



Staff and volunteers of the VRC analyze the potential effects of the rainy season in the State of Apure due to potential overflow of Arauca River. 19 June 2023. Source: VRC

Appeal: <b>MDRVE008</b>	Country: <b>Venezuela</b>	Hazard: <b>Flood</b>	Type of DREF <b>Imminent</b>
Crisis Category: <b>Yellow</b>	Event Onset: <b>Sudden</b>	DREF Allocation: <b>CHF 117,771</b>	
Glide Number:	People at risk: <b>150,000 people</b>	People Targeted: <b>2,500 people</b>	
Operation Start Date: <b>2023-07-10</b>	Operation Timeframe: <b>3 months</b>	Operation End Date: <b>2023-10-31</b>	DREF Published: <b>2023-07-11</b>
Targeted Areas:	<b>Apure, Aragua, Portuguesa, Sucre, Vargas</b>		

# Description of the Event

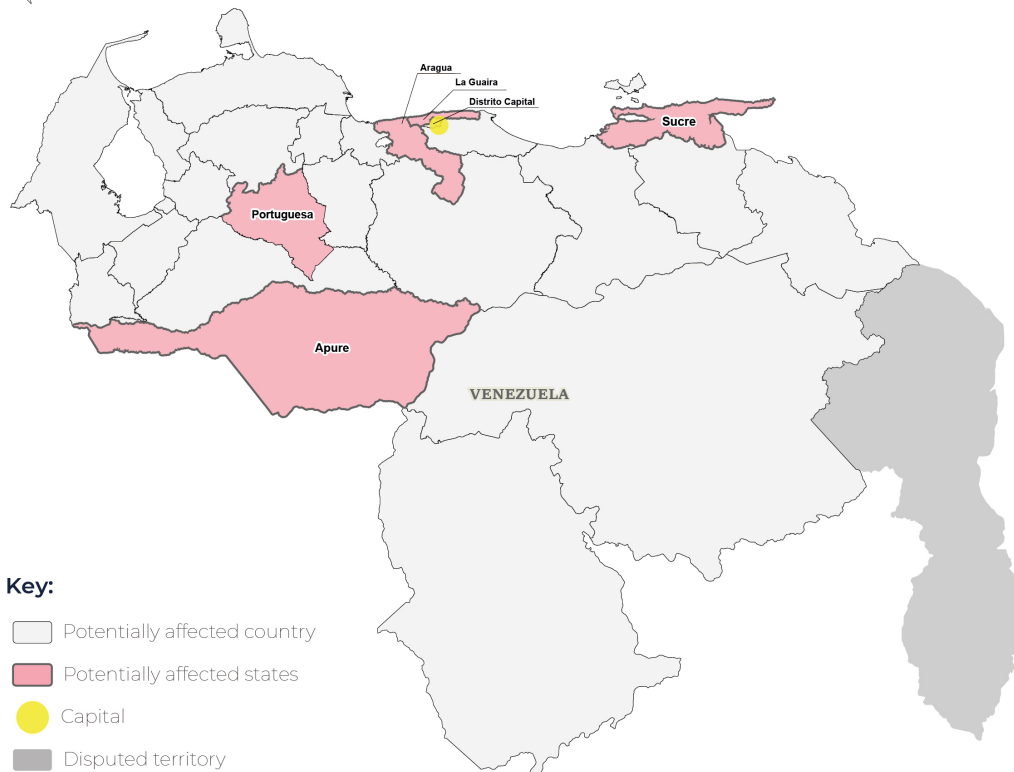
## Approximate date of impact

According to forecasts issued by the INAMEH, the El Niño phenomenon is estimated to remain present until Q1 2024, resulting in unusual meteorological patterns in Venezuela. For instance, the expansion of the Intertropical Convergence Zone from the Atlantic oscillates between 0° - 2° north. This, added to NOAA's prediction of 65 tropical waves for the 2023 hurricane season is likely to have a significant impact on the most vulnerable communities, particularly between July to September 2023.



**+CIFRC**

Anticipatory Actions - Rains Venezuela - June 2023



The maps used do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies or National Societies concerning the legal status of a territory or of its authorities. Data sources: IFRC, Venezuelan Red Cross. Document for internal use of the IFRC organization only.

Map of areas potentially affected by heavy rains and targeted by VRC to conduct anticipatory actions. Source: IFRC

## What is expected to happen?

The official start of the 2023 North Atlantic Hurricane Season was on 1 June and will continue until 30 November.

On 25 May, the Executive Branch released a statement addressing the consequences of climate change, specifically noting high temperatures in the Andes region and southern Lake Maracaibo, leading to an intensified hydric cycle and heavy rainfall. The president of the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMEH) mentioned that the Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic Ocean have experienced elevated temperatures in 2023, resulting in a shift in the forecast with cyclones developing into major hurricanes.

On 26 May, the INAMEH confirmed the arrival of the first tropical wave in Venezuela. INAMEH highlighted that



between 55 and 65 meteorological events are expected to impact Venezuela during the 2023 hurricane season in the North Atlantic.

Furthermore, as per the IFRC Climate Center's forecasts, the first tropical waves of the year and their interactions with the intertropical convergence zone have resulted in notable accumulations in certain regions of the country. This has led to increased rainfall and river levels, particularly in the states of Apure, Bolivar, Sucre, Portuguesa, and Barinas. In these areas, precipitation has surpassed normal levels by up to 100 mm, indicating a positive anomaly or excessive precipitation.

This situation indicates that rainfall and resulting damages are expected to be more severe compared to previous years. Consequently, states such as Apure, Aragua, La Guaira, Portuguesa, and Sucre can expect rains of unusual intensity, leading to potential overflow of rivers, flooding, and landslides. The rapid rise in river levels, particularly those with significant flow, combined with saturated soil conditions, may contribute to these hazards. Given Venezuela's complex circumstances, these impacts have the potential to worsen the country's existing challenges, including health concerns, limited access to safe water, increased risks of vector-borne diseases, protection risks, and the potential for partial or complete loss of livelihoods.

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

On 25 May 2023, the National Authorities in Venezuela activated the "Los Andes 2023 Task Force", to comprehensively address the situations generated by the arrival of the rains in Venezuela with emphasis on three aspects: i) infrastructure and services; ii) administration of public and private equipment available in the region; iii) the creation of a Technical Scientific Committee, which will study all hydro-meteorological phenomena to create structuring projects and avoid future supervening situations (1). In addition, a Presidential Commission was created to monitor the progress of the El Niño Phenomenon (2).

On 16 June, the National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology (INAMEH) issued the first meteorological alert for 11 of the 23 states in the country, warning of heavy rainfall and the high risk of flooding and flash floods that could impact riverside communities and low-lying areas. Among these states, 5 were placed under a yellow alert, namely Anzoátegui, Aragua, Bolivar, Carabobo, and Miranda. Additionally, 6 states were placed under an orange alert, including Apure, Barinas, Merida, Portuguesa, Táchira, and Zulia.

On 3 July, the latest meteorological alert was updated to include 13 states. Three states, Merida, Tachira, and Zulia, remained under a yellow alert, while the remaining 10 states were placed under an orange alert, including Amazonas, Anzoátegui, Apure, Aragua, Barinas, Bolivar, Carabobo, La Guaira, Miranda, Portuguesa (3). It is worth highlighting that this meteorological alert is updated on a weekly basis.

Likewise, in the Capital District, the Ministry of Popular Power for Interior, Justice and Peace (MPPIJP) and for Eco Socialism (MINEC), activated a Risk Management and Climate Crisis Plan (4).

Faced with the possibility of the imminent impact of the rains, the Venezuelan Red Cross seeks to be prepared to conduct Early Activities. Considering the lessons learned in previous operations, the National Society will promote Anticipatory Actions both at the National Society and community level to mitigate the impacts of a potential emergency.

According to its National Response Plan, the Venezuelan Red Cross has three levels of alert (green, yellow, and red) that will allow for the identification of readiness, repositioning, and early actions as required within the present operation:

Trigger 1 - Yellow Alert (Readiness and early actions): It is declared in a preventive way when a phenomenon occurs and, due to its evolution and characteristics, it is perceived to involve a moderate level of risk, with the following information:



- Statements and reports from specialized agencies.
- Activation of the local contingency plans.
- Dissemination in local or regional mass media.
- Recurrent dissemination in social networks.
- Request for support or collaboration from official agencies or NGOs.
- Request for support from the regional offices to headquarters.

Given the alerts issued by the INAMEH as well as the activation of a task force by National Authorities to address the situations generated by the arrival of rains in the country, the Venezuelan Red Cross is officially activating the anticipatory phase with the request of this DREF for the imminent event in order to conduct readiness, prepositioning and early action activities.

Trigger 2 - Red Alert (Response): It is declared in the event of a continuous increase in the magnitude of the event with the likelihood of affecting the population with the following information:

- Declaration of the government and/or specialized agencies for event monitoring.
- Activation of the national response plan.
- Impacts exceed national response capacity.
- Declarations/decrees of emergency or alert at national or regional level.
- Reports from specialized agencies.
- Dissemination in national and/or international mass media.
- Active and massive dissemination in social networks.
- Situation reports from headquarters.
- Preliminary damage assessment by the Regional Office / Sub-Committee.
- Evacuations and mobilization of national teams in the area.

Upon declaration of a red level of alert by the National Society, the Venezuelan Red Cross will activate the response phase for the distribution of the relief items contemplated within the present operation (jerry cans, buckets, water filters, and water purification tablets).

The VRC will be prepared to transition into a response phase in the prioritized states in case the event aggravates and the emergency exceeds the response capacities of local authorities.

Sources:

- (1)[http://presidencia.gob.ve/Site/Web/Principal/paginas/classMostrarEvento3.php?id\\_evento=24121#](http://presidencia.gob.ve/Site/Web/Principal/paginas/classMostrarEvento3.php?id_evento=24121#)
- (2)<http://www.minci.gob.ve/instalacion-comision-presidencial-para-afrontar-amenazas-del-fenomeno-el-nino/>
- (3)<http://www.inameh.gob.ve/web/PDF/Alerta%20Hidrologica.pdf>
- (4)<http://www.minec.gob.ve/activado-plan-de-gestion-de-riesgo-y-crisis-climatica-para-caracas-2023/>

## Scope and Scale

In December 2022, the Academy of Physical, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences (Acfiman) published the second Academic Report on Climate Change in Venezuela, which highlighted the effects of climate change over a four-year period. The report projected a minimum temperature increase of three degrees and a rainfall increase of over 10%. According to different models, water will be an affected resource in many regions of the country. As a consequence, agricultural activity will be negatively impacted, generating estimated losses of up to 25% in crops and food production (1).

In 2022, Venezuela experienced a severe rainy season, resulting in the impact on approximately 14,000 homes and the unfortunate loss of 94 lives.

As a response to this, in 2023, the Ministries of People's Power for Internal Affairs, Justice and Peace (MPPRIJP) and for Ecosocialism (MINEC) implemented a Risk Management and Climate Crisis Plan specifically for the city of



Caracas and its surrounding areas. As part of this plan, rain gauges were installed in high-risk areas to enable early activation of emergency responses. Furthermore, the Ministry of Environment identified 394 vulnerable zones in the Capital District and coastal areas, where approximately 24,533 homes and 36,089 families remain exposed to climate-related risks. By June 2023, the country's National Disaster Risk Management System (SGRD) is evaluating the population and generating population censuses in order to obtain updated information. However, based on previous affectations, the number of families currently at risk would be close to 150,000 in the five States.

In the immediate future, the expected effects encompass various challenges. These include road blockages, electrical failures, restricted access to water, rivers, and streams overflowing, dams and reservoirs reaching capacity, sudden flooding of communities, as well as infrastructure damage to homes, healthcare facilities, and schools. Moreover, there is a possibility of further deterioration in the essential services provided by healthcare facilities, such as electricity, drinking water, sewage systems, drainage, and more. This could lead to shortages or disruptions in healthcare services, the emergence of diseases, and other related issues.

Sources:

(1)<https://elucabista.com/2022/12/12/venezuela-esta-mas-vulnerable-menos-resiliente-y-mas-expuesta-a-los-impactos-del-cambio-climatico-advirtio-la-acfiman/>

## Previous Operations

Has a similar event affected the same area(s) in the last 3 years?	<b>Yes</b>
Did it affect the same population groups?	<b>No</b>
Did the National Society respond?	<b>Yes</b>
Did the National Society request funding from DREF for that event(s)?	<b>Yes</b>
If yes, please specify which operations	<b>MDRVE005 - 2021   MDRVE006 - 2022   MRDVE007 - 2022</b>

### Lessons learned

Recent DREF operations in response to floods have been implemented in Venezuela, including:

- MDRVE005 (2021) targeting the states of Apure, Bolivar and Merida.
- MDRVE006 (2022) targeting the states of Barinas, Bolívar, Merida, Tachira and Zulia.
- MDRVE007 (2022) targeting the states of Aragua, Anzoategui, Capital District, Falcon, and Sucre.

In 2022, Venezuela suffered a strong rainy season, which affected some 14,000 homes and killed 94 citizens. Given that the timely allocation of resources for readiness and prepositioning activities has proven instrumental in enhancing the response's quality during an emergency, the Venezuelan Red Cross aims to launch this DREF for imminent floods to conduct anticipatory actions in Apure, Aragua, Portuguesa, Sucre, and Vargas, to ensure that communities are prepared and to guarantee that all necessary resources are available for the National Society to implement early actions whenever the need arises.

In light of the country's complex situation, the aforementioned emergency response operations have presented challenges, especially in terms of the supply chain, spanning from the procurement of emergency supplies to ensuring swift mobilization within the national territory. As a result, this DREF Application includes a proactive measure of pre-positioning relief items in the branches aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of Anticipatory Actions.



Furthermore, recent operations have highlighted the significance of accountability, as it enables the smooth implementation of activities and facilitates engagement with the population. By incorporating the community's perception and feedback, outreach efforts will be strengthened.

## Current National Society Actions

<p><b>National Society Readiness</b></p>	<p>The Venezuelan Red Cross has strategically pre-positioned relief items in the five prioritized states. These items include family hygiene kits (1,200); cleaning kits (1,100); kitchen kits (890); mosquito nets (3,300); collapsible jerry cans (6,100), and individual hygiene kits (150), readily available for immediate distribution. These items are expected to be used during the early stages of a response if needed. Therefore, in case a response phase is triggered, the National Society will include the replenishment of these items under the budget of the Operations Update.</p> <p>To facilitate the transportation of these supplies, there is an existing contract with private transportation companies. The activation of these companies will be determined based on the scale of the response required. Additionally, the National Society has two cargo vehicles at its disposal, subject to evaluation, to support resource mobilization. Currently, there are no restrictions on access to major transportation routes for the delivery of relief items, allowing smooth movement to the central, western, plains, and eastern regions of the country.</p> <p>In terms of human resources, the Venezuelan Red Cross has trained teams in various sectors, including healthcare, first aid, mental health and psychosocial support, water, sanitation, and hygiene, gender, protection, and inclusion, community engagement and accountability, as well as restoring family links. This diverse skill set enables them to provide a comprehensive response in the event of an emergency activation.</p> <p>Furthermore, the National Society has established clear guidelines from the Operations Coordination Office in collaboration with the National First-Aid Directorate (DNS) for response actions in the face of potential consequences. The DNS has conducted a national-level assessment of response capacities, identifying teams with the greatest capabilities to provide assistance. The National Society has also requested the immediate enlistment of response teams specialized in water, sanitation, and hygiene, emergency medical services, and psychosocial support. Additionally, the activation of branches and subcommittees located across the country is being prepared to facilitate a swift response.</p>
<p><b>Assessment</b></p>	<p>Teams from the different regional offices and subcommittees have been deployed in accordance with other state agencies, to carry out pre-assessments in the most vulnerable localities of the country's entities, to generate an outlook on vulnerabilities and capacities regarding the possible effects of the tropical wave season that is expected to hit Venezuelan soil during the year 2023.</p>
<p><b>Coordination</b></p>	<p>The Venezuelan Red Cross' regional branches have been asked to start supporting and monitoring the activation of the response plans of the National</p>



	Society's committees and subcommittees in the event that they are needed in several locations of the national territory.
<b>National Society EOC</b>	The National Society has activated several monitoring rooms at the national level, which are constantly reporting on the contingencies that have occurred throughout the national territory as well as the actions carried out by the assessment teams on site, guaranteeing timely on-site information on the events.
<b>Health</b>	The National Society has medical and nursing personnel, as well as volunteers trained in pre-hospital care, with the capacity to respond to a first impact on the population. Health monitoring is carried out from the situation rooms and constant communication is maintained for early identification of epidemiological outbreaks.
<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	The Venezuelan Red Cross currently has 25 technicians/volunteers specialized in emergency water supply. In addition, the National Society has six operational emergency water treatment plants pre-positioned in the states of Táchira, Barinas, Carabobo, Distrito Capital, Anzoátegui, and Lara. These are capable of generating an average of 10,000 liters/day (each) of safe water (depending on field conditions). Likewise, volunteers have been trained in safe water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion.

## Movement Partners Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>IFRC</b>	The IFRC Delegation in Venezuela collaborates with the National Society to offer technical support and coordination in conjunction with the Regional Health, Disaster, Climate, and Crisis Unit for the preparation of this DREF for imminent events. This assistance aims to prepare for the upcoming event and maintain constant communication to ensure efficient coordination throughout the implementation of anticipatory actions.
<b>ICRC</b>	The ICRC Delegation, along with the Venezuelan Red Cross, is in constant coordination with the Movement's partners in case any need arises in the prioritized states.
<b>Participating National Societies</b>	The German Red Cross will provide support to the National Society in case a national emergency response plan is requested through technical, administrative, and logistical assistance in the areas of emergency health, distribution of supplies, hygiene promotion, and disease prevention

## Other Actors Actions Related To The Current Event

<b>Government has requested international assistance</b>	No
	The National Government has implemented the 2023 Rains Plan, which includes the activation of Major Emergency States at the state and municipality levels. This plan aims to coordinate the territorial defense system of



<p><b>National authorities</b></p>	<p>the Bolivarian National Armed Forces (FANB by its initials in Spanish) with the National Risk Management System, as well as involve Firefighters, Civil Protection, Volunteers, and other emergency response organizations. Over 16,000 officers have been deployed nationwide and are on high alert as a preventive measure to enhance security and mitigate risks.</p> <p>To address the situations arising in the states of the Andean Region, the "Los Andes 2023" task force plan has been established. This comprehensive plan encompasses three key aspects: infrastructure and services, focusing on the recovery of roads, border repairs, and the activation of public services such as electricity and water in the Andean territories; a humanitarian task force responsible for damage assessment and needs analysis; and the establishment of a Technical-Scientific Committee to evaluate the climate change crisis. The committee's main objective is to study meteorological phenomena, river sedimentation, and projects related to basins and tributaries.</p> <p>To effectively address the risks associated with heavy rainfall and the presence of the El Niño phenomenon, the Executive Branch has formed a Presidential Commission led by the Vice-Presidency. This commission is dedicated to addressing potential dangers and threats. Additionally, the commission urges local authorities to analyze the impact of the phenomenon on their respective localities.</p>
<p><b>UN or other actors</b></p>	<p>The United Nations System is working on an Interagency Protocol for Emergency Preparedness and Response, as a first step towards achieving the objective of establishing procedures, actions, and responsibilities of agencies, funds, and programs in the area of preparedness and response to natural, socio-natural or technological hazards.</p> <p>In preparation for the arrival of the rainy season, coordination efforts have continued in the area of emergency preparedness and response. In this regard, work has been done to update contingency plans in at least nine states, strengthening the bases for coordination with local authorities, as well as the capacities of officials of the National Risk Management System (SNGR by its initials in Spanish).</p>
<p><b>Are there major coordination mechanisms in place?</b></p>	
<p>The National Society, fulfilling its auxiliary role, from its National Relief Directorate, has participated in different meetings with Civil Protection and local authorities to coordinate actions in the field, in the event of an emergency, as well as to know which prevention activities should be implemented considering the changes in the forecasts.</p>	





# Anticipated Needs



## Health

The health system is one of the sectors most affected due to different factors such as the migration of health personnel, the shortage of medical supplies and medicines, as well as the deterioration of the infrastructure of health centers. These conditions, added to socioeconomic factors, lead to the resurgence of communicable diseases, mainly those transmitted by vectors and vaccine-preventable diseases, as well as an increase in the incidence of non-communicable diseases.

The impact of floods and landslides on existing health conditions can worsen issues in both public and private healthcare facilities. Makeshift shelters that do not meet Sphere norms and standards, along with water contamination, contribute to a public health problem and accelerate the spread of communicable diseases. These diseases include diarrheal diseases, skin diseases, illnesses transmitted through poor food handling, vaccine-preventable diseases, vector-borne diseases, acute and chronic respiratory diseases, and arboviruses.

Furthermore, water and food contamination affect consumption, domestic animals, and the environment. Also, floods can result in the loss of essential household items and necessities in affected areas, including general, and chronic medications. Injuries and bruises are also common occurrences. Additionally, the psychological effects on both volunteer personnel and the general population will be considered. These effects may manifest as fatigue, nausea, headaches, gastrointestinal disorders, changes in sleep patterns and appetite, and emotional signs such as anxiety, depression, burnout syndrome, exhaustion, and post-traumatic stress disorder. The severity of these effects depends on personal vulnerability, social and family support, and the extent and duration of the impact.

To address these concerns, as part of trigger 1, the Venezuelan Red Cross will implement readiness activities that include training staff and volunteers in health promotion, emergency healthcare, and vector management in the prioritized areas. Additionally, health promotion sessions will be conducted to raise awareness at the community level.



## Water, Sanitation And Hygiene

Intense rainfall leads to landslides and floods, resulting in the collapse and contamination of water systems. Water withdrawal and treatment systems, as well as distribution networks, are vulnerable to ruptures and structural damage. This contamination alters the physical, chemical, and microbiological parameters of the water, posing a direct risk of waterborne diseases to affected communities.

To address these challenges, water and sanitation specialist teams (WASH) will be trained on the mobilization of Emergency Water Treatment Plants to ensure the proper collection, treatment, and distribution of safe water. Simultaneously, key messages promoting good hygiene and sanitation practices will be disseminated to raise awareness and encourage positive behavior change on protecting existing water sources from flood water contamination. Finally, household items such as jerrycans, water purification tablets, buckets and water filters will be provided to the communities as an early action once trigger 2 has been reached.





## Protection, Gender And Inclusion

Emergency situations expose vulnerable populations, particularly women, children, and the elderly, to increased protection risks. These risks include disappearances, separation of family members, gender-based violence, sexual violence within families, risks in shelters, exploitation, sexual abuse, and human trafficking. Moreover, the lack of knowledge among the affected population about emergency preparedness and precautions further exacerbates their vulnerability.

To address these challenges, it is essential to provide training and awareness sessions on the Minimum Standards for Protection, Gender, and Inclusion (PGI). This includes educating response teams on appropriate protection measures and ensuring compliance with PGI standards during the response. Training should cover topics such as protection against sexual exploitation and abuse, the Code of Conduct, child protection, and the incorporation of PGI principles to mitigate the risks of sexual and gender-based violence.

Anticipatory actions should focus on reducing gaps that impact emergency situations. This involves providing training and sensitization on gender equality in humanitarian action, using a gender analysis framework, minimum protection standards, gender and inclusion in emergencies, the Code of Conduct, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (PSEAH) policy, and Child Protection Policy for response teams.

By strengthening knowledge and awareness around protection and gender considerations, efforts can be made to mitigate risks and ensure the well-being of vulnerable populations during emergencies.



## Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery

In the last year, heavy rains and tropical waves have affected rural and urban populations, especially in the Central States (coastal and mountainous areas), causing floods and landslides, exceeding the country's response capacity.

On the other hand, the national Disaster Risk Management system, of which the Venezuelan Red Cross is a part, has identified through its operations the following gaps:

- i) Strengthening response capacity (equipment, training);
- ii) Community approach to disaster risk management, especially in high-risk urban areas with is a higher population density;
- iii) Support to other actors in planning and coordination to deploy operations in a timely and efficient manner.

As a result of the complex scenario that the country is going through, it is necessary to implement community actions focused on strengthening capacities in emergency, first aid, evacuation, coordination and emergency planning, equipment provision, among others. In order to provide this assistance, the Venezuelan Red Cross has identified the need to strengthen its capacities in various areas that will allow it to be properly prepared, as well as the acquisition of supplies to strengthen its communications system (radio antennas, mobile antennas, batteries for lighting systems), including testing, adaptation, and updating of telecommunication networks to facilitate not only internal communications but also integration with the country's National Risk Management System.



# Operational Strategy

## Overall objective of the operation

Through this DREF Application, the Venezuelan Red Cross aims to implement anticipatory actions to reach 500 families (2,500 people) -100 families per state- with the aim of mitigating the potential impact of the rainy season in the states of Apure, Aragua, La Guaira (Vargas), Portuguesa, and Sucre. Additionally, the National Society aims to enhance the technical and operational emergency preparedness capabilities of its staff and volunteers to improve its capacity to act early in the five prioritized states.

In the event that a response phase is activated, the scope of the operation will be expanded through an Operations Update based on the capacity of the National Society. The activities described in this strategy complement the ongoing actions carried out by local authorities and other organizations to ensure that the prioritized populations are prepared in the event of severe impacts.

## Operation strategy rationale

Anticipatory actions will be conducted both at the National Society and community-level to mitigate the risks and effects of the rainy season in prioritized communities based on the following triggers:

Trigger 1 - Readiness will start as soon as the DREF Application is approved and early actions will be conducted upon the first signs of incoming floods.

Trigger 2 - The response will be implemented once trigger 2 is met. The National Society will notify the IFRC Country Delegation to inform that early actions are initiated and response plan will be shared through the operation update. The Venezuelan Red Cross aims at implementing the early actions in a period of maximum 10 days.

The above-mentioned actions will be carried out in each of the following components:

### HEALTH:

At least 2,500 people reached through health prevention and promotion activities.

#### Trigger 1:

- Procurement and pre-positioning of consumables for first aid kits, as a readiness measure to support provision of first aid.
- Health promotion and awareness actions for the community.
- Refresher training of volunteers in Emergency Healthcare Response Teams (ERSE) to ensure the quality of interventions.

It should be noted that the consumables for first aid kits are the only items aimed at early stages of a response. Even though this DREF Application is aimed at Anticipatory Actions, for the Venezuelan Red Cross it is important to count on these items to be able to provide emergency health care in the event that the emergency unfolds or if they encounter any emergency situation during the implementation of early actions.

### WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:

At least 2,500 people (500 families) reached through Water, Sanitation and Hygiene promotion activities.

#### Trigger 1:

- WASH promotion sessions for the communities, to help them understand how to protect existing water sources as well as sanitation to prevent water ways from being clogged.
- Training in WASH in emergencies and operation of Water Treatment Plants for volunteers so that they already understand what to do and how to do it prior to the disaster..



- Procurement and pre-positioning of a WATSAN2 kits for 400 families (2,000 people) as a readiness measure. The WATSAN2 Kit contains: 400 buckets, 400 jerrycan, 400 water dispensing bag, 400 soap, 50,000 Water purification agent for 10L of water, among others.
- Procurement and pre-positioning of 100 jerry cans for 100 families.
- Procurement and pre-positioning of 12,500 water purification tablets for 100 families.
- Procurement and pre-positioning of 500 buckets for use with water filters for 500 families.

Note that the WATSAN2 Kit only contains items for 400 families. Therefore, additional stock is budgeted so that the National Society can reach a total of 500 families in the early stages of the response. In addition, while prepositioning of response items is not typical in DREF operations, it is important to note that the VRC needs these items before the floods season to reduce the response time to a minimum possible. Based on experience, initiating procurement processes during the disaster will delay the response and limit the impact of anticipatory actions.

Trigger 2: Distribution of the stock prepositioned in the branches reaching 100 families in each state for a total of 500 families. This will only be done if the response phase is triggered.

#### DISASTER RISK REDUCTION:

At least 2,500 people (500 families) reached through Disaster Risk Reduction activities.

#### Trigger 1:

- Training of volunteers who will participate in the preparation stage in the communities with the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA).
- Review and/or elaboration of the EVCA in the identified and prioritized communities, elaboration and/or updating of community and family response plans.

#### PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION:

At least 2,500 people (500 families) reached through educational sessions and dissemination of key messages with a PGI approach.

#### Trigger 1:

- Training for staff and volunteers of the branches in the prioritized states in: PGI minimum standards, socialization of child protection policies, Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) policy, code of conduct, WASH with PGI approach, addressing Menstrual Hygiene Management needs.
- Educational sessions with the prioritized communities on identification and prevention of Gender Based Violence and risks of sexual exploitation and abuse, and key messages on PSEA policy.

#### COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY (CEA):

At least 2,500 people (500 families) reached through the implementation of CEA Feedback mechanisms at community level.

#### Trigger 1:

- Training of VRC volunteers in the prioritized states on community participation and accountability, feedback mechanisms and the feedback cycle.
- Implementation of CEA feedback mechanisms.

#### COMMUNICATION:

The actions carried out will be made visible through the social networks of the Venezuelan Red Cross, linking the actions carried out by the team in the field with the collection of audiovisual material, including photographs, videos, testimonials and life stories that allow external, internal and specific public, to understand the affectation and the impact generated through the implementation of Anticipatory Actions.

#### INFORMATION MANAGEMENT:

In coordination with the VRC and IFRC Information Management Units, the IT department will provide the necessary assistance to all teams in the field. The team will be provided with various communication tools to facilitate data



collection. Refreshments will be made to the data collection process in the field to ensure proper accountability and standardization.

Overall, above strategy allows the National Society to engage actions aimed at reducing the impact of the floods on communities, while at the same time ensuring institutional readiness for the communities to receive needed relief shortly following the likely floods impact. As already indicated under National Society Readiness Actions, Venezuela Red Cross own stocks will be immediately engaged once response is triggered and replenished through the issuing of an Operation Update.

## Targeting Strategy

### Who will be targeted through this operation?

In the first phase of the intervention (anticipatory actions), 500 families will be assisted and will be part of the training activities (100 families per state). The target population is made up of the people prioritized in the high-threat zone due to the possible effects and the high severity that could be caused by an emergency. The needs of the most vulnerable groups such as minors, pregnant and lactating women, chronically ill adults, people with disabilities, and the elderly will be taken into consideration.

### Explain the selection criteria for the targeted population

The following vulnerability criteria are proposed for the selection of families to be reached with Anticipatory Actions in the different areas of intervention.

- Families living in high-risk areas with the potential on losing their goods
- Families with children and/or older adults
- Families with people with disabilities
- Families whom the head of family is women with children.

The National Society will do a pre-registration following the above criteria, which will be validated following Trigger 2, to ensure quick provision of relief to affected families.

## Total Targeted Population

Women:	<b>1,275</b>	Rural %	Urban %
Girls (under 18):	<b>225</b>	<b>20.00 %</b>	<b>80.00 %</b>
Men:	<b>850</b>	People with disabilities (estimated %)	
Boys (under 18):	<b>150</b>	<b>5.00 %</b>	
Total targeted population:	<b>2,500</b>		

## Risk and security considerations

### Please indicate about potential operational risk for this operations and mitigation actions

Risk	Mitigation action
The country's situation could affect logistics for this operation.	IFRC logistics structure is in place in support of the NS. Procurement plans will be developed, and acquisitions




	and availability of inputs will be monitored. Procurement at local level will be made when possible.
Lack of progress reports on the status of preparedness and implementation of actions	Through the team in charge of the operation, periodic meetings will be held with the focal points in the prioritized states to know the progress of the implementation, as well as to know the evolution of the possible event
The event's onset is earlier than predicted	The VRC will generate a work plan for this operation in order to ensure that the National Society is prepared for the event. Revision of the Contingency Plan will be encouraged. Community actions will be prioritized so that the people in them are prepared and thus reduce risks.
Limited access to fuel may limit activities in the field regarding mobilization for preparedness activities.	Coordination with local authorities for fuel supply support to ensure the implementation of VRC operations.
The event exceeds the capacities of the National Society.	Constant monitoring of the situation in the country and the worsening of the event is carried out.
The security context might change (civil unrest and armed confrontations in different states, landslides, closure of roads)	Security measures for all volunteers and staff are being implemented based on strict compliance with Stay Safe. The VRC has a contingency plan that outlines how it will respond with IFRC and ICRC support


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

The essential selection criteria in the implementation of this plan are marked by operational security, along with vulnerability. The context where personnel and volunteers act must be safe in terms of crime and violence. For this reason, they will refrain from intervening in vulnerable municipalities that have a very low level of security and may represent a security risk for the teams or personnel involved in the intervention.




# Planned Intervention

	<b>Health</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 10,010
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	2500
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of people reached by health prevention and promotion		2500	
# of volunteers trained in ERSE		100	
# of branches with first aid kits		5	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		Trigger 1: - Procurement and prepositioning of consumables for first aid kits. - Emergency health awareness sessions. - Refresher training of VRC personnel in ERSE (Emergency Health-care Response Teams).	

	<b>Water, Sanitation And Hygiene</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 43,781
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	2500
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of volunteers trained in Emergency Water and Operation of Emergency Water Treatment Plants.		100	
of people reached by WASH promotion sessions		2500	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		Trigger 1: - Activities in hygiene promotion, vector control, water management, water treatment for the community. - Training in WASH in emergencies and Operation of Water Treatment Plants for volunteers. - Procurement and pre-positioning of WATSAN2 kit for 400 families. - Procurement and prepositioning of jerrycans, water purification tablets and buckets for 100 families. - Purchase of 500 complementary buckets for Mandrels Fled and Sawyer Filters.	

Trigger 2:  
- Distribution of items to affected communities


	<b>Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation And Recovery</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 22,164
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	2500
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of families with knowledge of early warning systems		500	
# of volunteers who have strengthened their preparation skills		100	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		Trigger 1: - Workshops with communities for the development of Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, Family Emergency Plan. - Acquisition and distribution of emergency equipment (megaphone, identification vests, whistles) for the creation of committees at community level of at least 7 people. - Community drills.	


	<b>Protection, Gender And Inclusion</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 2,860
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	2500
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of volunteers trained/or refreshed in PGI topics		100	
# of people with protection risks knowledge		2500	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		- Training of volunteers on PGI minimum standards in emergencies, Code of Conduct, PSEA.- - Dissemination of key messages on protection risks to prioritized people	

	<b>Secretariat Services</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 18,048
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of monitoring missions carried out		3	



<b>Priority Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monitoring missions made on a monthly basis to coordinate with VRC branches, understand local context and provide technical support from the IFRC Country Delegation</li> <li>- Coordination with Logistics units for the procurement and prepositioning of the relief items to the branches</li> </ul>
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	<b>National Society Strengthening</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 19,860
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of branches with reinforced communication systems		5	
# of staff recruited		1	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reinforcement of communication systems through preventive maintenance of communication networks and telecommunication accessories used for communication, thus strengthening the telecommunication equipment of VRC. This would facilitate not only internal communications but also integration with the country's National Risk Management System for preparedness and response.</li> <li>- Recruitment of 1x staff to support the DREF Operation</li> <li>- Missions will be carried out by the Ops Coordinator and the technical teams (WASH, PGI, CEA, Health) to monitor actions in the field and coordinate at local level.</li> </ul>	

	<b>Community Engagement And Accountability</b>	<b>Budget</b>	CHF 1,049
		<b>Targeted Persons</b>	2500
<b>Indicators</b>		<b>Target</b>	
# of volunteers trained/or refreshed in CEA topics		100	
<b>Priority Actions:</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training of VRC volunteers in the prioritized states on community participation and accountability, feedback mechanisms and the feedback cycle.</li> <li>- Implementation of CEA Feedback mechanisms at community level (CEA actions will be carried out as a transversal approach to VRC activities in the field)</li> </ul>	

# About Support Services

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

Through this operation, the National Society will hire 1 profile:  
- 1x Operations Coordinator

This profile will guarantee the appropriate follow-up in the implementation and execution of the operation, along with the teams from the prioritized branches for the registration, financial follow-up, accounting, operational logistics, generation of reports and control of the operation in the field.

In addition, at least 20 volunteers for each state (a total of 100 volunteers) will receive the respective trainings and will execute field activities at community level. It should be highlighted that the Venezuelan Red Cross already has active insurance for all the volunteers so this is not budgeted under this DREF Application.

The IFRC Country Delegation will provide technical support to the VRC team with the aim to ensure proper implementation of the operation.

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

The procurement and distribution of supplies will be carried out through the IFRC Delegation in Venezuela with the support of the Senior Procurement Officer in order to guarantee compliance with the procedures of the IFRC Procurement Manual, and thus ensure minimum quality standards and integrity risks.

In the event that a response phase is activated, support will be provided from the Regional Logistics Unit for the timely procurement of the selected items.

## **How will this operation be monitored?**

The monitoring of this DREF will be supported by the Operations coordinator in charge of the operation, which will supervise the data and information collected by the Branch teams in the field. The Branch will provide information on the implementation on a weekly basis, while the Operations Coordinator will ensure to conduct at least 3 monitoring visits. With the support of the IFRC Country Office Delegation team, the timely management of funds and the progress of activities will be monitored through periodic follow-up meetings with reports shared with the VRC HQ and IFRC Delegation focal point for timely decision-making.

In addition to the NS monitoring visits, the IFRC project team will conduct at least two field visits to ensure smooth follow-up of the operation. All information collected during these monitoring visits will be used to support any eventual operational changes.

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

The actions carried out will be made visible through the social networks of the Venezuelan Red Cross, linking the actions carried out by the team in the field with the collection of audiovisual material, this includes photographs, videos, testimonials, and life stories that allow the external, internal and specific public to understand the impact and the response generated by the intervention. Therefore, key messages with a preventive approach will be produced and adapted for the external public to face the effects caused by the rains, and the discourse to be referred to when required by the official spokespersons of the Venezuelan Red Cross. In close coordination with the focal points and branch communications directors, the needs related to the image and visibility of the Red Cross will be addressed, as well as the collection of specific material required by the National Communications Directorate to be published on official platforms.



# Budget Overview



## DREF OPERATION

### MDRVE008 - Venezuelan Red Cross Venezuela - Anticipatory Actions for Floods

#### Operating Budget

<b>Planned Operations</b>	<b>79.863</b>
Shelter and Basic Household Items	0
Livelihoods	0
Multi-purpose Cash	0
Health	10.010
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	43.781
Protection, Gender and Inclusion	2.860
Education	0
Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	22.164
Community Engagement and Accountability	1.049
Environmental Sustainability	0
<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>37.908</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
Secretariat Services	18.048
National Society Strengthening	19.860
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>117.771</b>

all amounts in Swiss Francs (CHF)





# Contact Information

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

- **National Society contact:** Mario Santimone, Secretary General, msantimone@cruzrojavenzolana.org
- **IFRC Appeal Manager:** Marissa Soberanis, Head of Country Office Delegation, marissa.soberanis@ifrc.org
- **IFRC Project Manager:** Ariadna Lira, Programs & Operations Coordinator, Ariadna.lira@ifrc.org
- **IFRC focal point for the emergency:** Ariadna Lira, Programs & Operations Coordinator, Ariadna.lira@ifrc.org
- **Media Contact:**

[Click here for the reference](#)





# DREF OPERATION

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Migration	0
Risk Reduction, Climate Adaptation and Recovery	22.164
Community Engagement and Accountability	1.049
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<b>Enabling Approaches</b>	<b>37.908</b>
Coordination and Partnerships	0
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National Society Strengthening	19.860
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>117.771</b>

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