of Loja toward the capital city of Quito and clashes have and are likely to continue along the way involving injuries to people, which will require the provision of first-aid care and/or transport to health care centres by Ecuadorian Red Cross. The National Society has been providing first aid and other care already on the route and is particularly focused on the needs of vulnerable groups such as children, older adults and chronically ill people who are also among the marchers and the effects of conditions such as dehydration, exhaustion, hypothermia, injuries to feet, cramp and heat stroke on them and other protesters. Other unions and additional groups are joining the demonstration in Quito on 13 August and the risk of further injuries and trauma cases requiring first aid or referral to health centres is likely to increase and need to be handled by the National Society,

The Ecuadorian Red Cross is providing pre-hospital care through its ambulances and volunteers to respond to emergencies en route and will continue to do this in the capital. Providing this care requires the replenishment of first aid materials and the provision of supplies to meet the increased demand. Volunteers also require further support and training, as well as protective and visibility equipment.

Population to be assisted: Pre-hospital care will be provided to any person requiring it in any situation that may arise. The capacity of 23 provincial branches will be built to allow them to provide care to those on the march, along the way, when they get to Quito and in the days immediately after the strike as required. 100 volunteers will be equipped with personal protective equipment and trained in managing crisis from the 23 branches.

Objective	Indicators				
Outcome 1: Immediate health risks to affected populations are reduced	No. of people served No. of events covered No. of participating volunteers				
Output 1.1: Affected population has timely pre-hospital care for injuries and sudden illnesses	No. of people receiving first aid				
Output 1.2: Psychosocial support is provided to mobilized volunteers	No. of volunteers that have psychosocial support				
Outcome 2: 23 branches and Ecuadorian Red Cross volunteers have equipment, visibility, and training in managing operations during crises, as well as in safer access to ensure sufficient first aid care to the affected population	No. of equipped branches No. of first aid treatments				
Output 2.1: Branches and volunteers have the resources, equipment and capacity to respond to the operation	No. of equipped volunteers No. of trained volunteers No. of training sessions				
Activities	Weeks	1	2	3	4
Pre-hospital care for injured population		X	X	X	X
Provision of first aid supplies to branches		X	X		
Group Psychosocial support (PSS) workshops for volunteers		X	X	X	X
Individual PSS for volunteers		X	X	X	X
Procurement of supplies and personal protective and visibility		X			

equipment for response teams				
Distribution of supplies and personal protective and visibility equipment to Provincial Boards		X		
Operational management, security and safer access training for response teams	X	X	X	X

Contact Information

For further information specifically related to this operation please contact:

In the Ecuadorian Red Cross:

- Roger Zambrano Cedeño, national disaster risk reduction director: rzambrano@cruzroja.ec
- Paola López, National Technical Response, email: respuesta@cruzroja.org.ec

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DREF OPERATION

MDREC009 - ECUADOR Civil Unrest

12/08/2015

DREF Grant
Budget CHF

Budget Group	DREF Grant Budget CHF
Shelter - Relief	0
Shelter - Transitional	0
Construction - Housing	0
Construction - Facilities	0
Construction - Materials	0
Clothing & Textiles	0
Food	0
Seeds & Plants	0
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	0
Medical & First Aid	15,846
Teaching Materials	0
Utensils & Tools	0
Other Supplies & Services	0
Cash Disbursements	0
Total RELIEF ITEMS, CONSTRUCTION AND SUPPLIES	15,846
Land & Buildings	0
Vehicles	0
Computer & Telecom Equipment	0
Office/Household Furniture & Equipment	0
Medical Equipment	0
Other Machinery & Equipment	0
Total LAND, VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT	0
Storage, Warehousing	0
Distribution & Monitoring	0
Transport & Vehicle Costs	2,067
Logistics Services	0
Total LOGISTICS, TRANSPORT AND STORAGE	2,067
International Staff	0
National Staff	0
National Society Staff	0
Volunteers	2,596
Other Staff Benefits	14,764
Total PERSONNEL	17,360
Consultants	0
Professional Fees	0
Total CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES	0
Workshops & Training	5,610
Total WORKSHOP & TRAINING	5,610
Travel	5,610
Information & Public Relations	3,199
Office Costs	1,181
Communications	935
Financial Charges	98
Other General Expenses	0
Shared Office and Services Costs	0
Total GENERAL EXPENDITURES	11,024
Partner National Societies	0
Other Partners (NGOs, UN, other)	0
Total TRANSFER TO PARTNERS	0
Programme and Services Support Recovery	3,374
Total INDIRECT COSTS	3,374
TOTAL BUDGET	55,281

Recorrido indígena del 2 al 13 de agosto

