# Single Form 2021

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***Agreement number***
ECHO/-AM/BUD/2023/91013

***Start date***
01/05/2023

***Duration (months)***
36

***Partner***
UNDP-USA

***Partner type***
UN

***Action title***
Anticipatory actions and disaster preparedness in communities exposed to the effects of volcanic eruptions, landslides, floods and earthquakes in the Ecuadorian Andes (Anticípate ante desastres)

# 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

## *1.1 Humanitarian organisation*

UNDP-USA

## *1.2 Title of the action*

Anticipatory actions and disaster preparedness in communities exposed to the effects of volcanic eruptions, landslides, floods and earthquakes in the Ecuadorian Andes (Anticípate ante desastres)

## *1.3 Time frame of the action*

***Start date*** 01/05/2023 ***Duration*** 36 months

## *1.4 Executive summary of the action*

The inter-Andean Mountain range of Ecuador is characterized by its climatic variability and orographic complexity, which, along with a network of geological faults, create a territory that is highly vulnerable to disasters. The risk scenario requires interventions that make disaster preparedness and anticipatory actions feasible.

The volcanic activity of Cotopaxi and its consequences represent a risk to approximately 225,758 inhabitants. In the province of Chimborazo, the Alausí canton is in an area highly prone to disasters. In March 2023, a mass movement occurred resulting in 67 deaths, more than 10 missing persons and material losses, with an approximate population of 32,275 people. 52.03% of the canton is highly susceptible to mass movements, and 47.42% is highly susceptible to floods. Capacity building for disaster preparedness at both the institutional and community levels is necessary.

The SGR requested UNDP support to strengthen disaster preparedness in relation to the Cotopaxi volcanic activity and the multi-hazard context in Alausí. Eight outputs have been planned to focus on disaster preparedness at both institutional and community levels, implementation of early warning systems and improved access to essential goods such as safe water.

Sustainability will be ensured by involving all stakeholders. UNDP will lead a consortium formed by PLAN, CARE, CESA, ADRA, Central University and the IG-EPN, as they have partnered and worked in nearby territories. All partners have been included to complement the action under a single leadership and have valuable previous experience in the disaster preparedness.

## *1.4.1 [INT] Executive summary of the action*

The action plan is kept as planned and it follows the approved modifications. Plan International, CESA, and ADRA are some of the parties that are responsible for the execution, UNDP leads the partnership.

Once the level of alert of the Cotopaxi Volcano has been modified from yellow to white, a decreased interest has been observed among the communities. The project strategy has been to redirect the actions with a multi-hazard approach to cover droughts, forest fires, landslides, pollution, and insecurity, generating an increased interest that has been expanded to other communities exposed to similar risks.

This action plan has been modified to add three new results related to Alausi risk scenario and recovery. This new results and activities and the first disbursement started in may 2024. That is the reason of the low rate implementation shown in this intermediate report.

## *1.5 HIP / Decision (if known)*

ECHO/-AM/BUD/2023/91000

# 2. Project Data Overview by Country

| Countries | Sectors | Total number of unique beneficiaries per sector | | Total amount allocated to a sector | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | [FR] | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | [FR] |
| 1. Ecuador | 1. Disaster Risk Reduction / Disaster Preparedness | 69.496 | - | 1.375.645,01 | - |
| 1. Ecuador | 2. Protection | 12.815 | - | 392.784,86 | - |
| 1. Ecuador | 3. WASH | 14.596 | - | 231.570,13 | - |
| | | | Total | 2.000.000,00 | - |

## *2.1 Geographical information*

## *2.1 Country (1/1)*

Ecuador

## *2.2 Places of intervention (optional for actions in a group of countries and for global actions)*

| Name of the place of intervention (or name of country in case of actions in "Group of countries") | Upper administrative level (province) | Lowest administrative level (district) | Type |
|---|---|---|---|
| ECUADOR | Cotopaxi Chimborazo | Latacunga, Saquisilí, Salcedo, Alausí | Both |

## *2.3 Information on beneficiaries<br/><br/>Please enter in the fields below only the estimated number of DIRECT beneficiaries.<br/>A direct beneficiary is a unique individual directly benefitting from an action financed by DG ECHO.*

## *2.3.1 Number of unique beneficiaries*

| Gender | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | [IR] | [FR] |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 69.496 | 345.709 | - |
| **Female** | 35.992 | 176.558 | - |
| **Male** | 33.504 | 169.151 | - |

## *2.3.2 Number of unique beneficiaries by age and gender (data per gender compulsory at IR/FR stage)*

| | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | | | [IR] | | | [FR] | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Age** | **Total** | **Female** | **Male** | **Total** | **Female** | **Male** | **Total** | **Female** | **Male** |
| **0 - 59 months** | 5.156 | 2.521 | 2.635 | 25.599 | 12.367 | 13.232 | - | - | - |
| **5 - 17 years** | 18.602 | 9.047 | 9.555 | 90.725 | 44.704 | 46.021 | - | - | - |
| **18 - 49 years** | 30.548 | 16.153 | 14.395 | 153.246 | 79.569 | 73.677 | - | - | - |
| **50 years and more** | 15.190 | 8.271 | 6.919 | 76.139 | 39.918 | 36.221 | - | - | - |

## *2.3.3 Number of unique beneficiaries with disabilities (included in 2.3.1)(data per gender compulsory at IR/FR stage)*

| Gender | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | [IR] | [FR] |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | 1.874 | 1.874 | - |
| **Female** | 957 | 957 | - |
| **Male** | 917 | 917 | - |

## *2.3.4 Number of unique beneficiaries by profile*

| Profile | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | [IR] | [FR] |
|---|---|---|---|

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Local population*** | 69.496 | 345.709 | - |
| ***Internally displaced*** | 0 | 0 | - |
| ***Refugees / asylum seekers*** | 0 | 0 | - |
| ***Other persons on the move*** | 0 | 0 | - |
| ***Returnees*** | 0 | 0 | - |
| ***In camp or camp like*** | 0 | 0 | - |

### *2.3.5 Number of organisations directly targeted and benefiting from the action*

| *Type* | *[RQ/MR] (last favourable data)* | *[IR]* | *[FR]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Local*** | 42 | 119 | - |
| ***International*** | 0 | 0 | - |

## *2.4 Country (1/1) - Sector (1/3)*

Ecuador

### *2.4.1 Sector*

Disaster Risk Reduction / Disaster Preparedness

### *2.4.2 Places of intervention (optional for actions in a group of countries and for global actions)*

• ECUADOR

### *2.4.3 Total amount (for this sector)* 390.106,75

### *2.4.4 Number of unique beneficiaries (in this sector) (data per gender compulsory at IR/FR stage)*

| *Gender* | *[RQ/MR] (last favourable data)* | *[IR]* | *[FR]* |
|---|---|---|---|
| ***Total*** | 69.496 | 316.211 | - |
| ***Female*** | 35.992 | 163.160 | - |
| ***Male*** | 33.504 | 153.051 | - |

### *2.4.5 Transfer modalities (in this sector)*

| | *[RQ/MR] (last favourable data)* | | *[IR]* | | *[FR]* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| *Modality* | *Amount* | *Unique beneficiaries* | *Amount* | *Unique beneficiaries* | *Amount* | *Unique beneficiaries* |
| ***In cash*** | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | - | - |
| ***In vouchers*** | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | - | - |
| ***In kind*** | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | - | - |
| ***Non-allocated amount*** | 1.375.645,01 | | 390.106,75 | | - | |

### *2.4.6 Explain why cash transfers were not used*

This action plan aims to improve disaster preparedness at community, local, and national level to be better prepared to cope with future events.

The proposed activities will upgrade community contingency plans, as well at the national and local levels. Therefore, capacity-building activities and anticipatory actions do not require cash transfers.

### *2.4.6 [INT] Explain why cash transfers were not used*

This action plan aims to improve disaster preparedness at community, local, and national level to be better prepared to cope with future events.

The proposed activities will upgrade community contingency plans, as well at the national and local levels. Therefore, capacity-building activities and anticipatory actions do not require cash transfers.

### 2.4 Country (1/1) - Sector (2/3)

Ecuador

### 2.4.1 Sector

Protection

### 2.4.2 Places of intervention (optional for actions in a group of countries and for global actions)

• ECUADOR

### 2.4.3 Total amount (for this sector)

195.559,07

### 2.4.4 Number of unique beneficiaries (in this sector) (data per gender compulsory at IR/FR stage)

| Gender | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | [IR] | [FR] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 12.815 | 1.448 | - |
| Female | 6.579 | 811 | - |
| Male | 6.236 | 637 | - |

### 2.4.5 Transfer modalities (in this sector)

| | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | | [IR] | | [FR] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Modality | Amount | Unique beneficiaries | Amount | Unique beneficiaries | Amount | Unique beneficiaries |
| In cash | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | - | - |
| In vouchers | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | - | - |
| In kind | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | - | - |
| Non-allocated amount | 392.784,86 | | 195.559,07 | | - | |

### 2.4.6 Explain why cash transfers were not used

Protection activities with children and adolescent populations for psychological and emotional strengthening need no cash transfer modality.

### 2.4.6 [INT] Explain why cash transfers were not used

Protection activities with children and adolescent populations for psychological and emotional strengthening need no cash transfer modality.

### 2.4.11 Number of unique beneficiaries (in protection sector) - data needed at IR/FR stage

| | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | [IR] | [FR] |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 - 17 years old children | - | 1.448 | - |

### 2.4 Country (1/1) - Sector (3/3)

Ecuador

### 2.4.1 Sector

WASH

### 2.4.2 Places of intervention (optional for actions in a group of countries and for global actions)

• ECUADOR

### 2.4.3 Total amount (for this sector)

104.530,26

### 2.4.4 Number of unique beneficiaries (in this sector) (data per gender compulsory at IR/FR stage)

| Gender | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | [IR] | [FR] |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total | 14.596 | 28.049 | - |
| Female | 7.383 | 12.588 | - |
| Male | 7.213 | 15.461 | - |

### 2.4.5 Transfer modalities (in this sector)

| | [RQ/MR] (last favourable data) | | [IR] | | [FR] | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Modality | Amount | Unique beneficiaries | Amount | Unique beneficiaries | Amount | Unique beneficiaries |
| In cash | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | - | - |
| In vouchers | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | - | - |
| In kind | 0,00 | 0 | 0,00 | 0 | - | - |
| Non-allocated amount | 231.570,13 | | 104.530,26 | | - | |

### 2.4.6 Explain why cash transfers were not used

Result 4 will help with contingency plans for water and hygiene to guarantee safe water for potential host communities, in safe areas near the potentially evacuated communities. Therefore, there is no need for the cash transfer modality.

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# 3. Humanitarian Organisation in the Area

### 3.1 Presence in the area

The UNDP has been active in Ecuador for 55 years, contributing to reinforcing capabilities at various levels and work areas. Disaster preparedness and risk and recovery management have always been priorities on its agenda. The UNDP is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), covering the period 2022–2026, under several priorities, among which resilience is a key principle. In the last five years, more than 11 disaster risk management projects have been implemented, all of which have achieved excellent results and met their proposed goals. UNDP works at national and local levels, acting jointly with the government, civil society, and in strategic alliances with the private sector, such as the Connecting Business Initiative with the Chamber of Industries and Productivity. UNDP initiatives are underway in more than 16 provinces.

UNDP has been implementing ECHO action plans and those of other funding agencies with great success and has become a strategic partner for the Ecuadorian government. In recent years, many tools piloted in ECHO projects have been institutionalised by the Secretariat of Risk Management (SGR). At present, UNDP is implementing the project “Anticipatory actions to support the community and local response to regressive erosion in the Coca River basin and other hazards,” working with Coordinations Zone 2 of the SGR.

PLAN International (PI) is one of the largest development and humanitarian organisation, working in more than 75 countries to promote the rights of children and the equality of girls. PI has over 80 years of experience globally. In Ecuador, it has been working in 500 communities in 9 provinces, reaching 40,000 children, adolescents, and their families. PI works on disaster preparedness and emergency response in close coordination with the Decentralised National Risk Management System throughout the country.

CARE has over 60 years of experience in Ecuador, implementing programmes to support the most excluded communities to overcome poverty, social injustice, and humanitarian crises. CARE places women and girls at the centre of every action to create lasting change. CARE works in 10 provinces in close coordination with SGR, civil society organisations, and the private sector.

The ADRA Foundation has worked in Ecuador for 16 years. Recently, it has implemented numerous interventions in disaster risk management and humanitarian aid. ADRA conducts its operations from field offices with personnel located in 13 provinces.

The Ecuadorian Agricultural Services Centre (CESA) is a well-known national NGO that has been in Ecuador since 1967, performing integral management of rural territories and building resilience to counteract the effects of climate change. CESA has worked with organisations and communities of Chimborazo and Cotopaxi provinces from 1984 to 1994, on projects for agricultural production and forestry, social organisation, improvement of four irrigation systems, and health issues, including the control and prevention of cholera.

The Geophysical Institute (IG-EPN) at the National Polytechnic School was established in 1983. The IG-EPN has been the main research centre in Ecuador for the diagnosis and surveillance of seismic and volcanic hazards. The IG-EPN runs a real-time monitoring programme that ensures the surveillance of active volcanoes and tectonic faults.

The Faculty of Geology (FIGEMPA) conducts research projects related to earth sciences throughout the country. Its research has

informed risk reduction and contingency plans.

The Instituto Geológico (IIGE) has been leading a interinstitutional Technical Committee for the monitoring of hazards in Alausí.

*Appendix 1 Presence and Synergies*

### *3.2 Synergies, links, complementarity with your other actions*

All implementing partners considered for this Action Plan are currently working at the local and community levels in territories to be intervened.

UNDP is working at the national level in strategic actions, such as DP and Disaster Risk Management (DRM). Accordingly, DRM Law, UNDP is working on technical assistance to SGR and municipalities on updating national tools, including the guidelines for creating Community DRM Plans and the EVIN Manual. As part of this initiative, several courses to train staff of the local governments of Cotopaxi and Chimborazo provinces will be planned in 2023 and 2024.

The SGR together with UNDRR, recently launched the Resilient City Initiative, offering a good opportunity for joint action with this initiative. Meanwhile, CESA is finalising the emerging improvement intervention of water systems in rural indigenous communities with excellent results and achievements. All this knowledge and lessons learned add value to this intervention, due the interventions contemplate activities to build community resilience.

In Cotopaxi province, PLAN, CESA, and IG-EPN are currently intervening in child protection activities, WASH maintenance, and capacity building in DP. PI works to improving living conditions of vulnerable children and adolescents and girl empowerment. CESA works to strengthen indigenous leadership and organization capability. In previous years, CESA has worked on irrigation projects in the same territories.

PI will promote joint activity with their project called “safe zones against disasters.” The main objective of this initiative is to strengthen community capabilities to face emergencies or disasters. Additionally, it seeks to generate entrepreneurship for young people from Cotopaxi communities and contributes to improving the living conditions of the population. Another synergy will be promoted with the initiative “Strengthening Child Protection in Vulnerable Communities Impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic.” Specifically, the proposed joint work aims to strengthen community-based protection mechanisms.

ADRA provides services and assistance to the SGR to manage shelters in emergency situations and for persons in human mobility. Continuing this collaboration and focusing institutional efforts on DP at the community level will help achieve the expected results.

CESA organized a successful project involving the emergency maintenance of water systems in rural indigenous communities of Chimborazo province. The materials produced and the lessons learned from this process will be applied to the participating communities to improve their water systems.

The FIGEMPA is conducting, in collaboration with the municipality of Alausí, a study for the identification and geological characterization of areas in Alausí susceptible to mass movements, in order to understand the high expose risk zones.

The organizations' experience in building local capacities oriented towards community resilience, coupled with their knowledge of the intervention territories, will provide the basis for creating synergies.

In addition, based on the requirements that result from the action plan, SGR would be requesting complementary technical assistance from EU Civil Protection Mechanism to help them improve the evacuation plans of the population of Latacunga in case a major eruption happens and also the evacuation protocols in Alausí. Related to Copernicus the main idea is to contact the Emergency Management Services (Copernicus EMS) to ask satellite imagery of the area susceptible to landslides in Alausí to observe if the land is moving.

## 4. Needs Assessment and Risks Analysis

### *4.1 Assessment dates and methodology*

On 23 November 2022, the Humanitarian Country Team and the Secretariat of Risk Management (SGR) met to review the Anticipatory Action Plan and the Disaster Preparedness Strategy designed by the SGR and in place for the Cotopaxi risk scenario. This meeting shed light on the need to assist the national government with disaster preparedness actions at the national, local, and community levels. The Minister asked UNDP to prepare this proposal to help them in some subjects related to their own preparedness plan already in place. This proposal was developed based on several meetings and conversations with SGR and in close coordination with the various implementing partners.

The first step was to collect, categorise, and review secondary information sources related to the Cotopaxi scenarios, existing contingency and emergency plans, and qualitative and quantitative information of the population potentially affected. The analysis led to delimiting the area of most significant risk

On 15 December 2022, in-person visits were organised to fully understand the complexity of actual problems and gaps and their potential effects at the local level. Through coordination of the Cotopaxi local government were held meetings with technical delegates of Ministry of Agriculture and Cattle (MAG), Ministry of Public Health (MSP), Fire Department of Latacunga, the Cotopaxi Red Cross, the Cotopaxi DRM coordinator, and the Mulaló parish local government. The information gathered during the meeting confirmed a high degree of vulnerability and risk exposure in the assessed areas.

Additionally, to understand the social vulnerabilities, informative meetings were held with potentially affected people, including participation of children, youth and community leaders. The findings evidenced the gaps and difficulties in articulating the actions at the community level, directly involving the people from the communities.

In September 2023, the municipality of Alausí requested to UNDP assistance on post-disaster recovery processes. On 12-13 September, a UNDP technical team visited the canton of Alausí, during wich, UNDP angaged with with local authorities and the population affected by the mass movement on 26 March 2023. The analysis of official information related to the occurred disaster and disaster risk susceptibility highlighted the multi-hazard context of Alausí, emphasizing the high vulnerability of its population.

Subsequently, on 23 and 24 October 2023, a field visit was conducted, identifying the most relevant needs for preparation and anticipatory actions in response to disasters. The findings revealed the high disaster risk in the canton, underscored the need to provide support for post-disaster recovery while simultaneously enhancing disaster preparedness capacities at both institutional and community levels.

The methodology used to design this action plan consisted of the following steps:

Meetings with the national and local authorities, especially the SGR

Field visits to gather information and meetings with local authorities and population

Meetings with the SGR focal point to determine the gaps in the anticipatory action plan designed by them.

Meetings among implementing partners to collect technical documents related to risk scenario carried out over several years.

Review of general documents and research documents related to Cotopaxi risk scenarios.

Review of official reports of the mass movement on March 26th and multi-hazard analysis of Alausí canton.

Renewed field missions to interview local authorities and potential beneficiaries as well as to gain an in-depth understanding of the real situation in the field

Summary of findings, needs, and a definition of the action's strategy

Appendix 2 (Needs Assessment Report)

### *4.2 Problem, needs and risk analysis*

Ecuador is a country with multiple risks, due to its climate variability, complex orography, volcanic eruptions, landslides, floods and earthquakes. On the inter-Andean Mountain range, two geo events demand attention: Historically, Cotopaxi has been an active volcano. A new eruptive period during Aug–Nov 2015 and Dec-2022 to Feb-2023 warned high disaster risk. Concurrently, the complex geomorphology of Alausí canton indicates the high vulnerability to landslides, floods and earthquakes.

Regarding Cotopaxi volcano: On 2023 the IG-EPN reported a low-level eruption, marked by daily steam and gas emissions, occasionally containing ash. On 26 October, the SGR changed the alert level from yellow to white, the lowest on a four-color scale.

The volcanic risk of Cotopaxi shows a number of exposed populations. Demographic analysis reveals 119,463 people in Cotopaxi (48.44% male and 51.56% female) potentially affected by lahars and ash fall.

The analysis indicates a female preponderance in the population of all age groups. Gender analysis reveals challenges among rural female population, facing triple discrimination: poverty, ethnicity, and gender. Violence against women is higher than the national level, reaching 63.2%. People with disabilities and elderly, particularly in rural areas, require specialized care and services.

The unsatisfied basic needs poverty index reaches the highest percentage in the province is 72.11%. Cotopaxi occupies seventh place of the poorest Ecuadorian provinces. The consequences of this condition are reflected in high levels of unsanitary conditions, poor access to basic services, and the lack of employment.

The Cotopaxi risk scenario is one of the most complex due to the overpopulated area, the number of strategic public and private infrastructure, and exposed territories that comprise 10 cantons, 35 parishes.

Based on this context, the main problems identified are:

Coordination, technical information, plans, and articulation:

High vulnerability and low capacity to articulate the response at national and local levels.

Lack of understanding of technical and scientific information received by the population and local governments relating to the volcano

Lack of follow-up with the volcanic watchers and lack of equipment maintenance.

Insufficient number of ash fall monitors in communities surrounding the

Protection to vulnerable population (children, adolescents and girls):

Limited approach to protection, which includes understanding the specificity of risks, needs, and vulnerabilities.

Absence of specific guidelines, mechanisms, and action plans for vulnerable groups within the framework of

DP.

Lack of women's leadership, and even more, of girls and adolescent women, increases vulnerability and conceals their specific needs in case of disaster.

Deficient disaster preparedness for adolescents and children.

At the community level:

The current EWS requires improvement in personnel and resources.

Communities as first responders need a clear understanding of the disaster risk scenario.

Community response plans and maps have not been

Primary concerns involve livelihoods, especially cattle, small animals, storage, and production facilities.

Unclear understanding of the eruption phenomenon and what to expect, depending on the community's location.

Safe drinking water and hygiene practices:

Host communities feel pressure when relatives, family, or friends from neighboring areas evacuate. A major concern is the lack of

safe drinking water.

Emergency maintenance is needed in some of the important safety

If hygiene practices are not under control, an epidemic could exacerbate crisis.

A prioritization of the identified needs is carried out to address the critical issues:

Improve the technical and scientific information received by the population and local governments, relating to the current volcanic situation and the need to put necessary safeguards in place.

Strengthen rural communities' knowledge through information on volcanic risk and activity.

Find, train, or update the knowledge of volcano watchers and increase the number of installed ash fall monitors.

Improve DP among adolescents and children and women.

Reinforce established protocols and action plans for vulnerable groups.

Update or create new community response plans and make evacuation maps accessible.

Improve emergency measures to maintain water systems in the largest host communities.

Reinforce hygiene practices.

Regarding Alausí the multi-hazard analysis shows a 52% susceptibility to landslides and 47% to floods and active seismic fault. A 2023 El Niño vulnerability analysis suggests that 91.88% could face the impact of landslides. Since Dec 2022, SGR reported sinkholes and landslides in the urban area. In Feb 2023, a yellow alert was declared in area that covers the communities of Aypud and Casual, and urban areas.

A large-scale mass movement occurred in March 2023 and affected 34 ha. The event caused 1,714 affected people, with 68 fatalities, 10 missing, and 44 injured. Physical damage includes 2,75 km of roads. IG and SGR monitoring (Oct 2023-Jan 2024) indicate movements and cracks, requiring attention and technical treatment.

In addition, the canton-wide multi-hazard susceptibility analysis warns landslide risk in 5 parishes: Alausí, Achupallas, Sibambe, Huigra, and Multitud. Approximately, 25,447 people (47,79 male and 52,21% female) are highly vulnerable to disaster. The SGR and the Municipality of Alausí continuously monitor the risk of landslides in these parishes, to respond effectively to catastrophic events.

Currently, post-disaster recovery is ongoing in a risk scenario, demanding special attention to AA and DP. The needs and risk analysis orient the main problems in two subjects:

Strengthen Local Capability for DP:

Both the municipality of Alausí and SGR lack the capability to develop a DP plan along with its related AA, protocols, and first response plans. Similarly, at the community level, people lack the capability to be prepared for emergencies. It is necessary strengthening the capabilities at the local and community levels, focusing on technical capacities and edu-communicational strategies to raise awareness about the risk scenario.

Lack of EWS may limit the response capacity at the parish and community level. A Community mechanism for population alerts is needed, also a model for monitoring and EWS for the entire population

Social protection

Approximately 1,714 people were directly affected by the landslide. The lack of local capacity led to deficient social support and rights protection. It is necessary to identify and analyze their social vulnerability to facilitate post-disaster recovery and prepare them for future events, recognizing that they are highly exposed to new landslides.

A prioritization of the identified needs is carried out to address the most critical issues: 1)Improve DP and AA at the local-institutional and community levels. 2)Strengthen community knowledge through information on multi-hazards. 3) Develop a Community EWS with coverage for the five parishes prioritized for its vulnerability. 4) Develop a social protection model within the framework of DP.

Environmental Degradation in communities near the Cotopaxi volcano face issues associated with water sources and catchments pollution. In Alausi lack of treatment of groundwater.

### *4.3 Response analysis*

A partnership of the SGR, UNDP, the Geophysics Institute, Plan International, CARE, ADRA, and CESA will address the high vulnerability and complex risk scenario of a Cotopaxi volcanic eruption, and landslides, floods and earthquakes in Alausí. The Action plan will be based on integrated risk analysis and planning, aimed to not aggravate current risks and vulnerabilities. It'll allow to respond in a harmonized approach to implement the anticipatory actions and disaster preparedness, in a framework of building community resilience.

Social protection interventions in both territories to be intervened (communities vulnerable to Cotopaxi volcano eruption and communities in Alausí) will contribute to disaster preparedness by enhancing local capacities to cope with and recover from catastrophic events, thereby ensuring the protection of the rights of people potentially affected.

This proposal will address the problems, needs, and risks identified in Section 4.2, although there remains the need to conduct a detailed assessment when the action plan is implemented, to take into account the activities of local and national entities already in place. The detailed assessment will allow to complement current interventions and giving added value to anticipatory actions already in place.

Regarding Cotopaxi volcano, the SGR has proposed a disaster preparedness strategy, focusing on 13 components to be implemented by local and national institutions :Update evacuation route maps; Reinforce early warning systems; Train local governments; Activate community risk management committees; Develop communication plans; Coordinate response efforts; Establish cantonal situation rooms; Maintain minimum stockpiles for humanitarian assistance; Prepare volunteers; Identify temporary shelters; Update the contingency plans; Conduct simulations and drills; and Provide assistance for the productive sector.

The primary strategy entails engaging stakeholders to grasp grassroots needs and escalating them to national and local levels. Priority will be given to empowering the most vulnerable communities to risks and hazards.

The intervention areas are as follows: Strengthening interinstitutional coordination and communication, updating contingency plans, promoting capacity building, and conducting simulations and drills. Additionally, it will reinforce training on volcanic hazards, train new volcano observers, and install more ash fall monitors (*cenizómetros*) for accurate local-level information.

The participation and leadership of women, girls, and adolescent women will be encouraged and gender and protection approaches will be strengthened to prepare children and adolescents to cope with crises.

At the community level, there is a focus on enhancing the capacities of first responders, as they play a crucial role in evacuation scenarios. The action plan will address capacity gaps and promote the acquisition of skills and practical training tailored to specific contexts. The response will integrate community-level mechanisms to safeguard their livelihoods, in alignment with the sectoral contingency action plan.

A WASH component presents an opportunity to mitigate potential environmental impacts in case humanitarian assistance becomes necessary. The intervention will include environmental training, promoting good hygiene practices, and emphasizing water conservation to raise awareness of environmental issues and sustainable resource manage.

Regarding Alausí, the risk scenario requires comprehensive interventions, involving technical teams from SGR and the municipality in both anticipatory actions and disaster preparedness. Currently, Alausí has a Disaster Action Plan that needs to be updated. It is crucial to promote a participatory construction and update of the local normative framework and the local Disaster Response Plan, with a gender and intercultural focus.

The 5 parishes most vulnerable to disasters lack action plans and capacities to respond to emergencies. The development of local capacities and disaster preparedness instruments requires special attention from the municipality and SGR.

Considering that the landslides of March 2023 affected a significant urban zone, the post-disaster recovery process requires attention, as the affected areas are susceptible to new landslides. Approximately 2000 people require priority attention, support, and social protection for their post-disaster recovery.

The intervention areas are as follows: The action plan will focus on build capacities at the local and community levels. The population of Alausí needs to have the capacities and instruments to respond promptly and effectively to disasters caused by landslides, floods or earthquakes. Capacity development will enable the population of the prioritized parishes to be prepared for possible disasters. It will also allow better organization and action based on knowledge and information about the behavior of existing threats.

Anticipatory actions undertaken by the municipality of Alausí contribute to reducing disaster risk. Technical support to both the municipality and SGR will prioritize interventions based on vulnerability and disaster risk reports. At the same time, these interventions will advance post-disaster recovery processes in the area previously affected by the landslide.

The action plan considers interventions to strengthen early warning mechanisms. The population will have updated and timely information about present risks and threats, enabling better organization and disaster preparedness. The implementation of edu-communication strategies will inform and raise awareness of the present risks to the entire population.

The implementation of a Community Early Warning System will reduce the population's vulnerability context, providing information to achieve better organization and response to the occurrence of dangerous event. Monitoring risk and early warning accessible is crucial in a disaster preparedness framework.

Protecting rights within a disaster preparedness framework allows differentiated and targeted interventions for the most vulnerable groups in an emergency. A management model will be developed to coordinate relevant entities (at the national and local level) in rights protection and social support. Identifying the vulnerability conditions of the population previously affected by landslide and their priority attention directly contributes to recovery. Providing psychosocial and socio-emotional support is decisive and prioritized as the starting point for their post-disaster recovery.

The Crisis Modifier element is taken into account in the event of a sudden emergency during initial interventions that exceeds the national capacity to respond.

The anticipatory approach of this action focuses on indigenous and local populations. Therefore, the interventions will be documented and shared through edu-communication materials adapted to their cultural environment, without neglecting the use of their ancestral language (Kichwa).

Finally, the project will abide to DG-ECHO environmental principles. It will consider EU environmental requirements and recommendations, as well as related global environmental guidance. UNDP, will ensure that the highest standards are maintained by all its partners. It is worth mentioning that UNDP promotes the “greening the blue” initiative (see Appendix 11). This integrates environmental and social sustainability considerations into all its work in a systematic and coherent way.

UNDP and its partners will continue working after the end proj

### *4.4 Have you assessed this project as entailing data protection risks?*

No

### *4.4.1 Details of risk mitigation measures, including details of any planned Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)*

At this stage, the project has not assessed data protection risks. The project does not involve the processing of personal data, either by UNDP or by any partner associated with this project.

### *4.5 [INT] Update on needs assessment*

Currently, Ecuador is facing one of the most severe droughts of the last six decades. This water crisis has generated a multi-sector impact, particularly affecting the agricultural sector. Along the Central Highlands area, the lack of rain reduces the availability of pastures for the livestock, thus reducing livestock production and affecting the local economy; moreover, there are sowing delays, significantly reducing harvest yields and compromising the food safety of rural communities.

As a result of the drought, forest fires have also increased. From January to October 2024, 139 forest fires were registered, affecting 2.744 hectares, mainly in Sigchos and the buffer zone of the Cotopaxi National Park, with countless losses in biodiversity. During the same period, 28 forest fire events were registered at the Province of Chimborazo, affecting 1.898 acres, mainly in the Parish of Achupallas and the buffer zone of the Sangay National Park.

The drought has also impacted on the potable water supply in several communities. The drinking water inflow was reduced between 23% and 30%, so the JAAP implemented more rigorous control measures and established sanctions such as service cutoff and fines for inadequate use of water.

The loss of 100 hectares of forest in the Parish of Aláquez, which took place at the end of September, caused damage on multiple drinking water supply systems, which prompted the JAAP to strengthen their actions of fire prevention and control in the zone.

In addition, the decrease of the river flow level has limited hydroelectric generation, leading to power outages at the national level starting on the third week of September. This situation was aggravated in October with daily power outages of up to 14 hours. The water and electricity services at the educational units has severely affected the quality and continuity of the teaching/learning processes among children and adolescents, limiting the access to essential educational and technological resources. The intermittence of power supply forces the JAAP to implement alternative solutions, such as the substitution of electrical pumps for models of internal combustion, to guarantee the operativity of the pumping systems and, thus, the water supply to the users.

the JAAP are encouraged to strengthen the governance mechanisms through the composition of a provincial organization that facilitates an ongoing dialogue between the actors involved in the management of the water resource, the management and participation of the academia for the periodic analysis of the quality of the water, based on INEN standard 1108, with preferential rates.

In October 2023, the SGR changed the alert from yellow to white for the Cotopaxi Volcano. This change of alert reduced the interest of the communities regarding disaster preparedness . As a strategy this action plan expanded its focus to a multi-hazard. This change enabled us to identify the interest of other populations that are in risk zones. Currently, 3 additional communities are part of the capacity strengthening process.

The Canton of Alausí is undergoing acute immigration abroad, motivated mainly by the quest for better standards of living. These migration flows have changed the population dynamics, generating more pressure on the people that stay, who are mainly elderly.

Regarding risks, steps were advanced to complete the actions, despite the complex national political, social and environmental context that is also reflected in a slowing economy due to the insecurity led by organized crime, a severe power crisis with 14 hours of rationing, extreme climate events characterized by a severe drought, and a political uncertainty caused by a transitional government. Notwithstanding these risks, the tight coordination and communication among the Project Consortium teams, as well as the institutions and the local gov., have allowed the advancement of the programmed activities.

# 5. Beneficiaries

## *5.1 Beneficiaries - identification criteria*

In the case of Cotopaxi volcanic eruption scenario, this action plan will target rural paysans and the indigenous population—women and men from 19 communities of three cantons (Latacunga, Saquisilí and Salcedo) located in the province of Cotopaxi. The main criteria to select these communities are related to very high, high, and medium volcanic risk scenarios.

Community selection was made based on the official hazard maps provided by the Geophysics Institute, pinpointing the communities most exposed to a major eruption. In the case of Guaytacama, Tanicuchí, Alaquez and de urban Parish of Saquisilí, the project will work on safe zones and host communities. It is also vital to prepare the host communities and reinforce their WASH systems in case they need to receive their neighbours from an evacuated community.

In the case of Alausí canton, this action plan will target population of five parish with most susceptibility of landslides and floods. In addition, the beneficiary group will also include also affected people by the landslides of March 2023.

For both areas, beneficiaries includes community organizations, local and national institutions.

The initial number of beneficiaries in Alausí was calculated based on the 2022 population census at the cantonal and parish levels. Subsequently, the identification of parishes in a higher vulnerability situation to disasters was carried out, supported by technical reports from the Municipality of Alausí and SGR. For disaster preparedness, the aim is to achieve coverage of the population in the most vulnerable parishes (5), and for specific interventions, as outlined in results 6 and 7, an estimation of the beneficiary population was made based on vulnerability information provided by SGR.

Beneficiaries are classified as individuals and organisations. Selection criteria for individuals would be classified per result. An initial quantification of potential beneficiaries is described below:

R1. The beneficiaries in this case are estimated as 28 public national and local organisations working to improve the mechanism and its articulation: officials and risk management technicians from organisations of the risk management system in the selected territories.

R2. Activities are planned for five communities; it is estimated that 10% of each one will participate in at least one of the activities promoted, including children, adolescents, girls, and women between 9 and 17 years old from the most vulnerable areas of the selected communities, but not limited to these segments; and women above 18 years old who are community leaders of first response groups.

R3. The activities of this result are related to the same five communities of R2, and an estimate of 50% of the population will participate in the activities promoted to improve the community response plans.

R4. The main selection criteria are to work with at least two host communities, especially those receiving the highest numbers of

evacuated populations from nearby communities in the event of a major event.

R5. Activities are planned to reinforce local capacities at the community and institutional level on preparedness and AA to disasters.

R6. Develop a Community EWS that will cover the prioritized parishes.

R7. Beneficiaries will be the population affected by disasters occurred in the prioritized parishes. According to SGR approximately 1.714 people affected by the landslides of March. 2023 require social protection.

### *5.2 Involvement of the beneficiaries in the design of / and in the action*

In the case of Cotopaxi volcanic eruption scenario, a small group of men, women, children, adolescents, and elderly population of final beneficiaries was involved in the design of the action. Field visits to the community of San Agustín de Callo were conducted in December 2022. At least 30 final beneficiaries have been contacted by UNDP and its partners at this stage. This proposal was designed based on their needs. In addition, community leaders were consulted in this meeting.

The meeting with the provincial local government gave us a good understanding of the activities. Likewise, conversations with public officials gave us an idea of the progress in preparation activities and existing gaps. They will also be directly involved during the implementation phase. More extensive consultation will be carried out if this action plan is approved. Based on Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices (KAP) methodology, a survey will also be conducted.

Another important actor directly involved during this initial stage is the Secretariat of Risk Management (SGR). This action plan has been designed based on the activity plan proposed by the SGR to cover the gaps found in the actual process. During the implementation phase, they will be a key actor to continue working on this action plan.

In the case of Alausí, technical meetings with the participation of SGR and the Municipality of Alausí were conducted in September and October 2023. Both institutions will be part of the beneficiary organizations. Semi structures interviews and meetings were conducted during field visits to the local population with the aim of identifying and prioritizing needs. Some of the individuals interviewed were directly affected by the landslides in March 2023.

### *5.3 Does the proposed action provide a specific targeted response for groups or individuals with specific vulnerabilities?*

Yes

### *5.3.1 If yes, please select up to 4 relevant groups/vulnerabilities*

Infants and children under 5 - Adolescent girls and boys

### *5.3.2 Provide details on the targeted groups and on the specific responses tailored to their particular need.*

Yes, Result 2 is specifically designed to address the needs of children, girls, and adolescents, with the aim of strengthening their voices and capacities to be prepared and even lead during a major crisis. One of the gaps identified is related to specific protection measures through women's lenses. Result 2 was designed with the main purpose of responding effectively. Hence, it is important to differentiate the needs of the various gender-related groups.

Normally, the response is standardised in a general sense, and it is difficult to respond with a focus on gender and age groups. In rural communities under normal situations, a high vulnerability related to gender-based violence exists. In case a crisis occurs, these target groups are more exposed, and the situation can worsen with severe consequences.

R2 focuses their actions on children, girls, and adolescents aiming to be better prepared for a Cotopaxi volcanic eruption. A rapid diagnosis of the situation will be done to identify knowledge and capacities through focus groups differentiated by age and sex. Within this need analysis, parents, and caregivers will also be consulted. Then, children, girls, and adolescents will design a specific action plan to strengthen their protection capacities to cope with emergencies.

The focus on the rights of children and adolescents (NNA) in risk management recognises NNA, as independent persons who must strengthen their capacities to commit themselves to their rights, demand, and participate in their fulfilment. The identification of youth leadership and the promotion of advocacy spaces with rights holders have been planned through the identification of community leaders, development of schools of leadership, and support of community initiatives for disaster preparedness.

Participation seeks to influence decision-making processes to generate lasting changes and promote spaces for young people to raise their voices and express their needs. With this objective, a youth network will be formed to strengthen disaster preparedness and resilience in the event of an eruption of the Cotopaxi volcano.

### *5.4 [INT] Update on beneficiaries identification criteria and their involvement*

Due to ash fall and lahar deposits, the project-prioritized communities are located within the zone of influence of the Cotopaxi Volcano. Three new communities under risk were also adhered, i.e., Rancho Saguimala in the Parish of Mulaló, Santa Inés and Santa Teresita in the Parish of Guaytacama. These communities are interested in strengthening their capacities.

For the strengthening of capacities at the community level, an identification and selection process was carried out in coordination with the representatives of each community. These leaders, who are committed with the achievement of community well-being, received training to lead the processes related to the project actions and impact on the risk management of their communities. At the Rancho Saquimala community, an intellectually disabled instructor leads the coordination in the community and contributes with the training development.

The work activities of the beneficiary population have limited the development of certain community tasks. To involve the participants, community meetings were agreed upon after working hours or on weekends. The project team has been required to adapt to this reality and schedules. On several occasions, the local festivities, such as the "Mama Negra" celebration, have deferred the

programmed activities.

The selection of NNA beneficiaries, carried out with the active participation of community leaders and educational authorities, guaranteed that the actions be adjusted to the local realities, encouraging social ownership and community commitment. These key actors participate in all the phases of the project, from planning to evaluation, guaranteeing that the activities respond to the specific needs of NNA and contributing to the strengthening of the local support networks.

In relation to the WASH component, with the initial support of the GADs and further secondary information, the temporary shelter areas were identified and 17 JAAPs were diagnosed, selecting 4 of them, adding a total of 6,559 registered electoral roll users, which correspond to 26,236 people (with an average of 4 members per family) and 8 intervened safe sites with 1,813 potentially sheltered people, totaling 28,049 persons that would be directly benefitted by the proposed R4 safe water actions. These JAAPs benefitted by 25 hours of classroom-based training workshops, including 17 operators and 3 users, who were the leaders of each system. As a result of this process, 17 basic tool kits were delivered, benefiting 14,000 users of the 17 JAAPs.

The selection of beneficiaries in the Canton of Alausí was carried out through a diagnosis of the Parishes of Sibambe, Huigra, Achupallas, Multitud and Alausí Matriz. Meetings were organized with local actors and a mixed survey was used to identify the needs in the area of Risk and Disaster Management (GRD). This enabled the classification of communities according to their vulnerability and the elaboration of a final list of prioritized communities based on a technical and objective analysis. The beneficiaries are actively involved in the implementation and follow-up of the project through their participation in community strengthening meetings for plan organization and application. Spaces have been created for feedback to express opinions on interventions, improving their cultural quality and relevance. The follow-up includes the collection of continuous data, periodic evaluations and community participation workshop

# 6. Gender and Age Marker

## *6.1 Gender and Age*

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Q1: Does the proposal contain an adequate and brief gender and age analysis?*** | Yes |
| ***Q2: Is the assistance adapted to the specific needs and capacities of different gender and age groups?*** | Yes |
| ***Q3: Does the action prevent/mitigate negative effects?*** | Yes |
| ***Q4: Do relevant gender and age groups adequately participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of the action?*** | Yes |
| ***Initial mark*** | 2 |

## *6.2 Additional comments and challenges*

Gender will be mainstreamed into all aspects of the action plan.

Ecuador experiences high levels of gender-based violence. Six out of ten women have experienced some type of gender violence 54% have experienced psychological, 38% physical, and 26% of women have been sexually abused. Cultural and social patterns normalise violence against girls and perpetuate them in the traditional roles of mother, wife, and domestic work. All these risks and vulnerabilities are exacerbated during an emergency. R2 has been designed to provide voice and empowerment to women, girls, children, and adolescents.

Rural communities have particularities in their approach to the needs of gender-related groups; their needs are not sufficiently incorporated in the national action plans currently in place. With the purpose of better preparing the response to the different needs of various gender-related groups, this action plan includes R2 to cover this clearly identified gap. It is so important to protect women, girls, children, and adolescents and prevent harmful practices of gender-insensitive operations. Through the expertise of Plan International, working with gender and age approaches has become the main vision of its mandate. R1 and R2 will ensure that the SGR Cotopaxi national action plan includes specific measures involving gender and age groups.

Child protection preparedness seeks to prevent and respond to abuse, exploitation, and violence against children in emergencies. In the case of the Cotopaxi scenario, the estimated percentage is around 30% of the total population of this area. Working with their needs will incorporate a key element in all disaster preparedness, and it will also help children feel safe with their families.

One of the challenges will be the increase of violence or the lack of proper humanitarian assistance to gender and age groups. This action plan is a key element to avoid such risk, incorporating and involving creative activities

## *6.3 [INT] Update on Gender and Age marker*

Q1. The proposal carried out a quick gender analysis on the situation of women, girls, boys and LGBTIQ+ people, which allowed to evidence the specific needs of these groups regarding disaster preparedness needs.

Q2. Actions have been adapted to the specific needs of women, adjusting schedules to enable their participation, encouraging female leadership and inclusion. In the same way, work is performed with girls and female adolescents, empowering their leadership and including people with disabilities.

Q3. The collaboration with leaders from both genders has strengthened women’s representation and voice in community processes,

promoting a more equitable and diverse environment. The methodologies implemented to address risk protection and management issues were adapted and differentiated among children and adolescents, incorporating a gender approach that guarantees learning inclusion and equity.

Q4. The methodology used in the training has enabled a comprehension of the issues among the different age groups and a more inclusive participation of a disabled person, who demonstrated leadership and professionalism in dealing with risk management.

The quarter of Chantilín in Saquisilí poses specific challenges regarding the participation of girls and female adolescents in these activities. Traditional gender standards and social expectations limit their involvement, which requires specific interventions to address these barriers. Collaboration with community leaders and key actors is fundamental to achieving a change through strategies adapted to their reality.

# 7. Logic of the Intervention

### *7.1 Principal objective*

Contribute to anticipatory actions and disaster preparedness at the community level in multi-hazard-exposed territories (prone areas to Cotopaxi volcano eruption and to multi-hazard in Alausí canton) , through interventions aimed at enhancing institutional and community capacities, improving early actions mechanisms, enhancing communication and awareness of disaster risk management with a gender-sensitive and intercultural approach, establishing access to safe water mechanisms (WASH), and ensuring the protection of rights, focused on populations facing social vulnerability, with particular attention given to priority groups such as children, adolescents, girls, and women.

### *7.1.2 Specific objective description*

Anticipatory Actions (AA) are necessary in the Cotopaxi volcano risk scenario. Slowly the volcano is showing more activity. Although the disaster is not imminent in the coming weeks, the scenario could change in the coming months, and pre-determined protocols, describing the activities to be undertaken and pre-agreed triggers between the different stakeholders are necessary. Ahead the crisis and following the IG-EPN hazard monitoring, the vulnerability analysis and the EWS already in place, clear protocols need to be established, such as reactive emergency protection mechanisms, evacuation protocols the areas and to have some relief before the eruption happen. In this sense, R1 will work with the SGR and other sectors to establish the trigger moments, the protocols to be follow, the pre-agreed thresholds to reach the most vulnerable people. A non-regret approach is a key factor, this one means an approach to management that involves erring on the side of caution and plan well in advance.

Rural indigenous communities have a clear understanding of the volcanic risk they face and are more prepared to face a major volcanic eruption or continual ash falls from Cotopaxi volcano.

Children, adolescents, and women use the best of their knowledge and capacities to cope with a major crisis, giving them more active participation and resilience. They are prepared to exercise their rights and demand actions that guarantee their protection against violence in emergency situations.

Host communities and evacuated populations from neighbouring communities have access to safe drinking water and can better face adverse events because of the emergency improvements and the water boards' enhanced capacities.

This action plan will reinforce and complement the disaster preparedness and anticipatory action in place led by national and local authorities in collaboration with the humanitarian and development actors to ensure the best response while simultaneously reducing the risk of human fatalities.

Alausí, hazard analysis highlights the vulnerability of populations to landslides, floods and earthquakes. The risk context underscores the lack of technical capacities at the local and community levels for AA and disaster preparedness. AA are necessary to mitigate the vulnerability context of the population. Simultaneously, it is crucial to raise awareness about the risk scenario. R5 and R6 aims to strengthen local capabilities and develop a local disaster response plan along with its related instruments to contribute at the local and community levels. Strengthening technical capacities of community first response teams for emergency response is also addressed in R5.

Strengthening local capabilities for post-disaster recovery processes and enhancing social protection mechanisms are considered in R7. These interventions will not only contribute to reducing the vulnerability of populations affected by disaster but also add to the development of resilience capacities.

AA thus reduces the vulnerability of affected communities and strengthens their capacity to manage an emergency and to safeguard their assets. As such, AA is integral to risk management as it helps pre-define needs and respond to them more effectively, and thus reduce the impact of a hazard or threat on lives and livelihoods. Giving technical assistance to the SGR and local government will reduce the gap of AA the process is showing now.

Finally, to be environmentally sustainable some of the main action to be implemented by this action plan are minimize travel, choose a green venue, provide a green menu, ban single-use plastic, and minimize waste, go paperless, choose sustainable branding, help participants make green choices, offset event carbon footprint, raise awareness on sustainability.

### *7.2 Indicators*

### *7.2 Indicator (1/3)*

% reduction in the number of affected people (experienced, expected or modelled)

### *Definition*

In comments box:
1) define "affected people" (injured, evacuated, relocated, with houses damaged/destroyed, deprived of livelihood, crops, etc.);
2) provide absolute numbers;
3) state if the reduction is experienced, expected or modelled.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Administrative records; Modelling report; Survey of affected people/people at risk.

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 9.00 | 48.00 | 24.11 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

The total number of potential affected people in the Cotopaxi volcanic eruption scenario in Cotopaxi province is estimated to be 119,463 inhabitants. On the other hand, in Alausí the number of potential affected people to multi hazard is estimated to be 25,447 inhabitants. These numbers include rural and urban populations and is understood to be 100% of the potentially affected people.

Of this number, this action plan would work with 19 communities of Cotopaxi and 5 parishes of Alausí located in the most vulnerable and critical rural territories. The target value estimated covers at least 69,494 inhabitants, i.e., 48% of the total affected people.

Considering the activities realised previously by SGR and the Red Cross, approximately 11,288 inhabitants have been reached in the Cotopaxi scenario and 1,714 has been identified in vulnerability situation, i.e., 9% of the total affected people. In this scenario, this number is the baseline.

A reduction may be expected based on the administrative records and a survey proposed in the final stage of the action.

### *[INT] Update on indicator, baseline, progress and target value*

I1. During this stage, 24.11% of the total number of potentially affected people was reached in the scenario of a volcanic eruption of the Cotopaxi and of multiple hazards in the Canton of Alausí, which totals 144,910 people (100%). This figure was calculated through a modelling of the data, where 24.11% corresponds to 34,931 people that have participated in different project interventions:

- 307 people participated in the local GAD strengthening actions at the Province of Cotopaxi.
- 18,000 teachers, students and parents are aware of volcanic and seismic hazards. This was possible through a process of training the trainers that was carried out with 120 teachers at 40 educational units, as a joint effort between IG-EPN, UNDP and Plan International.
- The communication campaign reached approximately 15,600 people. This was possible through the dissemination of preventive messages on Radio Cotopaxi 106.9 and 89.5 FM.
- 761 children and adolescents (NNA) developed capacities through soft skill workshops and training sessions
- 58 community facilitators were trained in vulnerability and capacity analysis (VCA), in 15 communities, representatives of the Risk Management Unit at the Cotopaxi Prefecture, the Cantonal GADs, and support institutions.
- 85 people have participated in the participatory hazard and vulnerability evaluation in the prioritized communities of the 5 intervention Parishes in Alausí.

## *7.2 Indicator (2/3)*

% of target population with adequate WASH services and hygiene practices

### *Definition*

Average % of the following indicators:
- % of population considering that their basic WASH needs are met;
- % of population with adequate hygiene practices (according to SPHERE standards on appropriate use and regular maintenance of facilities and on hand washing).
Provide data for each of these two indicators in the comments field.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Focus group discussions and report on the interventions.

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | 16.60 | 40.36 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

The total target population of this action plan is 69496 inhabitants (100%). The project will work with only two or three host communities of those considered safe areas. This indicator will cover the intervention in only one or two host communities. The estimated number of direct beneficiaries is 14,596 inhabitants (16,60%), considering the 2,782 inhabitants usually living there and a general estimate of the evacuees.

This target value is an estimate; during the initial stage, the safe areas will be determined and assessed in the field, based on a detailed diagnosis, and the percentage may vary, to be revised accordingly.

The baseline is considered 0, i.e., actions related to WASH intervention or contingency plans for the water sector are in place now.

### *[INT] Update on indicator, baseline, progress and target value*

I2. 40,36% of the population accessing WASH services and improving hygiene practices was reached. Thanks to the emergent interventions of the water systems in 4 temporary shelter areas, 6,559 users registered in the electoral rolls, which corresponds to 26,236 people (with an average of 4 members per family), were benefitted, and 8 temporary shelters were fixed to host 1,813 people in case of an emergency.

During this period, 28,049 people are directly benefitted by the proposed safe water actions.

The capacities of 68 leaders and operators were strengthened for the management and operation of the water systems of 17 Potable Water Management Boards at Latacunga and Saquisilí and for hygiene practices to prevent respiratory diseases caused by ash fall. Through a process of training of trainers, 25 leaders were qualified, while 125 people were trained through replication workshops.

## *7.2 Indicator (3/3)*

Custom

### *Definition*

% of activities that incorporate principles of meaningful access, safety and dignity through a community participatory approach.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Project data documenting the measures and activities that incorporate principles of meaningful access, safety and dignity through a community participatory approach.

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 0.00 | 25.00 | 7.7 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

The action plan has 26 activities in total, out of them 5 activities are fully connected with protection and 1 in Alausí, 6 activities out of 26 means 23% of meaningful activities related to protection. If we add the safe water as a protection measure also, at least an estimation of 25% of the activities of this action plan will be connected with protection.

- Report of participatory consultation sessions
- Review of activities – according to a defined and approved understanding
- Protocol for monitoring with the community members.

### *[INT] Update on indicator, baseline, progress and target value*

I3. During this period (may, 2023 to october, 2024), 7.7% compliance of the activities that have incorporated significant principles of access, safety and dignity through a community participatory approach was reached in Alausí.

Activity 2.1, which corresponds to the evaluation of the needs of children and adolescents (NNA) based on the level of hazard exposure has been completed, 80% of activity 2.2 was also completed.. As part of this activity, improvement plans for 15 communities were devised in a participatory manner, focused on the protection of NNA in emergency situations, which were successfully implemented. 30% of activity 2.3 was completed. Training sessions were developed to address disaster preparedness, emergency response and protection roadmaps, as well as the right of NNA during a crisis, through the activity called "Alerta Guaguas" (Ready, Children).

Up to the first quarter of 2025, activities 2.2 and 2.3 will be completed, dealing with the identification of juvenile leadership and the structuring of youth networks for preparation and protection in emergency situations. The 5 activities related to protection within result 2 shall conclude in September 2025.

The operational activities in Alausí initiated in August, while the preparatory and coordination activities were completed, enabling the implementation of the proposed activities in results 7.1 and 7.4, which are related to this indicator.

On average, 2 activities have been concluded, representing 7.7% of the progress on this indicator.

## *7.3 Results*

## *7.3 Result (1/8)*

National and local institutions improve the interinstitutional coordination, planning, and dissemination of scientific information to cope with a major Cotopaxi volcanic eruption.

### Sector

Disaster Risk Reduction / Disaster Preparedness

### Subsectors

Community and local level action

Information, communication and public awareness

Contingency planning and preparedness for response

### Estimated total amount

275.180,70

## Result 1 - Indicator 1

### Type / Subsector

Community and local level action

### Indicator

Number of people participating in interventions that enhance their capacity to face shocks and stresses

### Definition

Interventions at household and local level aimed at concretely strengthen the capacity. Information or advocacy activities as well as trainings are not eligible unless they will result or are directly linked to concrete action (e.g. evacuation plan developed).
Examples: number of people who can use a protective shelter, etc; number of people covered/included in a new contingency plan.

### Source and method of data collection

Risk assessments; Intervention reports; Risk maps; Registration records.

| Baseline | Target value | Progress value |
|---|---|---|
| 0,00 | 63.915,00 | 34.027,00 |

### Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value

All beneficiaries of this action plan will participate in interventions to enhance their capacity to face shocks and stresses. An initial estimated, based on Census Data of 2022 of 63,915 inhabitants would be covered by Result 1. This number includes activities to strengthen inter institutional capacities, update contingency plans, and disseminate official scientific information related to the Cotopaxi volcanic eruption.

The project beneficiary information was updated with official data from the Ecuador 2022 Census, and also it included the 60% of the total population of Salcedo canton, due to the work on strengthening local government in disaster preparedness plan.

## Result 1 - Indicator 2

### Type / Subsector

Information, communication and public awareness

### Indicator

Number of people reached through Information, Education and Communication on DRR

### Definition

Information, Education and Communication: community-led awareness campaigns, development and distribution of awareness materials, media campaigns; peer-to-peer awareness, workshops, exhibitions, training of teachers and pupils.
In case of mass media campaigns provide explanation on how actual reach was estimated.

### Source and method of data collection

Audience figures (expected, monitored); Attendance sheets; School records.
At this stage, the number of people reached by the awareness campaign is only estimated. At the end of the intervention, the project will count with a communication impact evaluation to give real information related to the people reached.

| Baseline | Target value | Progress value |
|---|---|---|

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 11.288,00 | 63.915,00 | 33.720,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

KRI indicator is related to activity 1.3, information was updated with official data from the Ecuador 2022 Census, and also it included the 60% of the total population of Salcedo canton, due to the work on strengthening local government in disaster preparedness plan.

Communities understand the messages provided by the IG-EPN, to react accordingly, and to avoid stress and anxiety among the paysans. This means that there is the need to train different participants.

The baseline is estimated as 11,288 inhabitants to be reached through information, education, and communication strategies enacted by the government to date. Only a communication impact evaluation would give real info related to the estimated reach. In this case, the baseline is only a general estimate.

The impact of the awareness campaigns will be measured through the analysis of demographic data and the systematization of local media coverage and audience.

## *Result 1 - Indicator 3*

### *Type / Subsector*

Contingency planning and preparedness for response

### *Indicator*

Number of people covered by early action/contingency plans

### *Definition*

Plans must be developed, tested and have provisions for maintenance.
To include opportunities for anticipation, pre-emptive and early action (e.g. evacuation and shelter in advance of impact; scalability of service to respond to increase in demand; etc.)
Action triggered by plan has to be coordinated, timely and effective.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Local administration's contingency and preparedness plans. Sectoral Plan and Signatories and sign off (updating)

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 0,00 | 63.915,00 | 282.126,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

Result 1 will help develop or update two sectoral response plans and eight local contingency plans (four at canton level and four at local parish level). These ten contingency plans, which will be updated or developed, will be coordinated with the Ministries and the SGR. The estimated number of people would vary based on the final decisions of the selected local governments, as well as the sectoral plans to be developed. The number provided as the target value is consistent with the total number of beneficiaries.

The project beneficiary information was updated with official data from the Ecuador 2022 Census, and also it included the 60% of the total population of Salcedo canton, due to the work on strengthening local government in disaster preparedness plan.

## *[INT] Update on all the indicators for this result*

I1. To date, 34,027 people have been reached, who have participated in the different project interventions. This figure is obtained by adding the different actions that have been carried out. During this period, 98 people were part of the diagnosis and updating of the response plans (59% men and 41% women) plus 209 officials (54% men and 46% women) of 8 local GADs were trained, i.e. Consortium of Parish Governments of Cotopaxi, Saquisilí, Salcedo and Latacunga Fire Department, and members of the SNDGRD: General Hospital of Latacunga, MIDUVI, MTOP and MPCEIP, as part of the Strengthening Plan of the GADs for the integral management of disasters and interinstitutional coordination. All of them were part of the strengthening actions provided by the local GADs.

At the same time, 18,000 teachers, students and parents are aware of volcanic and seismic hazards. This was possible through a process of training of trainers that was carried out among 120 teachers conjointly between the IG-EPN, UNDP and Plan International.

Finally, the communication campaign reached about 15,600 people. This was done through the dissemination of preventive messages in Radio Cotopaxi 106.9 and 89.5 FM.

I2. To date, 33,720 people reached through Information, Education and Communication on DRR. This number is obtained by adding 120 teachers trained by the process of Training of Trainers to facilitate interactive workshops on volcanic hazards (40% m, 60% w) of 40 Educational units of the Parishes of La Matriz, Mulaló, Joseguango Bajo, Tanicuchi, Eloy Alfaro, Ignacio Flores, Guaytacama, Aláquez, Belisario Quevedo and Pastocalle at the Canton of Latacunga and the Parish of Chantilín at the Canton of Saquisilí. These training sessions were carried out with the technical support of the IG-EPN and the Ministry of Education.

The teachers developed replication workshops on volcanic hazards with groups of 35 people within their respective learning communities, reaching a total of 17,000 people trained, among students, teachers and parents. On the other hand, 1000 students and teachers from 26 bilingual educational units were trained in Kichwa, thanks to the articulation with the Pedagogical Coordination of the Bilingual Intercultural Education Secretariat and *Etnocomunicación* (SEIBE) of Zone 3 at the Cantons of Salcedo, Saquisilí and Latacunga, and brochures in Kichwa of the Cotopaxi Volcano were provided.

In Radio Cotopaxi 106.9 and 89.5 FM, radio spots were broadcast, dramatized with a multi-hazard approach, reaching 15,600 people. The radio station has coverage in the Cantons of Latacunga, Pujilí, Salcedo, Saquisilí, La Maná, Pangua and Sigchos; in addition to the sectors of Tungurahua, Chimborazo and Pichincha. The message was also disseminated through the web page www.cotopaxi.gob.ec

I3. The figure, 282,126 people covered by contingency plans, was calculated as 60% of the population of the Province of Cotopaxi, taking as a reference the Population and Housing Census of 2022. In spite of the existence of the Provincial Response Plan, which would cover 100% of the Population of the Canton, it has been previewed to consider 60%, as a major interaction among the most remote cantons and parishes of the Province would be required. On the other hand, these cantons are located in the foothills of the mountain range towards the coast, and their risk scenarios are different. Thus, 60% has been estimated to be covered by the plans.

Eight response plans has been developed: Provincial Government, Municipal Governments of Latacunga, Salcedo and Saquisilí, and the rural Parish Governments of Joseguango Bajo, Mulaló, Guaytacama and Chantilín.

The plans were carried out based on the alerting protocol of the IG-EPN and the SNGR, where the actions that the GADs must carry out are established among the affected zones from the eruptive process.

## *Result 1 - Activity 1*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

1.1 Define sectoral contingency plans and inter-institutional protocols through Technical Work Tables (MTTs) to respond to a potential Cotopaxi volcanic crisis.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

This activity will be carried out in close coordination with the Secretary of Risk Management (SGR) as a lead entity in all anticipatory actions and disaster preparedness in place. The action plan will provide technical assistance to productive and water sectors in defining their respective sectoral contingency plans and inter-institutional protocols.

Activity 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 will run in parallel. They are not consecutive activities.

Activity 1.1 will work with two sectorial contingency plans, activity 1.2 will be working with the provincial and cantonal local governments, and activity 1.3 will work improving the understanding of technical scientific information necessary for the EWS action and reinforcing the trigger protocols to alert the population.

Desktop simulations of the respective contingency plans will be framed with the respective stakeholders and technical worktables.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

1.1.1 Micro-assessment of capabilities and signing of implementing partner agreement.

1.1.2 Kick-off meeting, assessment of progress of current processes, and hiring personnel.

1.1.3 Define methodology and roadmap with the Secretary of Risk Management (SGR) to reinforce preparations at Emergency Operations Committee (COE) and MTT levels.

1.1.4 Plan and execute training / workshops at National Decentralised Risk Management (SNDGR) entities, promulgated by MTTs.

1.1.5 In conjunction with preparing sectoral contingency plans, two sectors will be selected with the SGR (e.g., the productive sector and the water sector).

1.1.6 Promote simulations and drills of protocols and contingency plans framed by MTTs.

## *Result 1 - Activity 2*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

1.2 Strengthen anticipatory actions and disaster preparation, led by the SGR, with local governments (provincial, cantonal).

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

This activity aims to strengthen existing contingency plans and advanced preparations in place at the local level. Upon projected changes at the local level (mayoral elections will take office in May 2023 and new directors will be seated around June 2023), despite contingency plans, new authorities and their teams will need to be fully informed and updated. Providing technical assistance at this time will speed up the process and reduce disruptions that the transition may cause.

This process will start with the analysis of the existing contingency or emergency plans, the ordinance of each municipality, the DRM Units in place and their capacity. Based in this analysis, specific early actions will be design for each local government.

A predetermined protocol will be developed describing the activities to be undertaken and preagreed such as triggers, threshold, lead time definition, means among other actions.

The no regrets factor will be a key principle when the triggers are designed, promoting the participation of the people of different

ages, explaining them the importance to evacuate in a timely manner, conducting simulations and drills, establishing early actions in close coordination with the institutional capacities.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

1.2.1 Jointly review contingency plans, advanced preparations, and the structure and profile of existing risk management units (UGRs) at the local government level.

1.2.2 Jointly formulate methods to reinforce preparedness and anticipatory actions underway, with the SGR and for each local government.

1.2.3 Implement at least two activities with each local government in the framework of the reinforcement plan agreed upon.

1.2.4 Provide technical assistance to update contingency plans and those of local governments.

1.2.5 Prioritise, in a participatory manner, the projected response actions considered most urgent and generate an action plan to proceed in an accelerated way.

1.2.6 Accompany the implementation of the action plan's anticipatory actions

1.2.7 Carry out simulations or drills to put the local government's contingency plan into practice and early action protocols.

Action plan´s anticipatory actions is a smart way to respond to the potential disaster, based on pre-identified risks in a community resilience framework. It´s crucial to be fast and establish clear early actions protocols as part of the Contingency Plans. This action will include strengthening capacities at local level for emergency acquisitions, pre-agreed and pre-financed actions, clear mechanism of distribution, evacuation mechanisms, safety areas and shelters, among others.

For the strengthening of local governments, one of the actions is to prioritize and implement in a participatory manner the anticipatory actions identified in each territory, this is a latent need in local governments and there is interest and commitment of the authorities and technical teams to carry out what was planned.

## *Result 1 - Activity 3*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

1.3 Improve technical-scientific information management that reaches communities for a better understanding of the volcanic threat and risk to which they are exposed.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Working with the Geophysical Institute (IG) of the National Polytechnic School, and based on previous experience with Sangay volcano and an updated diagnosis, cascade training (training of trainers) will be applied using the same materials (with minor adjustments) and knowledge gained in the previous ECHO project. The participants are teachers, leaders, local officials, and field personnel of an NGO (Red Cross volunteers will be invited to these training sessions). Some will receive a kit of training materials about the course to disseminate broadly with children, youth, parents, and the public to deepen their understanding of volcanic and seismic hazards.

Based on the meeting maintained during this phase with the Minister and the IG-EPN, this action plan will update plans and protocols for mass dissemination of information, exploring innovative technological solutions using cell phones, radio, or other devices.

An environmental sensor to detect particulate matter will be piloted in one community as an innovative measure to facilitate alerting the population with more precision. It will transmit data in real time to the IG-EPN. Based on the results of this pilot test, results will be shared with the SGR to approve more sensors for other zones.

In addition, specific training for volcano observers and installation of ash fall meters (*cenizómetros*) will be performed in beneficiary communities to improve data monitoring and provide scientific information to the IG-EPN.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

1.3.1 Carry out a diagnosis of the media and the extent of the population's grasp of technical-scientific information issued by the Geophysical Institute (IG) of the National Polytechnic School.

1.3.2 Design and/or upgrade the plans and protocols for massive information dissemination. (IG - SGR)

1.3.3 Conduct cascade training (training of trainers) to ensure an adequate understanding of technical-scientific information.

1.3.4 Install equipments to facilitate alerting the population with more precision.

1.3.5 Train "vigías" (volcano observers) and install ash fall meters (low-cost instruments) to improve data monitoring of the threat from volcanic ash

### *Result (1/8) - [INT] Overall update on activities of the result*

1.1 A consultancy was hired to accompany the water and sanitation MTT1 of Cotopaxi in the update and dissemination of the Contingency Plan of the water sector to manage the risk scenario of Cotopaxi. A participatory assessment of the current plan was performed in aspects such as structure, contents, coherence, ease of consultation, and degree of articulation with the cantonal plans. Strengths and weaknesses were assessed and recommendations were delivered for its update. Information was collected on the operation of MTT1.

Virtual and classroom-based workshops were carried out with the different actors involved in the plan, promoting a participatory construction to enable the collection of necessary inputs, grouped by thematic blocks.

1.2 To strengthen the disaster anticipation and preparedness actions at the local governments (provincial and cantonal), a diagnosis of the level of disaster preparedness of the 8 local GADs was carried out. To this end, the instrument created by the SGR called “Guidelines for Disaster Risk Management at the Municipal and Metropolitan Decentralized Autonomous Governments” was applied, which enabled an ample view of the actions executed by the GADs within their territories.

Technical assistance was provided to each one of the local GADs for the update of the contingency plans. 3 plans were updated and 5 were elaborated based on the criteria of the national response plan and the capacities of each GAD. The provincial GAD of Cotopaxi, the Municipal GADs of Latacunga and Saquisilí and the Parish GADs of Joseguango bajo, Mulaló, Guaytacama and Chantilín are provided with multi-hazard response plans.

An Anticipated Action Plan was designed, based on the instrument created by the SGR called “Technical Protocol for the Evaluation and Definition of States of Alert for Volcanic Activity – Cotopaxi Volcano.” The plan focuses on establishing early measures in accordance with previsions to protect vulnerable families in the potentially affected zones at the Province of Cotopaxi.

An institutional capacity strengthening plan was generated for the Province of Cotopaxi, where 6 training processes were prioritized directed to areas of preparation and response, considering the analysis, reduction, preparation for response and recovery. Trainings were developed for Basic Incident Command System (ICS), Intermediate ICS, Public Procurement, Organic Law for the Integral Management of Disaster Risk (LOGIRD) and its regulation, and monitoring and hydro-meteorological information as a tool for disaster risk prevention and reduction. Public officials from eight local governments participated in the training, as well as Saquisilí, Salcedo, and Latacunga Fire Departments, and personnel from the Latacunga General Hospital, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MIDUVI), The Ministry of Transportation and Public Works (MTOP) and the Ministry of Production, Foreign Trade, Industry and Fisheries (MPCEIP).

1.3 Aiming at improving technical-scientific information management and the understanding of the volcanic risks to which the neighboring areas of the Cotopaxi volcano are exposed the Training of Trainers process was carried out to enable interactive workshops on volcanic hazards, with the support of the Geophysical Institute of the National Polytechnic School (IG-EPN), in coordination with the District Directorates of Latacunga and Pujilí-Saquisilí of the Ministry of Education. 120 teachers participated (40% men, 60% women) of 40 Educational Units of the Parishes of La Matriz, Mulaló, Joseguango Bajo, Tanicuchi, Eloy Alfaro, Ignacio Flores, Guaytacama, Aláquez, Belisario Quevedo and Pastocalle of Latacunga Canton and the Parish of Chantilín of the Saquisilí Canton. For this process, the educational institutions with the highest vulnerability, categorized by the SNGR, were selected with a high and extremely high priority in relation to the Cotopaxi volcanic activity.

Through 6 classroom-based theoretical-practical training workshops, the teachers acquired the necessary competencies and methodology to impart interactive workshops on volcanic hazards in their respective educational communities. Each educational unit received a kit of materials to carry out the workshops in their institutions; each kit included a methodological guide to facilitate the workshops on volcanic hazards, a brochure on volcanos/Cotopaxi, prints of photographs for the gallery, assembling volcanoes, ash samples and billboards with information on what to do before, during and after an ash fall event; hazard, lahar and volcanic phenomena map.

Since the month of March, each teacher, with the support and follow-up of the IG-EPN, developed on average 4 replication workshops on volcanic hazards with groups of approximately 35 people in their respective educational communities. More than 18,000 people were trained, among students, teachers and parents.

To carry out the follow-up, feedback, exchange of experiences and information of replication workshops on volcanic hazards, on-site training was developed. Also, WhatsApp groups were created for direct communication with teachers, IG-EPN and UNDP, which is still active.

There is interest and commitment from the authorities in the Ministry of Education and the teachers to keep on developing the workshops to reach the 40 educational institutions, thus including over 30,000 people. At the end of November, another process is expected to be developed with teachers of the 14 educational units of the Canton of Salcedo, a highly exposed zone to lahar hazards.

In coordination with the IG-EPN, progress is being made in the construction of a proposal and technical specifications for the camera system improvement for the monitoring of the Cotopaxi Volcano, which will entail a significant improvement in the volcanic activity monitoring and response capacity and other possible high mountain adverse events, such as avalanches and landslides. It will provide real-time information of the volcanic activity to the local authorities for decision-making and to the Cotopaxi National Park visitors for safe access.

There was coordination with the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition and the administration of the protected area to adjust a space for the dissemination of real-time Cotopaxi Volcano audiovisual material.

To strengthen the capacities of the local volunteer leaders as “Surveyors” and “Volcanic Observers” of the Cotopaxi Volcano a joint training proposal was built between the IG-EPN and the SNGR. In a participatory manner, 30 volunteers from 15 communities, who will be part of the training process were identified, 2 volunteers per community. This was organized in an articulated manner with the actions that are developed within the community component in charge of the ADRA.

The *Guide for Volunteers of the Volcanic Observer Network* was updated, with the technical support of the IG-EPN adapted to the context of the Indigenous and rural communities to strengthen their knowledge on volcanic hazards.

The training for local leaders and volunteers is previewed to start on the first days of December, elaborating and installing the "ash meters" (low-cost instruments) to improve the monitoring of the data of volcanic ash hazards.

In addition, radio spots were disseminated in Radio Cotopaxi 106.9 and 89.5 FM. Dramatized with a multi-hazard approach, they reached 15,600 people.

### *7.3 Result (2/8)*

Children and adolescents are prepared to exercise their rights and demand actions that guarantee their protection against violence in emergency situations.

### *Sector*

Protection

### *Subsectors*

Protection information dissemination

Capacity building (Protection)

### *Estimated total amount*

367.088,65

### *Result 2 - Indicator 1*

### *Type / Subsector*

Capacity building (Protection)

### *Indicator*

Number of participants showing an increased knowledge on the protection subject in focus

### *Definition*

In comments field:
1) Define type of participants (population/authorities/Armed Forces/Armed Groups, etc.).
2) Define % increase of knowledge expected.
3) Describe subject of training.
4) At reporting stage, the number of participants must be disaggregated by age and sex.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Pre- and post-test results; training reports; attendance lists.

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 0,00 | 600,00 | 761,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

This indicator measures the increase in capacities, knowledge, and practices in protection during emergencies in children and adolescents (based on pre- and post-test).

1) Define type of participants: children and adolescents 9–17 years old

2) 50% increase in knowledge expected of the total children and adolescents.

3) Describe subject of training: DRR, protection in emergencies.

During implementation, the principle of protection for all project participants will be incorporated. The spaces will be safe and

protective, harm will be avoided, access barriers such as language will be reduced, so that methodologies adapted to the native language will be guaranteed in all spaces. In addition, feedback spaces will be enabled to know the relevance of the actions and manage in a timely manner the complaints that could be presented. The spaces will promote the active participation of young people so that they can be agents of change in their territories.

## *Result 2 - Indicator 2*

### *Type / Subsector*

Protection information dissemination

### *Indicator*

Number of persons with increased/appropriate information on relevant rights and/or entitlements

### *Definition*

1) Protection information dissemination refers to provision of information as opposed to actual training or capacity building on protection; as such this will normally target larger numbers than capacity building, and will not involve testing of increased knowledge.
2) Relevant rights and entitlements must be defined and should be closely linked to actual risks faced be the targeted group as a result of the crisis.
3) Entitlements refers (but is not limited to) availability and accesibility of services (both provided by humanitarian agencies and other actors).
4) In comments field the target group of dissemination (population/authorities/AFs/AGs, etc.) should be clarified.
5) In comments field define focus of information (Rights and access to services awareness, including child-specific measures, Sensitisation campaigns/Risk awareness; IHL/IHRL dissemination).
6) Number of persons must be disaggregated by age and sex at reporting stage.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Attendance/dissemination records (attendance lists, radio schedules, etc.); dissemination material (flyers, recordings, web-site posts, etc.).
Attendance lists for workshops and exhibitions, as well as for spaces of peer-to-peer learning. Dissemination records, photographs of dissemination actions and all the developed material.

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 0,00 | 1.500,00 | 341,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

The indicator will measure the people, particularly children and adolescents, reached with key DRR and protection messages. Particularly people participating in sub-activities 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4 through awareness activities. This indicator has been marked as custom, although it is a KRI indicator from the disaster preparedness sector. We are combining it with the protection sector. Protection information dissemination refers to provision of information as opposed to actual training or capacity building on protection; as such this will normally target larger numbers than capacity building, and will not involve testing of increased knowledge. In this regard, the action will implement community-led awareness campaigns, will also develop and distribute awareness materials, will organize exhibitions and workshops to provide information, and will generate spaces for peer-to-peer exchanges between communities. The target group include NNA, their families, local authorities and entities.

### *Result (2/8) - Comments on all indicators for this result*

KRI indicator 1 will measure children and adolescents (divided by age and sex) that are involved on training sessions and capacity building activities within this result, mainly on sub-activities 2.3, 2.4 and 2.5

The selection criteria for participants will be children, adolescents that live in the communities of intervention taking in consideration the very high, high and medium exposure of those communities and children; that have participated on previous actions of the project or that have shown interest on being included on more activities or shown interest on leadership and advocacy actions.

As some of the actions that this indicator will measure will be training sessions for NNA on DP and emergency response; creation of a network for young leaders on DP, workshps with young leaders in topics such as leadership, advocacy, communication, collective action, DP, risk management and protection of children and youth skills.

### *[INT] Update on all the indicators for this result*

I1. Soft-skill workshops and the training sessions of NNA were developed, reaching a total of 761 children and adolescents (NNA). Interactive methods were implemented that facilitated the understanding of essential concepts related to their rights and protection measures. The NNA participated in group dynamics and practical exercises, assimilating information in an effective way and developing critical skills to identify and face risk situations. This approach not only contributes to a notable increase in their knowledge, but it also strengthens their confidence to function as defenders of their own safety and wellbeing within the community.

I2. Since January 2025, an edu-communicational strategy will be implemented, which includes a training of trainers workshop, aiming at strengthening the capacities of the trainers for the promotion of rights. Through a participatory approach, adapted to the local realities, the aim is to ensure access to quality information and the empowering of diverse sectors of the population, especially those in vulnerable circumstances.

## *Result 2 - Activity 1*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

2.1 Conduct CP/GBV or multisectoral needs assessment to support CP/GVB and integrated programming and influence (including consultations with children and adolescents according to the level of exposure to the threat (very high, high, medium)

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

DP and AA with children and adolescents is fundamental, as they are highly vulnerable in an emergency due to their dependence on adults and their limited experience in crisis.

The first action will be a situation and needs assessment in CP that includes all relevant actors, especially NNA. With this PI will map the impact of the crisis on community networks and identify and support existing community capacities and initiatives that promote children's rights, safety, development, well-being and participation.

The evaluation will be based on: (i) interviews with key stakeholders such as cantonal rights boards, cantonal rights councils, community leaders, MIES (local level), among others. (ii) Direct observation actions in the communities. (iii) Focus groups with children (7 to 13 years old) and focus groups with adolescents (14 to 18 years old) The selection criteria for participants will be: NNA and their families that live in the communities of intervention; that have shown interest on being included on these activities; Always taking in consideration the very high, high, and medium exposure of those communities and children. And, (iv) review of secondary information on protection routes and protection protocols in place on these communities for activation in case of an emergency.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

2.1.1 Interviews with local authorities and institutions responsible of NNA protection during emergencies.

The action plan will determine at least 5 actors that have direct responsibility in NNA protection during emergencies. Approaches will be held with the cantonal councils of rights, the cantonal boards for rights protection, MIES local coordination or district, ombudsman office, MSP and SGR at the local level. The main objective of these actions will be to determine which protocols are currently in place to protect children and adolescents during the eruption of Cotopaxi volcano and also to evidence possible gaps within these sectors or institutions in relation to the topic.

2.1.2 Focus groups with children and adolescents by age group to determine skills and knowledge about the threat, protection routes and their rights during an emergency. Two per community.

An approach with community leaders to coordinate with them the participatory diagnosis with children, adolescents women, male adolescents. Through child/adolescent friendly methodology, the project team will implement focus groups to identify knowledge and skills of NNA on the risks they face and how to protect themselves. Two focus groups will be carried out in each community (20 total) with two age groups: children 7–13 years of age (60% girls), and adolescents 14–18 years old (60% girls); with at least 7 participants per group and a maximum of 15. The objective is to obtain information from children and adolescents from the communities, and their perspective towards the risks they face and the actions they know can help them be protected.

2.1.3 Workshop to systematize training and findings. The workshop will collect the findings, feelings and needs of the NNA according to the level of exposure to hazards and risk. This workshops with children and adolescents seek to establish synergies between results and avoid duplication of efforts and resources. Then the systematization will allow us to establish action plans for the communities, guaranteeing the active participation of all the actors.

Subsequently, a session is planned in each community, to include NNA, and adults, to systematize identified information in focus groups and define findings jointly This aiming that the diagnosis responds to the main necessities identified by the communities and their compromise in developing jointly actions is created. Also, sessions with the institutions selected on 2.1.1 will be held in order to determine actions to be developed based on the gaps found on the evaluation.

## *Result 2 - Activity 2*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

2.2 Preparation of an action plan, based on CP evaluation findings, for capability building according to the needs and knowledge gaps of children and adolescents.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

The CP evaluation will allow the identification of gaps and necessities related to children protection during emergencies. In this regard, PI with participation of community members, children, adolescents and local authorities will develop an Action Plan that will include communication/awareness strategies for diverse audiences with goals, tools and objectives and engage children, families and communities. The Action Plan must include with clarity, a detail list of topics -regarding CP in emergencies- that needs to be addressed, further developed, or disseminated among communities and related institutional actors; as these findings will be transformed on community-based improvement plans, as well as institutional plans to reinforce children and adolescents' protection during emergencies.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

2.2.1 Socialisation and feedback on the findings of the rapid diagnosis in each community.

Once the diagnosis information is systematized based on Activities 2.2.1, a session will be held to disseminate the rapid diagnosis

findings in each community. This action seeks to include a broader participation of NNA, community leaders, and parents to share the risks most frequently identified by NNA and the capacities needing improvement to be able to face them. The selection criteria for participants will be NNA and their families that live in the communities of intervention and that have participated on previous actions of the project and have shown interest on being included on these activities; Always taking in consideration the very high, high and medium exposure of those communities and children. An approach to community leaders will be held prior to the start of the implementation in order to included them in planification and socialization with the communities.

2.2.2 Prepare and disseminate educational communication material to raise awareness based on gaps identified in CP evaluation.

The evaluation identifies key messages that must be reinforced to raise community awareness, particularly with children and adolescents, about the threats faced and how to be better prepared. Audiovisual messages will be developed for an education–communication campaign to be disseminated through local media—radio, loudspeakers, and local billboards, for this a consultant will be contracted to develop the messages with a NNA orientation.

2.2.3 Participatory workshops to prepare each community's improvement plans.

Subsequently, community members will be invited to develop an improvement plan based on the evaluation' findings. Workshops will be held to prepare improvement plans in each community from the perspective of NNA. The participation of parents will also be essential in this space, as they will be responsible for the implementation of these improvement actions. This participatory workshop seeks to identify key actions to better prepare the community to face disasters and hazards and to prioritize actions for the following 12 months.

2.2.4 Implement initiatives of each community's improvement plan.

Each community will prioritize at least 2 actions to carry them out through "*mingas*", collective community work for purposes of social utility. During these activities, materials from the education–communication campaign will also be used to strengthen key messaging on DP.

2.2.5 Reinforce of institutional protocols regarding children and adolescent's protection during emergencies.

The evaluation will allow that existing child protection (CP) and gender-based violence (GBV), actors and services are properly identified and their level of effectiveness to be used on emergencies will be asses with the identified actors. With these resources an action plan will be developed to improve these mechanisms and assure their proper effectiveness for CP protection during emergencies.

## *Result 2 - Activity 3*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

2.3 Skills and competency development to protect children and adolescents in emergencies.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

With Action Plans developed, the project will develop skills and competency to protect children and adolescents in emergencies, for this the project will consider training to members of the communities, children and adolescents and local authorities; making all relevant actor be aware of their main responsibilities and must-do actions during an emergency to protect children and adolescents.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

2.3.1 Training sessions for children and adolescents on disaster preparedness and emergency response as well as protection routes and their right during an emergency.

Training sessions for children and adolescents on anticipatory actions for a volcanic eruption, disaster preparedness and protection are planned and implemented, focusing on the gaps and messages that most need to be reinforced (included on the Action Plan of activity 2.2).

Eight sessions will be held per community, four per age group (groups are 7–13-year-olds and 14–18-year-olds), to reinforce knowledge and skills, using methodologies of PI. The focus will be to prepare the children and adolescents on anticipatory actions, disaster preparedness and emergency response using appropriate language and reinforcing key messages, as well as reinforcing their knowledges on protection, routes and pathways regarding CP and GVB.

2.3.2 Implement entertaining leisure activities to reinforce key protection and disaster preparedness messages (resonances).

After implementing the sessions, recreational activities such as sports contests or artistic events will strengthen key protection and disaster preparedness messages, and children and adolescents can put into practice the knowledge acquired during the sessions. Three activities will be carried out per community during project implementation. All actions will be developed jointly with community leaders, to assure community participation and involvement in actions. These training will include materials appropriate for children and adolescents (developed as part of the Edu communication campaign)

2.3.3 Provide specific training for CP and GBV on emergencies for public officials of responsible institutions at the local level, including child protection, gender equality, child/adolescent development and guiding principles of CP/GBV. Including the organization of information sessions, orientation to service providers on CP routes, operating procedures and referral routes.

The project will provide these training based on the Action Plan developed on sub activity 2.2.5, aiming that public officials

responsible for attending and guaranteeing protection to children and adolescents during emergencies are well prepared to act accordingly to the needs of children and adolescents. The trainings will use a ToT methodology so replications are made by the trained officials inside their institutions. Also, informative actions will be done to reach all service providers.

## *Result 2 - Activity 4*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

2.4 Identify youth leadership and create advocacy spaces with rights guarantors.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

It is essential to include the voices of children and adolescents in risk and disaster management. Hence, the project will identify five young people in each community, between the ages of 15 and 18, at least 60% girls, to strengthen their leadership, communication, collective action, disaster preparedness, and risk management skills.

Leadership classes will be implemented with the young people identified, in which participants develop knowledge and skills to lead disaster preparedness processes and promote resilience in their communities, from a gender and rights perspective. A total of 4 schools will be implemented with 25 participants each, the process will be named "schools of leadership". The classes emphasise the role of women in disaster planning and resilience as well as the role of the community within the National Risk Management System. Sessions are facilitated jointly with organisations that make up the National Risk Management System so leaders can understand the operations of the system.

Finally, young leaders will be encouraged to put their skills into practice by implementing resonance actions in their communities to position disaster preparedness, involving key stakeholders locally. Also, actions will be developed with this schools of leadership to assure their involvement with local authorities (cantonal councils and boards mainly) so they will be included on decision-making processes regarding the emergency and their protection towards the possible eruption.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

2.4.1 Identify youth leaders in each community.

It is essential to include the voices of children and adolescents in risk and disaster management. Hence, the project will identify five young people in each community, between the ages of 15 and 18, at least 60% girls, to strengthen their leadership, communication, collective action, disaster preparedness, and risk management skills.

2.4.2 Implement leadership classes for disaster preparedness, implement the "schools of leadership".

Leadership classes will be implemented with the young people identified, in which participants develop knowledge and skills to lead disaster preparedness processes and promote resilience in their communities, from a gender and rights perspective. A total of 4 schools will be implemented with 25 participants each. The classes emphasize the role of women in disaster planning and resilience as well as the role of the community within the National Risk Management System. Sessions are facilitated jointly with organizations that make up the National Risk Management System so leaders can understand the operations of the system. The proposed methodology will be “Schools of leadership” that has been used successfully in past actions. The final aim for the schools will be to reinforce an active agency from them within their communities and with local authorities mainly on anticipatory actions. The schools of leadership will assure to be child/adolescent friendly and secure spaces and will be community-based spaces in order to assure their sustainability

2.4.3 Implement initiatives to promote youth leadership in emergencies with rights guarantors.

After the trainings are held, PI with young leaders that have been training will promote spaces of advocacy and participative governance among local authorities and rights guarantors as local councils of human rights, cantonal boards, and other institutions that have a role in protection during emergencies, to provide spaces for youngsters to propose their thoughts and ideas with these actors. As well as getting to know how they work and who the local providers are, and participle on the update, review and creation of policies regarding protection on emergencies, with these young leaders will assume a more active role.

## *Result 2 - Activity 5*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

2.5 Form a Youth Network for Emergency and Disaster Preparedness and Protection on emergencies.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

2.5.1 Form and strengthen a youth network for disaster preparedness.

Together with the 100 young leaders trained in Activity 4, a provincial resilience network of youth leaders for disaster preparedness will be promoted, who can collectively create awareness and advocate for better disaster preparedness in Cotopaxi. The main objective is to generate sustainability in the province with the advocacy and compromise of young leaders who will continue reinforcing in their communities and with others the topics learned during the implementation of this action. PI has developed methodologies that allows the generation of advocacy and agency among children and adolescents in community work, these methodologies will be applied in this action. The network will also be connected to cantonal boards and councils of rights to assure their participation on the update and/or elaboration of public policies regarding children and adolescents protection during emergency, emergency preparedness actions, anticipatory actions and response planning on their municipalities and Cotopaxi province. Aiming that all policies regarding such matters address their perspective and needs.

2.5.2 Provincial workshop for the youth network for disaster preparedness.

A province-wide workshop will be planned with members to share knowledge, experiences and lessons learned from young people in preparing for disasters in their communities. Other networks of young leaders will be able to participate in the workshop and key actors in local risk management will be invited.

This workshop will also be the space for integrating the youth network with local authorities and institutions by creating commitment from the authorities and the youth to continue promoting and working jointly in the generation of participative governance related to protection, anticipatory actions and disaster preparedness and response.

### *Result (2/8) - [INT] Overall update on activities of the result*

This second intermediate report cover the activities done in the period of february to october 2024.

2.1 An assessment of the needs of NNA and gender violence at the intervention communities was performed through interviews with the local authorities of the Cantons of Latacunga, Saquisilí and, Joseguango Bajo, Mulaló and Chantilín Parish GADs. Work was performed with NNA focal groups with the support of community leaders, which allowed them to identify the needs for protection, training, and risk management knowledge of NNA. The findings during the diagnosis stage enabled collaborative building with local actors of improvement plans that integrated the specific needs identified in each community thus ensuring the relevance and effectiveness of the interventions.

The only variation of the original plan was the decision to invest the allocated budget for the systematization of findings in the acquisition of required material for the training of trainers on volcanic hazards phase 1. This reorientation of resources ensured that the training process is provided with the necessary tools, reinforcing commitment by empowering the trainers (teachers), which will, in turn, benefit the implementation of future NNA directed initiatives and volcanic risk prevention.

2.2 Dissemination of the community diagnosis was conducted, which permitted the participants to improve their understanding of the situation and actively participate in the workshops for the elaboration of community improvement plans.

The implementation of the 15 community improvement plans has strengthened the local response capacities in emergency contexts, promoting a safer environment for NNA and generating a positive impact.

Through the adjustment of temporary shelters upon recommendations from the SNGR, signage was placed in safe zones and risk maps in the educational units. Civil interventions were conducted for safe water access and the efficient use of resources in safe zones. With this intervention, approximately 1,500 people benefited at the community level, and, at the educational institutions, a total of 2,682 NNA were benefited.

In the coming months, strengthening workshops will be executed for duty bearers, which are essential to ensure timely attention in case of emergencies and disasters. In the same way, the dissemination of edu-communication messages is key to raising awareness on the gaps identified in the evaluation, ensuring that the entire community is informed and prepared to act effectively under risk situations. This integral approach not only improves children´s protection but it also empowers NNA and responsible adults, encouraging a culture of prevention and resilience in the communities. During the months of October to December, friendly spaces will be purchased and delivered for children in emergency contexts, which will be allocated to the Right Protection Cantonal Councils of Latacunga and Saquisilí, and the MIES of Mulaló and Saquisilí.

2.3 has progressed significantly, complying with the training sessions that covered disaster preparedness , emergency response and protection roadmaps, as well as the rights of NNA during a crisis, through the "Alerta Guaguas" activity, which took place during the month of September. The participation of 341 members of the Project intervention communities was possible. These training sessions have empowered NNA, providing them with essential tools to face risk situations, and have strengthened community support networks, as institutions such as the Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights of Latacunga and Saquisilí, the Red Cross and the Geophysical Institute of the National Polytechnic School have been involved. However, the execution of the leisure and entertaining activities is pending to reinforce the key messages of disaster protection and preparedness. Additionally, a specific training on child protection and gender violence in emergency situations is fundamental for public officials of the institutions that are responsible at the local level. These activities, scheduled for 2025, are vital to ensure that the officials of right duty bearers have acquired the necessary knowledge to protect NNA in an effective way, thus guaranteeing an integral and coordinated response during critical moments. The combination of training for NNA and local officials will strengthen the children protection network in the community, promoting a safer and more resilient environment.

2.4 and. 2.5 not advances on this activities to report.

## *7.3 Result (3/8)*

Populations from rural communities strengthen their capacity to respond to a volcanic eruption event, through the community response plans.

### *Sector*

Disaster Risk Reduction / Disaster Preparedness

### *Subsectors*

Hazard, risk analysis and early warning

Contingency planning and preparedness for response

Protection of livelihoods, assets and critical facilities

***Estimated total amount*** 367.088,63

## *Result 3 - Indicator 1*

### *Type / Subsector*

Contingency planning and preparedness for response

### *Indicator*

Number of people covered by early action/contingency plans

### *Definition*

Plans must be developed, tested and have provisions for maintenance.
To include opportunities for anticipation, pre-emptive and early action (e.g. evacuation and shelter in advance of impact; scalability of service to respond to increase in demand; etc.)
Action triggered by plan has to be coordinated, timely and effective.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Community and local administration's contingency and preparedness plans;
Signatories and sign offs (e.g. plan agreement, updating).

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 20,00 | 2.500,00 | 58,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

This indicator will allow the gradual measurement of the number of communities with response plans. We know that some communities have community response plans formulated in previous years, but they have not been updated, and the people are unfamiliar with them. On the other hand, the precise community target value is 10 because the project will work in parishes with very high, high and medium exposure to pyroclastic and lahars. The number of communities will not vary during implementation, but selecting these communities will depend on when this action plan starts its activities.

## *Result 3 - Indicator 2*

### *Type / Subsector*

Hazard, risk analysis and early warning

### *Indicator*

Number of people covered by a functional early warning system

### *Definition*

Early warning system should comprise: (i) knowledge of the risks; (ii) monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the hazards; (iii) communication or dissemination of alerts and warnings; (iv) local capabilities to respond to the warnings received.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Risk assessments; EW baseline; Modelling/simulation reports.

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 20,00 | 10.800,00 | 0,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

The indicator will make it possible to achieve the preparation, organization and coordination of the different actors at the provincial, municipal and parochial level, executing coordinated emergency response actions, through an affective preparation
Local governments prepared to manage disaster risk in their territory with response and contingency plans, early warning systems working, basing their actions on effective coordination.

## *Result 3 - Indicator 3*

### *Type / Subsector*

Protection of livelihoods, assets and critical facilities

### *Indicator*

Number of community small-scale infrastructures and facilities built or protected

### *Definition*

This refers to small-scale infrastructure works and small installations for preparedness, emergency response facilities as well as non-structural vulnerability reduction, such as safe practice in hospitals – e.g. maintenance, siting of equipment, etc.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Community facility inspection reports; Risk assessments; Hazard and facility maps.

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 10,00 | 100,00 | 0,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

This indicator is related to Activity 3.2 and subactivity 3.2.5 of this result. Related to the pilot intervention to reinforce capabilities to protect livestock with low cost cattle stables and storage sites for food and silage for larger and smaller species.

### *Result (3/8) - Comments on all indicators for this result*

All the activities of R3 are related with rural communities, strengthening people's reaction when EWS alarms are triggered, the community emergency plans and the leadership of women in relation with their rights and protection.

The activities of R1 are related to the contingency local plans under the leadership of the local governments. Of course, coordination between the activities of the different results will be required, under the leadership of UNDP and the SGR.

### *[INT] Update on all the indicators for this result*

I1. The strategy was established for the participatory construction of emergency plans with a multi-hazard approach, starting from a participative diagnosis for the identification of threats to which communities are exposed.

58 community instructors were trained in analyzing vulnerability and capacities (AVC), in 15 communities, representing the Risk Management Unit of the prefecture and cantonal GADs, as well as support institutions.

This activity is the starting point for the construction of the emergency community plans; thus, the participants of each process are direct beneficiaries since they provide support in the construction of the result.

These plans will be validated with the execution of the simulation and drill sub-activity, which is established for the final period of the project.

I2. In 17 communities, a diagnosis of the early alert systems  was conducted in the communities (SCAT) with a gender approach. The different gaps were identified in each of the SCAT components. The maintenance, relocation, repowering, protocol and procedure construction, strengthening of institutional and community processes for the improvement of the community alarm systems and the articulation of a centralized monitoring system are clear. Technical proposals have been generated for the strengthening of the SCATs, which are linked to other actions that are being executed in result 1, such as the strengthening of the capacities of community leaders as surveyors and volcanic observers.

I3. In conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Cattle (MAG) the experiences of other eruptive processes at the country level, the strategies of the assistance during the events and the good practices for the protection of cattle-linked livelihoods were assessed.

This good practice consisted in building a simple structure that protects cattle from ash fall. In this sense, 14 basic supplies and tool kits were purchased to conduct a pilotage to validate the use and usefulness of these solutions to protect the livelihoods in the case of ash fall from the Cotopaxi Volcano.

## *Result 3 - Activity 1*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

3.1 Reinforce community Early Warning Systems (EWS)

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

This activity will diagnose early warning systems located in beneficiary communities. This diagnosis will underscore the participation of women throughout the entire project.

The diagnosis will reveal the current state of the systems and the requirements for their operation and activation. Based on this, mechanisms for information exchange and communication will be designed between the communities that are part of the project and their decentralised autonomous governments. This activity seeks to integrate the SAT as part of the preparation system.

With this status report in hand, procedures for a community information exchange will be developed that allow the greatest number of

lives to be protected in a crisis.

In a disaster, effectively alerting communities saves lives and property. In light of recent experiences in Ecuador, improving action protocols that the population must take calls for the implementation of technological tools that allow the alert to arrive directly. Therefore, the Risk Management Service has requested the development of a mobile app for disseminating alerts.

Preparation and response plans at the community level are currently being updated to create and disseminate protocols for community action in response to different levels of alert and to define specific actions for each community to deal with a possible Cotopaxi volcano emergency.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

3.1.1 Diagnose early warning systems at the community level with a gender approach.

3.1.2 Implement mechanisms for information exchange and multilevel communication (from / to the communities).

3.1.3 Develop and implement a mobile app to issue alerts (total implementation to be carried out by SGR and ECU911).

3.1.4 Protocols for community action according to differing levels of alert.

In order to achieve the sustainability of EWS at the community level, the maximum involvement of the project's beneficiary communities is foreseen to ensure that they are in line with their needs, as well as ownership and co-responsibility. Work is currently underway on the diagnosis of early warning systems at the community level with a gender focus; this is the starting point for future actions.

The Community Risk Management Committees are expected to have among their functions, the care, maintenance and operation and also have a direct articulation with the parish, municipal and provincial governments.

## *Result 3 - Activity 2*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

3.2 Develop and update community emergency plans.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

This activity will conduct an initial KAP survey of knowledge, skills, and practices in the selected communities. The results will give a general idea of where to gather knowledge on disaster response, based on which, personnel from the University of Cotopaxi and the Cotopaxi Higher Technological Institute will be trained on Threats, Vulnerabilities, and Capacities (AVC) methodology to become facilitators of the process with the communities.

AVC methodology offers a set of techniques and tools to aggregate information in a participatory manner with the community beneficiaries. Through this process, the community will become more aware of the risks to which they are exposed and can plan activities aimed at reducing vulnerabilities and reinforcing capacities before a disaster occurs.

To achieve effective participation and in accordance with the community organisation model proposed by the Risk Management Secretariat, community risk management committees will be formed, and existing committees strengthened to facilitate consolidation of emergency brigades.

With community participation, local emergency plans will be created in each locality taking part in the project to promote a supportive, organised community better prepared and resilient in the face of disasters.

As part of this process and to respond to concerns expressed regarding livestock, the project will introduce a pilot intervention to create a model of a low-cost barn with design details, budget estimate, and construction methods. Knowledge gained from this pilot will be evaluated and the resulting plans, budgets, and details can be distributed to other producers. Food and silage storage sites for larger species will also be designed.

To assess the level of preparedness of the communities to face a possible emergency, community plans and protocols will be applied through simulation exercises and drills with the community.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

3.2.1 Train community facilitators in AVC analysis and apply it in the communities.

3.2.2 Create and motivate Community Risk Management Committees and emergency brigades. Prepare and update community emergency plans.

3.2.3 Train territorial teams in anticipatory measures for emergency response (including preservation of livelihoods).

3.2.4 Pilot intervention to reinforce capabilities to protect livestock with low-cost cattle barns and storage sites for food and silage for larger and smaller species.

3.2.5 Test community plans and protocols through simulation exercises and drills.

The plans in this result will be at the community level, they will be built in a participatory manner that will allow contextualizing the sectoral and territorial plans contemplated in R1.

## *Result 3 - Activity 3*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

3.3 Elevate the role and quality of women's participation and their leadership in anticipated response actions

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

CARE will implement the Rapid Gender Analysis (ARG) at the Cotopaxi province and community levels, with a focus on livelihoods and poverty, gender-based violence, health, nutrition and food security, child labour, and education. This activity includes processes to strengthen the collective capabilities of women to hold meetings, identify their needs, achieve common objectives, and participate collectively in formal and informal settings to make decisions based on social organisation and the position of women regarding problems and crises that affect their environment.

Training will be implemented on the methodology of community savings banks (VSLA) leading to the formation of 10 community savings banks (VSLA) for the consolidation of emergency funds for crisis response with a focus on financial inclusion, health, education and society, sustenance, livelihoods, agriculture, and empowerment of women—a tool that will allow the community to have a savings fund as a safeguard against the consequences of a disaster.

These savings banks seek to reduce the barriers that women face in relation to the management of funds and, in turn, accumulate savings funds they can count on to cope with emergency situations.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

3.3.1 Implement a Rapid Gender Analysis (ARG) at the provincial level.

3.3.2 Perform a rapid analysis of gender power at the community level.

3.3.3 Strengthen the collective capacities of women to co-create together, identify their needs, achieve common goals, and participate collectively in formal and informal decision-making roles.

3.3.4 Provide training in the methodology of community savings banks (VSLA) to sustain livelihoods.

3.3.5 Create community savings banks (VSLA).

This activity will be closely coordinated with R2, since the work with women is complementary to the work with children and adolescents that will be developed in R2.

### *Result (3/8) - [INT] Overall update on activities of the result*

This second intermediate report cover the activities done in the period of february to october 2024.

3.1 The diagnosis of the early alert systems at community level with a gender approach in the parishes of Joseguango Bajo, Mulaló, Guaytacama and Chantilín. The results constitute a fundamental baseline for the design and implementation of strengthening plans based on the analysis of community capacities and risk perception. The findings obtained, in relation to the knowledge and capacity of response of the population, will enable a specific intervention in each community. At the moment, actions are coordinated with the SNGR to complement the actions initiated by the national early alert multi-hazard project, which is funded by a BID credit.

The technical proposals for the strengthening of the community SAT include the training and preparation of surveyors. These actions are part of other results of the project.

3.2 In relation to the training of community trainers in the analysis of vulnerabilities and capacities to apply them in the communities, the community diagnosis has started with the participation of the community leaders using the AVC methodology – Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis. This process was coordinated with the parish GADs of Mulaló, Chantilín, Joseguango Bajo, Guaytacama and the communities.

Formal invitations were delivered to the presidents of the communities with the authorization of the parish governments. Didactic materials such as presentations, AVC summaries and AVC use guidelines were elaborated. A three-module agenda was implemented : 1. Basic risk management concepts 2. Participatory methodology, trainer attitudes and skills, 3. AVC tools for resilience.

Training was imparted in 16 academic hours, divided into two consecutive days. The methodology used was "learning by doing," where the participants acquired soft skills for the development of AVC tools. The objective is to analyze a multi-hazard diagnosis and

generate the community response plan.

The covered subjects allowed the participants to understand the different possible risks that must be identified and managed within the community itself. As a result of this activity, there are 58 community trainers who are committed to implement AVC in the communities.

Coordination and agreements were enabled with the technical team of the Risk Management and Citizen Participation Unit of the Cotopaxi Provincial GAD, and the cantonal GADs of Latacunga and Saquisilí, for the establishment of the risk management community committees.

The previous processes of establishment and strengthening of the Community Committees were identified to reinforce the actions without duplicating efforts. During subsequent months, the diagnosis of each community will be performed, as well as strengthening through training in specific subjects such as First Aid, use of fire extinguishers, evacuation routes, and any others that will be added once identified as needs by the participatory diagnosis; which will be concluded with a simulation. Emergency community plans will be constructed as an integral part of the parish, cantonal and provincial response plans, which are being developed in result 1 of the project.

3.3 The quick gender analysis (ARG) was developed at the provincial level with a community approach in the context of a possible volcanic eruption of the Cotopaxi. The study was conducted in Latacunga, Salcedo, Saquisilí and Pujilí. 354 surveys were applied for through KoboToolbox application . Focal groups were formed and life stories were told with the participation of over-18 people and questionnaires were applied in educational units of Guaytacama, Joseguango Bajo, Joseguango Alto and San Agustín de Callo.

The following sectors were prioritized for the analysis: livelihoods, access to essential services, safety and protection, and gender-based violence. The findings from this analysis are fundamental to designing and implementing more effective and focused interventions that contribute to improve the life conditions of children, adolescents and women in the Province of Cotopaxi in emergency contexts. The most important findings are detailed below:

In terms of livelihoods, labor over exploitation, informality and lack of social protection are common. Practices such as labor fraud and harassment are normalized due to economic need. Race and gender discrimination aggravate these conditions, especially for women, who accept informal jobs to conciliate work and children care. Children express the necessity of more quality time with their parents.

With respect to essential services, barriers were detected in the access to health services, including delays and racial discrimination towards Indigenous population. The sexual and reproductive health of adolescents poses challenges due to certain taboos and lack of adequate information. Mental health, on the other hand, is underestimated by public policies. This diagnosis demands an intersectional approach that considers multiple health dimensions and addresses gender inequality, especially among adolescent population.

Regarding security, there are issues in protection and participation, citizen insecurity, with a higher incidence in public spaces, which affects disproportionately women, LGBTIQ+ people and adolescents. These populations report an elevated risk perception, which limits their mobility and social participation.

With respect to gender-based violence (GBV) the common trait identified was the lack of interest in addressing these issues. However, among the documented experiences, the prevalence of physical and psychological violence is noted; and, to a lesser extent, sexual, patrimony and political violence. The public space is, for women and LGBTIQ+ people, an unsafe space.

Through ARG, a contextualized diagnosis was generated that enabled to translate the features into specific recommendations to guide the project actions regarding gender perspective, providing guidelines to national and local institutions, social organizations and community leaders.

### *7.3 Result (4/8)*

R4 Host communities with the greatest vulnerability improve their water systems and hygiene practices

### *Sector*

WASH

### *Subsectors*

Water supply

### *Estimated total amount*

216.420,68

### *Result 4 - Indicator 1*

### *Type / Subsector*

Water supply

### *Indicator*

(MANDATORY) Number of beneficiaries having access to sufficient and safe water for domestic use

### *Definition*

Access:Maximum distance to water point 500m, queuing time less than 15min, filling time maximum 3 min/20 litres or as locally agreed.
Water access should be during the whole period of implementation unless action is mostly related to building the local water delivery capacity.
Sufficient: covering basic needs, i.e. 7.5-15 l/p/d or as locally agreed.
Safe: 1) low risk of faecal contamination, 2) No faecal coliforms detectable in any 100-ml sample, 3) For piped water supplies, or for all water supplies at times of risk or presence of diarrhoea epidemic, water is treated with a disinfectant to achieve free chlorine residual at the tap of 0.5 mg per litre and turbidity is below 5 NTU, 4) If for a short period, water which is contaminated chemically or radiologically is used, no (significant probability of) negative health effect is (likely to be) detected.
Domestic use: drinking, cooking and personal hygiene (incl. laundry).

### *Source and method of data collection*

Direct observation; community reports

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 0,00 | 14.596,00 | 28.049,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

The R4 will work in the host communities, which, in the event of an evacuation, will require guaranteeing safe water for the evacuated population without affecting the population of the host community. The mechanisms to be established may require contingency plans for the water sector to transport additional water to certain sectors, if possible.

The project will invite the leaders of this communities to be part of the trainings workshops and activities developed for the other communities and of course during the development of the local plans to include their voices and needs in the analysis and plans.

### *Result (4/8) - Comments on all indicators for this result*

The project has a multisectoral and multilevel approach that will make visible anticipatory actions based on the needs of the exposed population. In case of R4, the focus is on host communities, anticipatory actions on safe water are needed in these communities, the project will work as a pilot action, in five communities of Panzaleo canton, the ones established as host communities. The project will invite the leaders of this communities to be part of the trainings workshops and activities developed for the other communities and of course during the development of the local plans to include their voices and needs in the analysis and plans.

### *[INT] Update on all the indicators for this result*

The goal reached is 28,049 people, who have full access to safe water for domestic use, thanks to emergent works executed in:

- Eight shelters with capacity for 1, 813 people.
- The Saquisilí Municipal JAAP with 2,859 users reported in the cadaster, which account for 11,436 people
- The Río Blanco JAAP with 2,500 users reported in the cadaster, which account for 10,000 people
- The Llactayo JAAP with 400 users reported in the cadaster, which account for 1,600 people
- The San Antonio JAAP with 800 users reported in the cadaster, which account for 3,200 people

In relation to the strengthening of capacities for the management and operation of the water systems, 68 leaders and operators of 17 JAAPs were trained.

- On management and operation of water systems 68 JAPP leaders and operators were trained
- On hygiene practices to prevent respiratory diseases due to ash fall, 25 trainers and 125 for knowledge replication were trained.

The proposals for safe water with four JAAPs to be intervened with emergent arrangements total 6,559 users registered in the electoral rolls, which correspond to 26,236 people (an average of 4 members per family) and 8 safe sites intervened, to which 1,813 potential persons must be sheltered, totaling 28,049 people that would be direct beneficiaries of the proposed R4 safe water actions.

The qualitative achievement is the accompaniment and support to the presidents of the Parish Boards of the reception zones of Aláquez and Tanicuchi, from the technical team of the Directorate of Basic Services of the Municipality of the Canton of Saquisilí, who have enabled municipal spaces to carry out the workshops. In the same way, the directors of the Educational Units that are considered as reception sites and the teachers have been strategic partners to impart the technical operation and maintenance training of the water systems. Meanwhile, with the doctors of the Saquisilí Health Center, training was provided on hygiene for the prevention of respiratory diseases due to ash fall, while the directors, operators and users of the JAAPs participated in the R4 activities.

## *Result 4 - Activity 1*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

4.1 Support emergency maintenance of community water system infrastructure in host communities.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Potential water contamination by leachates in water sources/water catchments (rivers, streams, reservoirs, etc.) is the first area of concern. Increased turbidity is the major effect of volcanic ash on water sources, as ash may be continually remobilised by rainfall. Changes in water quality due to leachates may depend on the ash fall load, the area of the catchment, the volume of water available for dilution, and the background chemical composition of the water source. The acidity resulting from volcanic ash may cause a slight decrease in pH below 6.5, especially in sources of water with low background alkalinity.

This activity will select at least three host communities. In the event of an eruption that requires evacuation, they will receive a large number of people from neighbouring communities, requiring maintenance and reinforcing their water supply with the main objective of providing good quality service and enough water for all.

In general terms, and from our previous experience with the ECHO action plan, all rural water systems are old and need maintenance. They are not risk-proof and have difficulties even in normal times. Therefore, establishing this pilot action in the host communities will help improve and demonstrate concrete practical action to the local and national authorities.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

4.1.1. Evaluate the local boards of potable water (JAAPs) and communities with the greatest water supply vulnerabilities.

4.1.2 Agreements with local governments, communities, and JAAPs.

4.1.3 Detailed diagnosis of the infrastructure of each water system and the organisation of the JAAP. Bacteriological chemical analysis of water quality.

4.1.4 Basic design of emergency improvements to be made in each community water system.

4.1.5. Participatory planning of the implementation of improvements.

4.1.6 Implement emergency maintenance in selected systems.

Adjustments in storage systems may be required for distribution, installation of chlorination systems, and macro and micro metering (to determine the amount of water that enters, the consumption in homes to establish payment of fees, and to monitor misuse). Next, the water will be analyzed in the laboratory. The added value of this activity is to protect the water supply in the host communities against Cotopaxi hazards, such as ash fall, and to show local and national authorities the need to improve, maintain, and prepare for future events that may affect resources and threaten lives. The impact expected is to create community resilience by reducing disaster vulnerability related to water systems and treating the causes of vulnerability rather than the symptoms

## *Result 4 - Activity 2*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

4.2 Improve hygiene practices focused on preventing respiratory diseases due to continuous ash falls.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Communities are likely to suffer from continuous ash falls, making it imperative to improve preparatory actions before, during, and after ash falls. The main objective of this activity is to provide materials and courses to prepare people living near the volcano to prevent respiratory diseases. Sustained ash fall may keep people housebound for hours or even days. Therefore, creating good conditions indoors is important.

When the ash fall stops, cleaning up is required. Volcanic ash is a great nuisance thoroughly pervade homes and offices, including inside televisions, computers, cameras, and other valuable equipment, where it can cause irreparable damage.

Ash is different from ordinary house dust. Its sharp, crystalline structure scratches and abrades surfaces if removed by wiping or brushing. In wet weather, ash deposits are damp, and the air can be clear, but in drier weather, ash is easily stirred up and remobilised by wind and traffic. As a result, suspended ash becomes much denser and can reach levels that are potentially harmful to health. Rainfall and wind are effective in removing the ash, and grass and other plants will eventually bind it to the soil, but with large ash falls, this process is too slow, and the ash must be cleaned up and removed from populated areas. In addition, wind may bring ash into areas that were previously cleaned, so ash may be present in the environment for months or even years following an eruption. Clear measures must be established to protect people from injury during these procedures. In this activity, before, during, and after measures to cope with ash fall will be designed and key messages reinforced to the people.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

4.2.1 Design the mechanism for training the trainers to achieve broad and cascading training.

4.2.2 Formulate a roadmap for capacity-building courses with the approval of each community.

4.2.3 Prepare course materials

4.2.4 Conduct training courses for water distributors and communities.

## *Result 4 - Activity 3*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

4.3 Prepare contingency plans to prevent water pollution by ash fall in community water systems.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Contingency plans for water systems must be established in all beneficiary communities. Based on the previous ECHO project experience, we know that people learn hands-on, so practical guidance will be established and drills and simulations implemented under this activity.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

4.3.1 Select the beneficiary communities following preliminary diagnoses of the JAAPs.

4.3.2 Create contingency plans for water systems in a participatory manner.

4.3.3 Conduct practice drills with the water distributors to put the plans developed into practice.

Contingency plans for water systems must be established in all beneficiary communities. Based on the previous ECHO project experience, we know that people learn hands-on, so practical guidance will be established and drills and simulations implemented under this activity.

### *Result (4/8) - [INT] Overall update on activities of the result*

This second intermediate report cover the activities done in the period of february to october 2024.

4.1 Implementation of emergent maintenance in selected systems

The safe water proposals were executed in the reception zones.

Aláquez reception zone: San Antonio JAAP is provided with an authorized flow of 18 l/s to cover 800 families under normal conditions, to which about 60 families are added as evacuated, who will need a flow of 0.06 l/s determined through a provision of 15 l/inhabitant/day, based on the SGR. The maintenance included the securing of the anchorage of the overpasses, installation of bleed valves and the provision and installation of automatic chlorinators. In addition, the general maintenance of the infrastructure of a reception site, which is an educational unit, to guarantee an adequate reception site, preventing wall cracking and moisture and the implementation of a 2,500-liter PVC reservoir tank.

Tanicuchi reception zone: the joining of 2 JAAPs was proposed, Llactayo and Río Blanco. This strategy considered 966 people that will be hosted in the safe sites, who will need a flow of 0.28 l/s determined through a provision of 15 l/inhabitant/day, based on the SGR and the users of the Río Blanco and Llactayo systems, approximately 10,000 and 1,600 people respectively; therefore, a total flow of 4.80 l/s is required. The actions included the provision of training for the fixing of the system catchments with painting, change of dampers and valves. Moreover, adjustments were performed in 4 reception sites with the change of sanitary batteries and the respective tidying up.

Saquisilí reception zone is focused on maximizing the use of La Calzada water source, ensuring a total capacity of 13.00 l/s to supply both the local population (2,859 users), and the sheltered (607 people) in case of volcanic emergency. The fixing included the installation of a suction pump of 12.5 Hp in the la Calzada Source and tidying up of the Chalua source. In addition, there was a change of meters in one of the sites of the shelter so that the reception sites are kept in optimal conditions.

On the other hand, periodic water quality analyses have been performed. The results obtained from the samples that were taken during the last week of June and the first week of July at the distribution tanks of the San Sebastian, Llactayo, Saquisilí, Río Blanco and San Antonio de Aláquez JAAPs, reflect that all the studied parameters are on acceptable ranks in accordance with INEN norm 1108. In this way, all of them showed an absence of fecal coliform counts in the microbiological analysis; moreover, there was no objection to the physical chemical analysis that determines the pH of 6.5 to 8, the color, odor, turbidity, taste, nitrates, nitrites and the chlorine residue that ranges between 0.3 and 1.5 mg/l, which are the permissible limits according to the applicable norm. Additionally, no inorganic elements, such as arsenic, barium, boron, cadmium, copper, fluorides, mercury or lead were found.

These achievements were executed with the collaboration of the actors in the territory, as well as the commitment that they have evidenced during the process of diagnosis and implementation, with participation of the JAAPs and a planification in the implementation of improvements. Without their support and trust it wouldn´t be possible to complete these activities.

4.2 Improve the hygiene practices focused on preventing respiratory diseases by continuous ash fall.

Through key institutional articulations it was possible to generate two types of relevant training processes:

- Technical: with the purpose of strengthening the Potable Water Service Community Providers, the water Directors and operators received training. The contents developed were geared to conservation and protection of water sources, the technical operation and maintenance of the potable water systems under scenarios of volcanic ash fall; water quality and sensitizing of users.
- Social: related to personal, family and community hygiene. Focused on preventing respiratory diseases by continuous ash fall, leaders from the safe zones (Saquisilí, Tanicuchí, Aláquez, Guaytacama), were trained, who will replicate the acquired knowledge through the training of trainers approach.

The 17 JAAPs diagnosed received technical training to improve the management of their systems. 68 leaders attended the training

sessions, 37 men and 31 women of the JAAPs of Latacunga and Saquisilí, and they were imparted in a joint work with the Municipal GAD of Saquisilí, the Higher Technological Institute of Cotopaxi (ISUC) and the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Ecological Transition (MAATE). This intervention benefitted over 14,000 users with safe water, thanks to the skills acquired by the Board staff, understanding the volcanic hazards their systems are exposed to and focusing on prevention measures and disaster preparedness.

On the other hand, a manual was elaborated for the operation and maintenance of the community potable water systems in volcanic ash fall affected zones, and 17 basic tool kits were provided with 26 items and a residual chlorine meter to be used by the operators.

Additionally, the Ministry of Public Health was contacted to provide social training on hygiene to prevent respiratory diseases caused by ash fall. The participants were 5 leaders of each reception zone, totaling 25 participants who, by means of a training of trainers approach, will replicate their knowledge to a total of 125 people. For this training, billboards that promote the proper use of baths and handwashing were updated. Some of this material was delivered together with the tool kit for the efficient operation of 17 water systems of the reception communities.

4.3 Prepare contingency plans to prevent water contamination by ash fall in the community water systems.

At the moment, there are 65 georeferenced infrastructure points that correspond to 17 diagnosed JAAPs. Through collective work with the IG-EPN, an analysis device was generated for the contingency plans, including the ash fall scenarios, to analyze if the current infrastructure is capable of bearing the weight of ash.

The information generated by the IG-EPN includes the impact of ash fall, considering two scenarios: 1) Scenario VEI 3, similar to the eruption of the Cotopaxi Volcano in the year 1877 and 2) Scenario VEI4, similar to the eruption of the Cotopaxi Volcano in the Tenth Century. Each one of the maximum ash charges in kg/m2 and an average charge. It also considers the impact of primary and secondary lahars. This information does not imply a change in the interventions of the proposed safe water emergency maintenance generated, but it is an important input in the analysis, which will be considered in the contingency plans of the four potable water systems, which will be considered in the contingency plans of the four potable water systems to be intervened, so that the infrastructure that is present in the JAAPs are strong enough to bear these ash fall scenarios. This work will be finished in November.

Additionally, to articulate these JAAPs' contingency plans with the MTT1 contingency plan on safe water, meetings have been held with the Consortium, the MAATE and the consultant that was hired to update this planning tool in case of a volcanic eruption emergency.

### *7.3 Result (5/8)*

The population of Alausí is prepared to respond timely and effectively to disasters caused by landslides, floods and earthquakes.

### *Sector*

Disaster Risk Reduction / Disaster Preparedness

### *Subsectors*

Community and local level action

Contingency planning and preparedness for response

### *Estimated total amount*

231.634,20

### *Result 5 - Indicator 1*

### *Type / Subsector*

Contingency planning and preparedness for response

### *Indicator*

Number of people covered by early action/contingency plans

### *Definition*

Plans must be developed, tested and have provisions for maintenance.
To include opportunities for anticipation, pre-emptive and early action (e.g. evacuation and shelter in advance of impact; scalability of service to respond to increase in demand; etc.)
Action triggered by plan has to be coordinated, timely and effective.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Community and local administration's contingency and preparedness plans;
Signatories and sign offs (e.g. plan agreement, updating).
Training and capacity building workshop reports.

| Baseline | Target value | Progress value |
|---|---|---|
| 0,00 | 25.447,00 | 0,00 |

### Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value

The indicator aims to address the population of the prioritized parishes in this action plan. The project includes interventions to enhance technical capacities for disaster preparedness and anticipatory actions at the local and community level. The Disaster Preparedness Plan for Alausí will cover the entire territory potentially affected by disaster.

Currently, Alausí lacks an updated Disaster Preparedness Plan with recent risk information, in accordance with the Disaster Risk Management Law. Therefore, the baseline is considered 0. The target value is an estimate of the total population located in the prioritized parishes.

## Result 5 - Indicator 2

### Type / Subsector

Community and local level action

### Indicator

Number of people participating in interventions that enhance their capacity to face shocks and stresses

### Definition

Interventions at household and local level aimed at concretely strengthen the capacity. Information or advocacy activities as well as trainings are not eligible unless they will result or are directly linked to concrete action (e.g. evacuation plan developed).
Examples: number of people who can use a protective shelter, etc; number of people covered/included in a new contingency plan.

### Source and method of data collection

Risk assessments; Intervention reports; Risk maps; Registration records.
Reports of workshops addressing the technical capabilities of community first response teams for emergency response.

| Baseline | Target value | Progress value |
|---|---|---|
| 300,00 | 3.000,00 | 85,00 |

### Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value

The indicator refers to the population that participates in activities to improve their disaster preparedness and response capacities. The project considers activities to train Community Risk Management Committees in the prioritized parishes, including training workshops and capacity building with a wide participation initially estimation of 3000 people. The project includes interventions to enhance technical capacities for disaster preparedness and anticipatory actions at the local and community level. The Disaster Preparedness Plan for Alausí will cover the entire territory potentially affected by disaster.

To date approximately 300 people have received information and participated in workshops related to disaster preparedness. The target value is an estimate of the people who will participate in the prioritized parishes.

### [INT] Update on all the indicators for this result

I1. Although the implementation of the actions initiated recently, in August 2024, and the expected results for this indicator have not yet materialized, there is progress in the activities to meet the goal. The preparatory activities were carried out, and the activities began with the diagnoses in the Parishes of Multitud, Sibambe, Huigra, Achupallas and la Matriz of the Alausí Canton, including the leaders who represent the communities, local institutions such as Political Tenures, the Ministry of Health, the National Police, and the Ministry of Agriculture. These activities were coordinated with the UGR risk unit of the Alausí Canton.

Through the diagnoses, communities that are highly susceptible to disasters were identified in each parish, selecting five of them as priorities in each parish. Through this information, a plan was established for the creation of community emergency committees, which will act as leaders in preparing and responding to risk situations, thus ensuring a more effective and coordinated response in case of emergencies.

A total of 25 communities and neighborhoods in the Alausí Canton have been selected to work on the community plans.

I2. To date, 85 people have participated in the project interventions, specifically in the participatory assessment of threats and vulnerabilities in the prioritized communities in the 5 intervened parishes. This assessment made it possible to identify hazards, such as landslides and earthquakes, and the socioeconomic vulnerabilities of the population. This will enable the strengthening of training to be oriented towards the specific needs of each community.

The activities conducted include theoretical-practical workshops focused on the identification of risks and the improvement of local capacity to act in emergencies. With this in mind, interviews were designed and applied to community leaders. Their contributions allowed adapting the interventions and making them more effective. Subsequent actions will be the expansion of workshops, the conduct of drills and the establishment of community communication networks to optimize disaster response.

## Result 5 - Activity 1

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

5.1 Preparatory actions for the project

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

The intervention in Alausí requires adequate coordination and collaboration among implementing partners, technical staff, and the institutional counterparts (SGR and Municipality of Alausí). Therefore, in a chronological action plan, it is mandatory to agree upon a start-up plan that encompasses the following sub-activities:

5.1.1 Start-up meeting and signing of the Agreement with Municipality of Alausí and Implementing Partners ADRA and CESA.

5.1.2 Contractual process of technical staff.

5.1.3 Workplan updated based on the specific start date of the action plan modification, and promoting the participation of all the stakeholders and IP.

## *Result 5 - Activity 2*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

5.2 Enhancement of technical capacities for disaster preparedness and anticipatory actions to reduce the effects and impacts of potential shocks in Alausi

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Based on the identification of hazards and risks existing in Alausí and, the analysis of technical capacities of all actors Municipality of Alausí, community, social workers, government officials (including police and military) a plan to strengthen institutional capacities on emergency preparedness and early action and response, will be identified and implemented. It is crucial that all technical teams undertake actions to reduce the context of vulnerability based on information about existing risks, interventions that allow for the reduction of negative impacts in the face of a disruptive event.

The early actions will help to act ahead based on a pre-identified risk reducing the potential impact of this additional shock in an already protracted crisis by increasing local and community capacities to be more resilience over time.

The strengthening of local capacities is essential to achieve timely and efficient early actions and emergency preparedness, corresponding to territorial needs. It is for this reason that it is proposed to undertake technical assistance within the framework of institutional strengthening that allows for the creation of multi-actor participation spaces where instruments and normative frameworks are developed and updated in accordance with the Disaster Risk Management Law, as a framework for the design and implementation of the Disaster Response Plan and Early Actions Protocols at the local level and complementary procedures. Also gender and interculturality perspective will be cross-cutting elements in all instruments and action plans updated.

Nowadays, there is a Local Disaster Response Plan for the El Niño phenomenon, but it lacks information and a clear action plan aligned with pre-identified risks and hazards.

In addition, recognizing that territorial capacities for disaster preparedness are based on an informed population with sufficient capacities to respond crises and shocks caused by disasters, activities for the dissemination and socialization of the Disaster Response Plan are planned. Local capacities in a framework of disaster preparedness contribute to increase community resilience. Simulations involving the entire population are planned in order to strengthen disaster response capacities.

The sub-activities considered under this activity are:

5.2.1 Collect, complement and analyze the pre-determined risk scenario and the vulnerability assessment.

5.2.2 Design and implement a plan to strengthen institutional technical capacities for disaster preparedness and anticipatory actions.

5.2.3 Technical accompaniment to the implementation of prioritized anticipatory actions to reduce the vulnerability of the population, including the development of early action protocols, strengthening of institutional capacity to establish predetermined actions based on clear triggers related to landslide.

5.2.4 Technical assistance and facilitation of inter-institutional spaces for the participatory construction and updating of the local regulatory framework and the local disaster response plan, with a gender and intercultural perspective.

5.2.5 Technical assistance for the dissemination and socialization of the Disaster Response Plan and Early Actions Protocols at the local level, with a gender and intercultural perspective.

5.2.6 Conducting simulations and drills within the framework of the local Disaster Response Plan.

## *Result 5 - Activity 3*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

5.3 Capability development at the community level for disaster preparedness and early actions to response to landslides, floods and earthquakes.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

The generation of community-level capacities is essential to strengthen disaster resilience among populations in vulnerable situations due to exposure to hazards. Strengthening social fabric constitutes the basis for having communities that can cope disasters within a framework of place-based community resilience. Risk and vulnerability assessments at the local level, together with the analysis of community-level capacities, allow for the identification of a network of both social and physical capacities to respond to a disaster. This information will enable the design and strengthening of Community Risk Management Committees and the implementation of disaster preparedness strategies, based on the knowledge of vulnerability and pre-identified risks, and the development of contingency and first response plans for emergencies.

In a context of high vulnerability due to existing risks and threats, the design of community emergency response plans, along with the development of capacities to respond to them, is crucial. Sub-activities aimed at generating local capacities at the community level to respond to emergencies are proposed, starting with an understanding of the vulnerability context of the parishes, due to their permanent exposure to hazards and threats such as landslides and flood. The following sub-activities are proposed within this activity: :

5.3.1 Hazard, Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment at parish and community level.

5.3.2 Technical assistance for the organization of Community Risk Management Committees to coordinate with other actors.

5.3.3 Design and implementation of strategies for the development of community capacities for disaster preparedness and early actions to response to emergencies

5.3.4 Technical assistance to communities for the participatory construction of contingency plans to respond to emergencies at the local and community level with a gender and intercultural perspective.

5.3.5 Development of immediate community response plans, detailing roles and responsibilities, evacuation routes, meeting points, among other instruments to safeguard the lives of the population.

5.3.6 Conducting drills linked to emergency response plans with vulnerable communities.

## *Result 5 - Activity 4*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

5.4 Strengthening of technical capabilities of first response teams, including first-line emergency response teams and community first responders for emergencies.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Developing and/or strengthening preparedness capacity is an essential element in disaster preparedness interventions. Improving the capacities of first responders at the community level is crucial to increase place-based community resilience.

In order to strengthen the local capacities of emergency first response teams, it is proposed to conduct an analysis and evaluation of community-level emergency response capacities, identifying resource needs and technical capacities. The development of skills, tools, and institutional and operational capacities is envisaged to ensure an effective and timely response. A gender and interculturality approach in capacity development will ensure timely and relevant interventions, within a framework of equality and rights for all population groups. Strengthening the capacities of first-line teams to respond to emergencies at the community level will allow for the establishment of community first response brigades.

Additionally, in correspondence with the territory's needs, the provisioning of protective equipment and supplies and other resources necessary to respond to the emergency and support the prepositioning mechanisms established by the SGR.

This activity contributes to having a territorial network of trained and organized individuals to provide a first response to emergencies and safeguard the lives of people affected by disasters Therefore, the sub-activities planned for this activity are:

5.4.1 Developing an assessment of emergency response capabilities at the community level and available resources for first-line emergency response teams.

5.4.2 Design and implementation of a technical training plan for first-line teams with a gender and intercultural perspective.

5.4.3 Formation of community brigades for first response and emergency attention.

5.4.4 Provision of protective equipment and supplies and other resources necessary to respond to the emergency and support the prepositioning mechanisms established by the SGR.

## *Result 5 - Activity 5*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

5.5 Effective communication and awareness of disaster risk in communities.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

The enhancement of capacities for disaster preparedness is based on the availability and dissemination of relevant information. The dissemination of information is crucial for raising awareness among communities about the risks and threats present in their environment. However, effective capacity building goes beyond simply providing information; it involves ensuring that the population has access to this information and understands how to use it to prepare and respond appropriately in the event of a disaster. It is essential for the population to be able to identify their vulnerabilities and acquire the necessary skills to effectively handle an emergency, knowing the early action protocols.

In this context, an edu-communication plan plays a fundamental role. This plan, designed and implemented with a gender and interculturality approach, contributes to strengthening local capacities in disaster preparedness and early actions. By providing pertinent and timely information about disaster risks and preparedness measures, the edu-communication plan helps generate resilient capacities in communities. Additionally, it encourages active participation of diverse social groups in the planning and execution of anticipatory actions, and promoting inclusion and collaboration in the disaster preparedness process. In summary, an effective edu-communication plan is a powerful tool for strengthening local capacities and enhancing community resilience to disasters. The sub-activities planned for this activity are:

5.5.1 Design of a community edu-communication plan (dissemination, sensitization, awareness-raising) with a gender and intercultural perspective, focusing on the specific risks present in disaster-prone areas.

5.5.2 Implementation of the community edu-communication plan to enhance local capacities for disaster preparedness and early action protocols.

5.5.3 Monitoring the effectiveness of edu-communication and disaster risk awareness actions in relation to local capability building.

### *Result (5/8) - [INT] Overall update on activities of the result*

This second interim report covers the period from June to October 2024. This result is part of the modification approved by DG-ECHO in May, 2024.

5.1 Start meetings were held with the SNGR, local government of Alausí and ADRA, to establish the agreements and operational plan. Also the agreement with ADRA was signed in august 2024, after the micro evaluation of capacities. The workplan was updated based on the specific start date of ADRA and the modification of the action plan.

5.2 The initiative to improve disaster preparedness technical capacities and anticipatory actions to reduce the effects and impacts of potential crises in Alausí advances through the collection, analysis and assessment of data on risks and vulnerabilities in the parishes of Multitud, Huigra, Sibambe, Achupallas and Alausí. Through this process, a solid foundation is established to effectively address the potential crises that threaten these communities. A document was prepared presenting an analysis of the results of interviews conducted with key actors in each parish. This analysis made it possible to identify and understand the risks to which communities are exposed, such as landslides, floods, ashfall and earthquakes. The research was based on historical records and technical documents provided by the UGR of the GAD of Alausí and Zone 3 of the SNGR. This contributed to an integral vision of the risk context.

Interviews with community leaders and staff from local institutions provided an overview of the experiences and responses of communities to these events. Through a question-based approach about water bodies, economic activities and preventive measures, critical factors that increase vulnerability were identified, highlighting the importance of agriculture and livestock in a mountainous environment prone to landslides.

Maps were built to identify critical areas and vulnerable populations in each parish. Using Geographic Information Systems (GIS), land slope, land use and geological characteristics were analyzed, in order to determine the levels of susceptibility to different hazards. Although there were delays in activity due to the lack of updated technical documentation, overcoming these obstacles will provide critical tools for risk management in the future.

Through participatory workshops, a matrix reflecting the vulnerabilities in each parish was developed, focusing on critical infrastructures and at-risk populations, such as the elderly and children. These workshops encouraged community identification of risks and capacities, ensuring that local voices are integrated into the planning of Risk Management Strategies. The matrix thus becomes a key tool for prioritizing actions in the most exposed areas.

The technicians of the Municipal GAD of Alausí and the technicians and members of the Risk Management Commission of the 4 intervention parishes participated in the course named “Hydrometeorological monitoring and information as a tool for disaster risk prevention” focused on the importance of climate and meteorological data in the prediction and mitigation of disasters. Participants learned about advanced monitoring technologies, interpretation of hydrometeorological data and their application in early warning systems. They also participated in the workshop on the Organic Law on Integrated Disaster Risk Management and its regulations, where the knowledge on the legal framework that governs risk management in Ecuador was expanded. Issues such as the responsibility of each level of government, procedures for the declaration of alerts and states of emergency, as well as inter-institutional coordination, were addressed.

5.3 Capacity building at the community level for disaster preparedness and early response actions to landslides, floods and earthquakes.

Within the framework of technical accompaniment, the key triggers were initially identified to determine anticipatory actions in the face of threatening events. A report will be develop based on the ke triggers identified containing the historical and scientific analyses, as well as the collective wisdom of communities. The identification of early indicators will contribute to the development of effective strategies for prevention and response. This assessment not only considers natural hazards, but it also relies on geospatial analyses and community consultations, ensuring that interventions are aligned with the specific realities of each community.

5.4 No advances to report in this period related to this activity.

5.5 Effective communication and awareness on disaster risk in communities.

In the context of the efforts to strengthen disaster resilience in communities, a community education plan has been designed, which

focuses on dissemination, sensitizing and awareness of the specific risks affecting vulnerable areas. This plan integrates a gender and intercultural approach to ensure the inclusion of all groups of the population. The Polytechnic School of Chimborazo (ESPOCH) contributed to the creation and dissemination of awareness messages through the Neuromarketing laboratory, despite certain limitations related to the safety and mobility of students. Moreover, the collaboration with CONAGOPARE and the Municipality of Alausí has been fundamental for the harnessing of existing agreements with the University, and a new opportunity has been identified for joint work with the State University of Bolivar for specific risk management actions.

Simultaneously, a cantonal diagnosis is being prepared, which will allow a detailed analysis of the public in each parish, facilitating the adaptation of the educommunication plan to the particularities of each community. The information collected is essential to define the most effective communication strategies, with the aim of achieving greater awareness and community participation in disaster risk.

### *7.3 Result (6/8)*

R6. Communities have an early warning system (monitoring and prediction) to reduce disaster risk and anticipate the occurrence of a dangerous event.

### *Sector*

Disaster Risk Reduction / Disaster Preparedness

### *Subsectors*

Hazard, risk analysis and early warning

### *Estimated total amount*

205.985,71

## *Result 6 - Indicator 1*

### *Type / Subsector*

Hazard, risk analysis and early warning

### *Indicator*

Number of people covered by a functional early warning system

### *Definition*

Early warning system should comprise: (i) knowledge of the risks; (ii) monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the hazards; (iii) communication or dissemination of alerts and warnings; (iv) local capabilities to respond to the warnings received.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Risk assessments; EW baseline; Modelling/simulation reports, EWS implemented

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 0,00 | 25.447,00 | 0,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

The activities related to this indicator are focused on the conceptualization and implementation of the Community Early Warning System (CEWS) as a key element of preparedness and early response capacity. As Alausí currently lacks an Early Warning System, the baseline is considered 0. The project plans to implement a CEWS with coverage for 5 prioritized parishes population.

### *Result (6/8) - Comments on all indicators for this result*

The indicator will allow the identification of the population that will benefit from the installation and operation of the Community Early Warning System (CEWS). The Project considers interventions and activities guided by the "National Guidelines for the design, implementation, operation and sustainability of the SGR's multi-hazard Early Warning Systems" and its implementation is planned according to the characteristics and conditions of the territory, as well as the multi-hazard context.

### *[INT] Update on all the indicators for this result*

Although there is still no progress in the proposed indicator, advances are being made in the design of the community SAT that will be applied in conjunction with the SNGR.

## *Result 6 - Activity 1*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

6.1.Community Early Warning System (CEWS) Needs Assessment.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

The establishment of a Community Early Warning System (CEWS) is a critical component in disaster preparedness, aimed at reducing disasters risk on vulnerable communities and anticipate the occurrence of a dangerous event. However, the successful implementation of a CEWS pivots upon a comprehensive understanding of the local context and the specific risks faced by the community. Therefore, conducting a thorough Needs Assessment of the territory is imperative to guide the development of an effective CEWS.

A Community Early Warning System (CEWS) Needs Assessment serves as the basis for designing a system in accordance with the technical and instrumental requirements established by the SGR. By identifying and analyzing exposure factors and hazards specific to the area, the Needs Assessment enables stakeholders to gain insights into the unique vulnerabilities of the community. This includes assessing factors such as geographic location, climate patterns, infrastructure vulnerabilities, socio-spatial conditions, and historical disaster data.

Furthermore, the Needs Assessment informs the design of early warning indicators that are crucial for the timely detection and communication of impending disasters. These indicators are based on an understanding of the territorial vulnerability and are essential for triggering appropriate response actions. Whether it be monitoring changes in weather patterns, water levels, seismic activity, or other relevant parameters, the early warning indicators must be carefully calibrated to reflect the specific risks faced by the community.

At its core, the development of a CEWS relies on a rigorous needs assessment that delves into the complexities of the local context. By identifying exposure factors, hazards and designing early warning indicators, the CEWS contributes to enhancing community resilience by providing information for timely disaster response.

The sub-activities planned for this activity are:

6.1.1 Identification and analysis of the exposure factors of communities at risk, their vulnerability condition, hazards, early indicators of potentially catastrophic events, and capability to cope with such events.

6.1.2 Development of a diagnosis of available resources to be articulated and connected to the Community Early Warning System (CEWS).

## *Result 6 - Activity 2*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

6.2 Design of the Community Early Warning System (CEWS).

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Based on the Community Early Warning System (CEWS) Needs Assessment, a participatory process for the design and implementation of the system is proposed, with the aim of involving all communities and facilitating processes of information dissemination, awareness-raising, and ownership. In this regard, the population identifies the CEWS as an essential tool for disaster preparedness, undergoes training, and ensures its maintenance.

In the design of the CEWS, it is necessary to consider its sustainability. The participation and involvement of the population constitute basis for a sustainability model, under the responsibility of the municipality of Alausí (as stablished in the Disaster Risk Management Law). It is determinant for the CEWS to have an appropriate management model for its operation and sustainability. The participatory construction of the CEWS, starting from the identification and analysis of needs, the involvement of the community as monitors and informants, and the recognition of the Municipality of Alausí as responsible for its proper functioning, constitute fundamental elements for sustainability, while also contributing to the construction of place-based community resilience.

The sub-activities planned for this activity are:

6.2.1 Design of a hazard monitoring and impact forecasting system based on community participation.

6.2.2 Design a sustainable management and operational model, delineating the responsibilities of every involved actor, and establishing protocols, information entry, and reporting mechanisms for the Community Early Warning System (CEWS).

6.2.3 Design and implementation of an effective communication and dissemination model for monitoring and early warning access for the entire population.

## *Result 6 - Activity 3*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

6.3 Implementation of the Community Early Warning System (CEWS) as a key element of preparedness and early response capacity.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

The implementation of the Community Early Warning System (CEWS) requires the collaboration of the entire population, which will be facilitated within the framework of actions aimed at providing information and raising awareness about disaster risk. The community-driven nature of the system entails the participation of the population both in its design and its implementation. Its operation and sustainability will rely on a management model adapted to the social, economic and spatial characteristics of Alausí.

The CEWS will provide key information to reduce disaster risk and anticipate the occurrence of a hazardous event. In order for the entire population to have access to timely and relevant information to take decisive actions to safeguard lives, the development of innovative, user-friendly, and relevant solutions is imperative. Similarly, the involvement of the entire beneficiary population is

necessary so that they receive the necessary training to incorporate the CEWS as a multi-level communication mechanism, and so that the population knows what to do in response to an alert.

The sub-activities planned for this activity are:

6.3.1 Development and implementation of an innovative solution to broadcast alerts to the entire population, evaluating the most appropriate technologies (SMS messages, Internet messages, etc.).

6.3.2 Implementation of multi-level information exchange and communication mechanisms (to/from the communities).

6.3.3 Training and awareness-raising for all involved actors (observers/monitors, authorities and communicators) on the functioning of the CEWS.

6.3.4 Installation and operation of the CEWS.

6.3.5 Conduct of simulations, drills and monitoring of the operation of the CEWS.

### *Result (6/8) - [INT] Overall update on activities of the result*

This second interim report covers the period from June to October 2024. This result is part of the modification approved by DG-ECHO in May, 2024.

To date, meetings have been held with the SNGR to learn about the processes carried out by the Institute of Geological and Energy Research (IIGE), the GAD of Alausí, the Central University of Ecuador (UCE) and to frame everything in a single intervention that complements the multiple actors.

There are no specific advances in the activities of this result, which will begin in 2025.

## *7.3 Result (7/8)*

R7. The local government established a posdisaster recovery and management model to protect the rights for vulnerable populations affected by disasters.

### *Sector*

Disaster Risk Reduction / Disaster Preparedness

### *Subsectors*

Community and local level action

Other (DRR / DP)

Capacity building (DRR / DP)

### *Estimated total amount* 205.760,30

## *Result 7 - Indicator 1*

### *Type / Subsector*

Community and local level action

### *Indicator*

Number of people participating in interventions that enhance their capacity to face shocks and stresses

### *Definition*

Interventions at household and local level aimed at concretely strengthen the capacity. Information or advocacy activities as well as trainings are not eligible unless they will result or are directly linked to concrete action (e.g. evacuation plan developed).
Examples: number of people who can use a protective shelter, etc; number of people covered/included in a new contingency plan.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Local capacities assessment in post-disaster recovery subject focus.
Pre- and post-test results; training reports; attendance lists.

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 0,00 | 300,00 | 0,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

Currently, Alausí lacks capability in post-disaster recovery subject focus accordingly the Disaster Risk Management Law. During a post-disaster recovery is crucial to have institutional a community capacity to cope with and overcome disasters and initiate recovery interventions. The Action Plan encompasses activities aimed strengthening capacities to protect the rights of people affected in a post-disaster recovery process.

The target value is an estimation of persons reached by the implementation of specific trainings and interventions in post-disaster recovery subject focus.

## *Result 7 - Indicator 2*

### *Type / Subsector*

Custom

### *Definition*

Number of people trained and empowered in rights protection

### *Source and method of data collection*

Rights protection training plans;
Reports of activities to enhance capacities for the Protection of Rights of Alausí in emergency situations;
Registration records of implementation activities to raise awareness and promote rights within a disaster preparedness framework.
Reports from the Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights related to social accompaniment and social protection within the framework of disaster preparedness.

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 0,00 | 300,00 | 0,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

Training and empowerment will be focused on technical personnel and community brigades aimed to ensure rights protection during emergencies and post-disaster recovery processes.

Alausí lacks both institutional and community-level local capacities for the protection of rights of people in vulnerable situations within the framework of disaster preparedness. The protection of rights requires enhanced institutional capacities and people informed and aware of the rights and the mechanisms and protocols active during emergencies. Rights protection within the framework of disaster preparedness requires focused interventions aimed to vulnerable people.

### *Result (7/8) - Comments on all indicators for this result*

The activities considered in the result to achieve the indicators will strengthen technical capacities, as well as the design and implementation of a model for the protection of rights for the vulnerable population in the event of disasters and possible emergencies. The rights protection mechanisms will allow a better response to emergencies and post-disaster recovery processes.

### *[INT] Update on all the indicators for this result*

I1. The proposed indicator will show results when the process has made further advance. Currently, a solid working Alliance has been established with the Municipal GAD of Alausí and the parish GADs of Achupallas, Multitud, Huigra and Sibambe. This inter-institutional articulation represents a fundamental step to guarantee the relevance and sustainability of the interventions, by allowing joint planning based on the real needs of the communities.

It began with the forensic investigation of disasters (FORIN), contributing to understanding the root causes and factors that contribute to the risk of landslides in Alausí, enabling more effective strategies to warn and protect the population.

Post-Disaster Recovery Needs Assessment (PDNA) was prepared with the participation and joint effort of teams from the National Government and the Municipal GAD of Alausí. It is expected that thanks to the actions of the project, the recovery initiatives will be articulated with the planning instruments and with the new institutionality for post-disaster recovery established in the LOGIRD that came into force in January 2024.

I2. Important activities were conducted enabling the fulfillment of this indicator. Diagnoses of social vulnerability were developed to understand the situation of those who were affected by the 2023 landslide in  Alausí and the 2024 flood in the area of El Citado. These diagnoses identified specific needs and mapped existing vulnerabilities.

The activities of the psychosocial component have fostered spaces for dialogue and reflection that have made it possible to raise awareness in the community about the importance of psycho-emotional support in disaster recovery processes. Through anticipation of community members, the specific needs of each population sector were identified, which has facilitated the design of more relevant and specific intervention strategies.

Collaboration with parish GAD commissions and community and neighborhood directorates was fundamental to align information and activities with local priorities. Challenges, such as diversity of needs, have been identified, requiring a personalized approach and ongoing diagnostics.

Through information collection and participation, a solid foundation has been laid for improving institutional and community capacities. The needs in the field of health and the strengthening of the social fabric are key to implementing effective interventions. Awareness-raising and communication activities will improve disaster risk management, with a gender and intercultural approach, prioritizing vulnerable groups, such as children and women, and promoting their rights.

## *Result 7 - Activity 1*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

7.1 Social accompaniment to vulnerable population with a gender and intercultural perspective.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Social accompaniment plays a crucial role in addressing vulnerabilities exacerbated by emergencies caused by disasters. Despite the existence of institutional protocols and mechanisms established by local and national governments, effective social and psycho-emotional accompaniment is necessary, led by the Municipality of Alausí and the Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights of Alausí, to reach people affected by disasters.

At present, the Municipality of Alausí lacks crucial information regarding the social circumstances of people affected by the landslide that occurred in March 2023. This information is essential for supporting their post-disaster recovery process. Effective social and psycho-emotional accompaniment is indispensable, and post-disaster recovery efforts must provide targeted support to affected people. Therefore, it is imperative to design and implement active mechanisms and protocols for social accompaniment.

The sub-activities planned for this activity are:

7.1.1 Development of anassessment of the social vulnerability of the population directly or indirectly affected by the landslide.

7.1.2 Design and implementation of a social and psycho-emotional accompaniment plan with a gender and intercultural perspective, aimed at vulnerable populations affected by disasters.

7.1.3 Development of mechanisms and protocols for protecting the rights of vulnerable groups in emergency situations.

7.1.4 Training for technical teams of the SGR, the municipality of Alausí and the Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights of Alausí, to guarantee the protection of rights of the vulnerable population in emergency situations.

7.1.5 Design and implementation of a plan to raise awareness and promote rights within a disaster preparedness framework.

## *Result 7 - Activity 2*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

7.2 Strengthening the capabilities of the municipality of Alausí for post-disaster recovery within the framework of the Disaster Risk Management Law.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Based on a rights protection approach, post-disaster recovery efforts require specific capacities at the local and community levels. The Disaster Risk Management Law establishes specific responsibilities for the Municipality of Alausí, yet it lacks the necessary capacities to design and implement strategies related to post-disaster recovery preparedness. It is imperative that the Municipality of Alausí develops institutional capabilities to effectively address post-disaster recovery needs.

Disaster preparedness framework emphasizes the importance of protecting human rights, the Municipality of Alausí must prioritize the development of robust mechanisms for post-disaster recovery. This includes ensuring access to essential services, safeguarding the rights of vulnerable populations, and promoting inclusive decision-making processes, among others.

Furthermore, building the institutional capacity to effectively implement post-disaster recovery strategies will require collaboration and coordination with relevant stakeholders, including local communities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and international partners. By strengthening its capacity in this area, the Municipality of Alausí can enhance its resilience and ability to respond effectively to future disasters, ultimately ensuring the well-being and rights protection of its inhabitants.

The sub-activities planned under this activity are:

7.2.1 Technical assistance in inter-institutional coordination spaces for post-disaster recovery preparedness.

7.2.2 Design and implementation of a Training Plan for the evaluation of effects and impacts to identify post-disaster recovery needs.

7.2.3 Technical assistance to strengthen capabilities for the design and implementation of post-disaster recovery,rehabilitation and reconstruction strategies.

## *Result 7 - Activity 3*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

7.3 Practical post-disaster recovery actions framed within the competencies of the municipality of Alausi.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

The national regulation establishes specific responsibilities for local governments, and the Disaster Risk Management Law outlines the scope within which municipalities must operate to ensure the rights of their inhabitants in a post-disaster recovery. Recognizing the post-disaster recovery context of Alausí, is imperative to initiate practical interventions aimed at supporting people affected by disasters, particularly those affected by the landslides of March 2023.

The sub-activities planned for this activity are:

7.3.1 Establishment of safe spaces for storage of belongings of families affected by landslides of March 2023.

7.3.2 Implementation of mechanisms for storage and custody of movable goods for the population affected by disasters.

## *Result 7 - Activity 4*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

7.4 Establishment of safe water supply protocols in the context of disasters.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Alausí is undergoing recovery from the disaster caused by the landslide of March 2023, which severely impacted the municipal water supply. Presently, the water supply has not fully returned to its pre-disaster coverage, necessitating the development of safe water supply protocols for areas prone to risks and hazards.

Learning acquired from providing safe water in a post-disaster context will enable the design and implementation of mechanisms to supply safe water to vulnerable communities during emergencies caused by disasters.

The sub-activities planned under for this activity are:

7.4.1 Conduct an assessment of the safe water supply capacity of the Municipality of Alausí for areas susceptible to landslides, floods and earthquakes.

7.4.2 Participatory design of alternative mechanisms for safe water supply in emergencies caused by disasters.

7.4.3 Implementation of mechanisms to supply safe water to vulnerable communities in emergencies caused by disasters.

### *Result (7/8) - [INT] Overall update on activities of the result*

This second interim report covers the period from June to October 2024. This result is part of the modification approved by DG-ECHO in May, 2024.

7.1 Through a participatory approach, close collaboration was established with the commissions and directives of the affected communities for the identification of local needs and the preparation of a diagnosis of social vulnerability. A comprehensive approach was adopted that combines psychological and social perspectives, based on a theoretical framework that considers demographic, socioeconomic and emotional factors, as well as a gender and intercultural perspective in line with the perceptions of the community decision-makers. This approach allows for a holistic understanding of the needs and conditions of the affected population.

The data collection is performed by the directives of the precincts, neighborhoods or communities, as well as with the authorities responsible for decision-making in the locality. This data collection was used to obtain an overview of the current situation, identify priority issues and collect preliminary information on the impact of the adverse events mentioned on the community. The interview was carried out using a semi-structured question guide, enabling the exploration of key issues related to the event and the conditions prevailing in the population segment.

Focus groups were held with the directors of the sectors to deepen the understanding of their perceptions, needs and experiences related to the flood. This activity led to the identification of relevant information on the impact of the event and the collection of detailed qualitative information on the participant experiences. The focus group discussions were carefully moderated to explore specific issues and collect data on the socioeconomic conditions, as well as the emotional and social needs of the population.

Regarding the analysis of demographic data, information on age, gender, ethnicity and socioeconomic conditions was collected from the data obtained in the interviews and focus groups, assessing socioeconomic conditions to identify more vulnerable groups and the factors that contribute to precariousness. On the other hand, the perceptions and needs of the participants were assessed in relation to the flood event, enabling the identification of critical areas that must be addressed in the design of the intervention plan.

The integration of the collected data provided a comprehensive overview of the social vulnerability in both intervention sectors. This detailed analysis allows to identify priorities, offering recommendations for the design and implementation of the social and psycho-emotional accompaniment plan.

Finally, feedback from the focus groups and the directive of each sector of the population to adjust and validate the results of the diagnosis was provided, ensuring that the intervention plan is based on a solid and precise understanding of the needs of the affected population.

7.2 The recurrence of landslides in Alausí has evidenced the need to have a deep understanding of the factors that lead to these events and design the most effective preparation and response strategies. In this context, disaster forensic research (FORIN) has been started to identify and analyze the underlying territorial causes that could have provoked or contributed to the disaster that occurred in the City of Alausí on March 26, 2023. This will enable the development of more effective strategies to prevent and protect the population.

7.3 The Post-Disaster Recovery Needs Assessment (PDNA) was prepared, with the participation and joint effort of UNDP, SNGR, Zonal Coordination 3, MIDUVI, Chimborazo Technical Office, MPCEIP, Chimborazo Technical Office, IIGE, MINEDUC, Alausí – Chunchi District, MIES, Alausí District, GADMC Alausí and UNDP. The Post-Landslide Recovery Strategy and Plan were formulated.

designing the structure that the Local Recovery Committee should have under the leadership of the municipal GAD, in harmony with the LOGIRD that came into force in January 2024.

7.4 For the establishment of protocols for the supply of safe water in the context of disasters for the Alausí canton coordination has been done with UNICEF, who carried out diagnoses of the water systems of the Parishes of Achupallas and Sibambe of the Alausí Canton. In this way, efforts are not duplicated and existing diagnoses are taken advantage of.

### *7.3 Result (8/8)*

R8. Crisis Modifier: The beneficiary population receives humanitarian assistance in the event of a disaster during the project implementation phase.

### *Sector*

Disaster Risk Reduction / Disaster Preparedness

### *Subsectors*

Other (DRR / DP)

### *Estimated total amount*

0,00

### *Result 8 - Indicator 1*

### *Type / Subsector*

Custom

### *Definition*

Number of days between the crisis ocurred and the crisis modifier is activated.

### *Source and method of data collection*

Report on immediate actions needed to assist the population in urgent need in case of an emergency ocurred in the areas of intervention.

| *Baseline* | *Target value* | *Progress value* |
|---|---|---|
| 0,00 | 72,00 | 0,00 |

### *Comments on the indicator, baseline and target value*

As per DG ECHO, the Crisis Modifier aims to promote the systematic consideration and integration of flexible, early and anticipatory action in order to address, in a timely manner, immediate and life-saving needs resulting from a rapid-onset crisis and/or a deterioration and when no other response mechanisms are yet in place. The indicator shows the number of days the crisis modifier is going to be activated if necessary. The Crisis Modifier will include opportunities for anticipation, pre-emptive and early action (e.g. evacuation and shelter in advance of impact; scalability of service to respond to increase in demand; etc.)Action triggered by plan has to be coordinated, timely and effective.

When a rapid onset crisis ocurrs and no other response mechanism are yet in place, the crisis modifier will be activated, accordingly to the protocols established by the Law and its protocols, always based in need assessment in close coordination with Emergency Operations Committee.

### *Result (8/8) - Comments on all indicators for this result*

The baseline is zero. Target value is 72 hours maximum time necessary to activate the crisis modifier.

The Action Plan intends to utilize the Crisis Modifier in territories exposed to the effects caused by the Cotopaxi volcano eruption and by multi-hazards in Alausí, with an estimated target population of 69,496 persons. The number of people targeted and the type of assistance provided depend on the emergency (Cotopaxi volcano or Alausi landslide or floods) and the decision of the National Government based on identified on the gaps in the humanitarian assistance. During the implementation of the Action Plan, information gathered from disaster preparedness activities will allow the identification of events and triggers that could provoke rapid-onset crises.

### *[INT] Update on all the indicators for this result*

During this period, the Crisis Modifier result was not activated

### *Result 8 - Activity 1*

### *Short description (for the logframe)*

5.1 Immediate aid for the beneficiary population to meet the most urgent needs: saving lives and property.

### *Detailed description (if needed)*

Provision of emergency items to complement the humanitarian assistance provided by the government or deployment of technical humanitarian assistance in the sector required.
Immediate actions to assist the beneficiary population in meeting their most urgent needs to save lives and property. The action plan could react within 72 hours after the crisis occurs, in close coordination with SGR.
The sub-activity planned under this activity is:
5.1.1 Emergency water supply, short-term food distribution, supply of non-food essentials

### *Result (8/8) - [INT] Overall update on activities of the result*

During this period, the Result 8 Crisis Modifier was not activated

## *7.4 Results Context and Conditions*

## *7.4 Preconditions*

- Agreement with ECHO is finalised and resources are disbursed on time under the established workplan.
- HACT micro-assessment for responsible parties is finalised.
- Agreements between PLAN, CARE, CESA are signed and resources allocated according to the planned schedule.
- Workplan updated based on the previous activities already conducted by the government.
- Ecuador remains socially and politically stable.

## *7.5 Assumptions and risks (including risk of fraudulent activities and environmental risk)*

Assumptions

- The action plan was designed in collaboration with national and local actors as well as members of target communities in the areas at risk of disaster, which will facilitate the smooth implementation of the action.
- The existing SGR action plan to prepare and anticipate the response is a precondition; this action plan will be coordinated with them to be more effective and benefit the at-risk population.
- The Decentralised Office of the SGR maintains permanent workspaces with communities at risk of disasters, in which information and awareness actions have been carried out on the disaster risk posed by Cotopaxi volcanic activity.
- Municipal governments have technical risk management teams that will be targeted by institutional capacity-building activities.
- The SGR delegates a specific focal point to articulate actions that contribute to the fulfilment of the project's action plan.
- The Decentralised Office of the SGR would collaborate actively and permanently in the execution of the action plan.

Risks

- Increase of Cotopaxi activity with a disruptive eruption event could affect the implementation of the action, and the project would need to react to respond, in close coordination with national authorities.
- Other risks, such as an earthquakes, landslides and floods may provoke immediate adverse effects on the population and prevent and/or limit anticipatory actions and preparation for disaster risk, as immediate unforeseen action must be taken.
- Women face difficulties participating due to their overloaded activities.
- Volcanic watchers (*vigías*) are not part of the key response actors and have difficulties maintaining their voluntary role when required.
- New local authorities will be seated in May 2023, with new directors and high-level positions at the local level. Each new local government brings new guidelines and working mechanisms. It takes time to establish contact and recommence activities, considering that political will is crucial to guarantee sustainability.
- Adequate human, physical, and financial resources are not maintained within the operating team of the proposed action and other responsible parties.
- Relevant governments do not operate effectively at appropriate levels.
- Disaster preparedness and anticipatory actions have not taken into consideration environmental and climate risks, such as excessive single-use plastics, disproportionate air tickets, excessive paper use, unhealthy menus, and no clear debris removal in small interventions planned, among others.

## *7.6 Contingency measures taken to mitigate the risks described in the section 7.5*

Meaningful, effective, and informed stakeholder engagement and participation is undertaken that seeks to build and maintain over time a constructive relationship with stakeholders, with the purpose of avoiding or mitigating any potential risks in a timely manner. The scale and frequency of the engagement reflects the nature of the activity, the magnitude of potential risks and adverse impacts, and concerns raised by affected communities.

The aforementioned risks will be closely monitored jointly with the responsible parties' partners, UNDP Ecuador and the focal point from SGR. In case the risks materialise, the contingency measures proposed to achieve the contemplated results are:

- Accelerate or alter the established workplan in this action plan, or effect a modification request to ECHO, based on reports of increased volcanic activity and an immediate need to accelerate or modify the activities planned, in close coordination with national and local authorities.
- Advocacy actions to raise awareness in communities and authorities are essential for a better understanding of the relevance of including gender-responsive and protection actions in preparedness, response plans, and anticipatory actions.
- Flexibility in programming community activities to allow people whose own activities are overwhelming to take part.

- The impact that a Cotopaxi eruption could cause in local territories will demand that newly elected authorities fulfil their responsibilities and conduct their work based on this risk scenario. If this risk becomes real, the implementation strategy will count on the commitment of the national authorities, especially the SGR and the decentralized entities in the areas of interventions.
- To guarantee the sustainability of volcano watchers, good communication must be ensured between them and the local governments with clear protocols and ordinances.
- UNDP will advocate with the newly elected authorities to mitigate the risk.
- UNDP's Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) will be fully incorporated in the action plan implementation process. POPP serves as the guiding document to ensure that appropriate UNDP policies are followed, key stakeholders are kept informed, appropriate project management structures exist, outputs and activity deliverables are monitored, and the project is well managed.
- To mitigate environmental and climate risk, UNDP will follow "green UNDP events" measures. UNDP has committed to becoming a green and climate-neutral organisation. The core of this promise is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts resulting from our operations. UNDP is taking climate action leadership, ensuring that all UNDP events, including co-hosted events, are green. Some of the guidelines to be followed are: minimise travel, choose a green venue, provide a green menu, ban single-use plastic and minimise waste of any kind, go paperless, choose sustainable branding, help participants make green choices, offset event carbon footprint, and raise awareness of sustainability.

### *7.7 [INT] Update on preconditions, assumptions and risks*

Previous conditions were met. To start the project operational activities, Responsible Party Agreements were subscribed (RPAs) with Plan Internacional, CARE and ADRA.

The subscribed RPAs between UNDP and CARE in October 2023 to execute actions for capacity building at the community level were closed by mutual consent in May 2024. This is due to the need to have a greater presence in the territory and to achieve the actions at the community level of result 3. In this sense, ADRA joined the consortium in July 2024, both to support the implementation of activities in Cotopaxi and in the Alausí area. Their previous work experience at the community and local level in the implementation of projects with UNDP is one of the comparative advantages of this NGO as well as their ability to be present in the territory.

During the initial phase, from the intervention at the community level, a significant risk associated to the low community participation due to the coincidence with local festivities was identified. To mitigate this risk, a flexible strategy was implemented, adjusting the schedules and dates of the activities to the preferences of the participants. However, a lower participation than expected was observed. Aiming at proactively addressing this challenge throughout the intervention, the need to design more personalized participation strategies for each community, considering their cultural and social particularities, is raised.

The security and energy crisis has caused an adverse context for activities with children and adolescents, affecting their participation. However, thanks to the collaboration with community leaders, educational institutions and local authorities, it has been possible to overcome these obstacles, guaranteeing activity continuity and fostering a safe and participatory environment for young people.

Initially, the work with the Potable Water Administration Boards presented difficulties (JAAPs), as they opposed the diagnosis of their water systems, derived from the perception that the technical visits could lead to a rate increase or a decrease in the water availability. Through constant dialogue and a participatory work, as well as multiple general assemblies, an environment of trust and mutual understanding was created, clarifying doubts and encouraging collaboration among directives and users.

In September, with prolonged droughts, a forest fire occurred in the highlands of Pasanche sector located in the Parish of Aláquez, consuming approximately 100 hectares of forest. Due to the proximity of the affected area to the infrastructure of the San Antonio de Aláquez JAAP, intensive surveillance and monitoring measures were implemented. Although the fire did not cause direct damage to the facilities, the access restrictions imposed for several weeks forced the planning of the previewed interventions to be readjusted, generating a delay in the execution of the activities.

The intervened parishes are distant from the Canton of Alausí. The poor state of the access roads to the communities, especially in the Parish of Multitud, which is three hours from the matrix, compromises the capacity to respond to emergencies and hinders the arrival of essential supplies. The poor condition of the roads not only represents a logistical risk, but it also affects community participation and the effectiveness of actions, which requires strategies to mitigate its impact in future interventions and anticipated planning to mobilize the territories.

# 8. Resilience Marker

### *8.1 Resilience*

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Q1: Do the proposed project activities adequately reflect an analysis of risks and vulnerabilities (including conflict, environment and climate risks)?*** | Yes |

### *Provide details*

This action plan includes a thorough analysis of risks and vulnerabilities—climate risks, epidemics, environmental degradation, and industrial threats. The assessment report (Appendix 2) consolidates a characterisation of the demographic, social, and economic dynamics of the at-risk communities. Based on this systematisation, an analysis of the population's vulnerability was developed, and the most exposed areas and those at greatest risk of disaster were identified, as well as the territorial needs for effective risk management, which guides the planning of interventions to prepare and build resilience capabilities.

Climate and environmental resilience are the responsibility of all humanitarian actors and actions to reduce the negative environmental impacts of humanitarian and anticipatory actions. These actions will address specific environmental risks identified.

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Q2: Does the project adopt a "do no harm and conflict sensitivity" approach, include specific measures to ensure that the identified risks and any environmental impacts of the project are addressed to the extent possible, and are not aggravated by the action?*** | Yes |

### *Provide details*

The project will work with specific communities, local, and national governments, applying a deep understanding of the context in which it is operating and the interaction between interventions and context to avoid negative and maximise positive impacts, and to foresee predictable conflicts. Conflict sensitivity requires that all partners consider the unintended consequences of their programmes on the relationships between groups of people in the context, and act to address those consequences.

All UNDP projects follow the UNDP Environmental and Social Standards and the guidance on the operationali minimum environmental requirements for EU funded humanitarian aid, which are monitored every six months to verify compliance with risk mitigation measures. UNDP and its partners work to reach consensus with communities, local, and national actors to minimises the risk of conflict.

This action will use the Greening the Blue Initiative to improve our approach to climate neutrality, based on three principles: monitor, reduce, and offset, to be more sustainable in all aspects of this action and following the principles and recommendation provided by DG-ECHO. WASH result will minimise potential environmental impacts by assessments/screening accompanying all construction activities throughout the action plan implementation, avoiding environmental risks and finding the best and more suitable solutions. Protection activities will include Child-Friendly Spaces and Women and Girls´ Safe Spaces ensuring collaboration with WASH activities and limiting the use of non-reusable plastic and non-recyclable materials

Before the action plan starts, UNDP will organise training for staff and partner members, project and stakeholders' meetings, and distribute leaflets to targeted population to underscore the importance of increasing environmentally friendly practices.

Appendix 11. This guideline is mandatory for our partners.

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Q3: Does the project include measures to strengthen local preparedness capacities (of individuals and national or local institutions or organisations) to respond or adapt to identified risks?*** | Yes |

### *Provide details*

The project proposes activities for institutional reinforcement and promotes the building of local capabilities in at-risk populations. Result 1,5 and 6 focuses on this objective.

The existence of sectoral response plans for a Cotopaxi eruption will benefit various groups, public and private, upgrading their capabilities and resilience.

Interrelated and complementary interventions at the institutional and community levels build territorial capabilities and facilitate preparation processes and anticipatory actions to respond adequately and in a timely manner to disaster risk and contribute to building territorial resilience and sustainability.

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Q4: Does the project contribute to long-term strategies to reduce humanitarian needs, underlying vulnerability and risks or identifies modalities to link up with ongoing development interventions (national or international stakeholders)?*** | Yes |

### *Provide details*

Given the multi-sectoral and multi-agency nature of the concept of resilience, which cuts across short-term humanitarian interventions and long-term development, this action will plan promote broad coordination with partners from humanitarian and development interventions at national and local levels without distinction.

Special attention will be paid to enhancing coordination with key networks, groups, and initiatives carried out in the fields of resilience analysis and interventions.

This project proposes strengthening local capabilities and plans. The project will foster long-term organisation and action processes

that contribute to territorial development for future events, with a resilience approach.

All activities will contribute to a long-term strategy to reduce humanitarian needs, vulnerabilities, and risk. Strengthening capacities at the national, local, and community levels will help reduce institutional vulnerability. Working with children and adolescents will help them be better prepared and reduce the fear and uncertainty they are facing now. Improving water systems will prepare the host communities to receive their neighbors. In general, all these activities will reduce humanitarian needs.

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Initial mark*** | 2 |

### *8.2 [INT] Update on Resilience marker*

The project team has implemented environmental sustainability strategies, such as optimizing the use of resources through the reuse of office supplies and the reduction of the consumption of plastics at events. At the same time, by integrating the concept of resilience into training processes, communities have been able to identify their own vulnerabilities and strengthen their adaptive capacities, thus ensuring the long-term sustainability of interventions.

In the intervention of the water systems for human consumption of the reception communities, an environmental analysis has been considered and mitigation measures have been implemented. For the workshops, the services of a JAAP partner, who has a food enterprise and who manages agroecology in his gardens, were hired.

The Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) standards of the National Secretariat for Risk (SNGR) have been adopted to strengthen local capacities through a comprehensive training plan. This includes the creation of Community Risk Management Communities and the training of brigades in fire prevention, first aid and evacuation.

There are no changes in the resilience markers. What was planned is being fulfilled.

## 9. Monitoring and Evaluation

### *9.1 Complaint mechanism*

UNDP ensures meaningful, effective, and informed participation of stakeholders in formulating and implementing UNDP programmes and projects. Stakeholder engagement is an ongoing process that may involve, to varying degrees, the following elements: stakeholder analysis and planning, disclosure and dissemination of information, consultation and meaningful participation, dispute resolution and grievance redress, ongoing reporting to affected communities and stakeholders, and inclusion of stakeholders in monitoring and evaluation. Stakeholder analysis and engagement is conducted in a gender-responsive, culturally sensitive, non-discriminatory, and inclusive manner, ensuring that potentially affected vulnerable and marginalised groups are identified and provided opportunities to participate

A mechanism for complaints and claims resolution, to effectively address requests, complaints during the implementation of this Action, it will be established based on UNDP guidelines for projects.

This mechanism will be presented in a transparent manner to the project’s beneficiary population as well as to participating organisations.

The mechanism for petitions, complaints, and claims will be informed through community committees to the entire beneficiary population, as well as to organisations participating in the project. Information will be available on operation and response times and the resolution of complaints and claims. Appropriate communication channels will be established and communicated to manage information, such as email, telephones, and the installation of infographics on the operation of the mechanism.

All individuals will have access to information about the mechanism´s operation and to the channels for receiving petitions, complaints, or claims. Ultimate outcomes of requests, complaints, or claims will be communicated on a quarterly basis, respecting data privacy. These results will serve as feedback for the implementation of the action.

Furthermore, Plan International and CARE both have core accountability commitments. Both organisations focus on protecting the dignity and recovery of crisis-affected communities and apply the highest standards to keep them safe while we work with them. Their humanitarian action is guided by the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability.

UNDP, Plan, and CARE will ensure a complaint mechanism that comprises the following dimensions: age-appropriateness, safety, confidentiality, gender sensitivity, conflict-sensitivity, inclusion, and children’s participation.

Explanations will also be provided on the modality/channel that local authorities and community leaders can use to report cases of mismanagement, misconduct, and abuse. Claims and complaints will be presented through channels such as institutional mail accounts, anonymous suggestion mailboxes, and meetings with participants. Due to some COVID-19 prevention measures already in place, satisfaction surveys and other channels will be conducted online as well as in focus groups with beneficiaries.

UNDP has a stakeholder response mechanism (SRM) to help project-affected stakeholders, governments, and other partners jointly resolve concerns and disputes. It is available when implementing partner- and UNDP project-level stakeholder engagement processes have not resolved issues of concern successfully. UNDP Country Office management normally leads in stakeholder response.

### *9.2 Monitoring of the action*

Monitoring activities, results, and compliance with the indicators of this action plan will be carried out in accordance with UNDP policies and procedures, as well as the provisions of the General Conditions (Annex 2 to the HACA).

Permanent monitoring and technical advisory will be handled by the lead agency, UNDP National Disaster Risk Officer, for its partners. Visits to designated locations will be carried out on a regular basis by UNDP. Regular follow-up activities will be carried out by/with ECHO focal point in Ecuador, and a bi-monthly meeting will be encouraged. Field visits during the project's life cycle will be established at the end of the action. Regular participation of team members (PLAN, CARE, CESA, ADRA, IG-EPN) in the coordination meeting with ECHO will be assured. It is worth mentioning that team members actively participated during the design period of the action plan.

Similarly, the local technician in charge of the project will prepare and send quarterly reports on the progress of the activities and progress on the achievement of the indicators established in this document to the UNDP Programme Officer, which must be supported by their respective verification sources. These reports will include the progress made by the implementing partners, so it will be necessary to hold coordination and follow-up meetings at least quarterly, the formats for these reports will include a section to gather the lessons learned of the activities with emphasis on anticipatory actions to understand what worked and what not.

The project technicians in the field will be responsible for collecting information through methods defined for each activity. The project coordinator will be responsible for generating quantitative and qualitative analyses based on the data collected.

The progress reports and the final report will be prepared by the UNDP Programme Officer with the support of local project technicians.

The interim and final reports to ECHO will be developed and submitted in accordance with the applicable contractual requirements and in coordination with the local ECHO focal point. In addition, and in accordance with UNDP quality standards, during project execution, close coordination will be maintained with the SGR and other national institutions.

To monitor the environmental performance of all partners, the project will implement a reporting mechanism based on the greening the blue initiative and the mandatory parameters established for all UNDP projects. In addition, a workshop will be held with the partners and counterparts so that they know the established environmental mechanisms.

The principle of protection, the principle of does not harm approach, safety, dignity for all the people will be incorporated. It is important, to guarantee people´s access to assistance and services, in proportion to the need and without barriers. In addition, appropriate mechanisms will be established through which the affected populations can measure the suitability of the interventions and address concerns and complaints. Finally, the action plan will promote the participation and empowerment of women, children, and adolescents to strengthen self-protection capacities and help people claim their rights.

To monitor the environmental performance of all partners, the project will implement a reporting mechanism based on the greening the blue initiative and the mandatory parameters established for all UNDP projects. In addition, a workshop will be held with the partners and counterparts so that they know the established environmental mechanisms. (See Appendix A11). Abides the Guidance on the operationalisation of the minimum environmental requirements and recommendations for EU-funded humanitarian aid.

Do not harm approach, safety and dignity for all people will be incorporated.

| ***9.3 Is this action remotely managed?*** | No |
|---|---|

### *9.4 Which of the following evaluations will be undertaken and charged to the action?*

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Internal evaluation of the action's results*** | No |
| ***External evaluation of the action's results*** | No |
| ***External audit (only if it is a legal obligation)*** | No |

| ***9.5 Studies carried out in relation to the action (if relevant)*** | No |
|---|---|

### *9.6 [INT] Update on monitoring and evaluations (including complaint mechanism)*

Articulated work is maintained between the Consortium of the Project led by UNDP, coordinating with the SNGR and the IG-EPN.

Regular meetings are held with all the institutions that make up the Consortium, i.e., Plan Internacional, ADRA, CESA, the SNGR and the l IG_EPN to monitor the progress of the programmatic activities and the financial execution, while coordinating and articulating actions. These spaces have been key to allowing the timely identification of challenges and the adjustment of strategies, as necessary.

The quarterly reports submitted by the implementing parties provide quantitative and qualitative data that enable the assessment of progress towards the achievement of the indicators and the expected results and progress of the financial execution

Weekly meetings are held to follow up the actions and plan key steps.

ADRA uses the LogAlto technological tool to efficiently monitor and evaluate the progress of its projects. To address complaints,

comments, suggestions, a feedback system has been implemented, which includes a mobile mailbox and a digital form accessible by QR. Through this mechanism, ADRA seeks to strengthen dialogue with the community and continuously improve its interventions. Although no formal complaints have yet been registered, the tool has been fundamental to collecting valuable information and measure the satisfaction of participants in each workshop.

A formal feedback and complaints mechanism was designed and implemented for Cotopaxi and Alausí to collect comments, suggestions, observations and/or complaints, constantly improving project activities also based on the feedback received from local actors. This mechanism aims to identify potential cases related to staff misconduct, such as fraud, discrimination and corruption. The feedback channels that are implemented are the following: suggestion boxes and physical feedback form and QR codes. These mechanisms have been disseminated and widely communicated to local actors.

During this period, only one complaint was received from a beneficiary that was not included in a training video elaborated by the GAD of Saquisilí. Following the established protocols, a notification of receipt was issued, and a complaint management process was initiated, channeling it through the established methodology. In response, a new video was produced with the participation of all the JAPPs, thus concluding the incident. Moreover, through the feedback mechanisms, positive comments are received on the implementation of the project and the support it represents for the localities.

# 10. Implementation

## *10.1 Human resources and management capacities*

UNDP Ecu/National DRM Advisor (30%) leading the whole operation, relations with counterparts, agreements with the IP, and reports to ECHO.

UNDP Ecu/Administrative Assistant (100%) follows all financial and administrative activities with all partners.

UNDP Ecu/Two Local Technicians (100%) coordinates field activities in close coordination with SGR and other local gov.

UNDP Ecu/Communication Technician (10%) ensures visibility and communication of the whole project.

PLAN/Ecu/Protection Technician DRR (100%) responsible for children and adolescent protection activities in the field and at community level based on the annual operational plan.

PLAN/Ecu/Local Technician DRR (100%) responsible for monitoring field activities, bringing technical assistance to DRM.

PLAN/Ecu/Local Finance Analyst (50%) responsible for managing accounting systems and financial management.

PLAN/Local Support Staff (5%) – finance grants, humanitarian, and emergency manager, grants specialist, grants assistant, monitoring

CARE/ Humanitarian Assistant Officer (20%) technical assistance on community action.

CARE/ Field Technician (100%) implement field activities.

CARE/ Technician monitoring, evaluation, and lessons learned (MEAL) (65%).

CARE/ Financial Officer (64%).

CARE/ Purchasing Officer (34%).

CARE/Accounting Analyst (25%).

CARE/Financial Coordinator (3%).

CESA/WASH Technician (100%) WASH technical assistance

CESA/Administrative & Finance Assistant (30%) administrative and financial assistant

CESA/Local Technician (100%) responsible for field WASH coordination with the selected communities

ADRA/Humanitarian Officer (100%)

ADRA/Administrative & Finance Assistant (40%)

ADRA/Protection Officer (100%)

ADRA/Logistic person (50%)

Project office costs required to implement this action are local staff including all associated costs (security, insurance), travel, and subsistence for the project staff and other persons directly involved in project activities, (including car rental and fuel, if necessary), to fulfil contracts awarded specifically for this action, utilities (internet, phone connections, electricity, and water), office rent and office equipment, EU visibility and communication costs.

### *10.1.1 [INT] Update on human resources and management capacities*

UNDP Ecu/National DRM Advisor (50%)

UNDP Ecu/Administrative Assistant (100%)

UNDP Ecu/One Local Technicians (100%)

UNDP Ecu/Communication Technician (10%)

PLAN/Ecu/Protection Technician DRR (100%)

PLAN/Ecu/Local Technician DRR (100%)

PLAN/Ecu/Local Finance Analyst (100%)

PLAN/Local Support Staff (5%)

CARE staff were attached to the project from October 2023 to May 2024, by mutual decision the agreement was closed, therefore, CARE staff are no longer part of the project:

CARE/ Field Technician (100%) implement field activities.

CARE/ Technician monitoring, evaluation, and lessons learned (MEAL) (65%).

CARE/ Financial Officer (64%).

CARE/ Purchasing Officer (34%). CARE/Accounting Analyst (25%).

CARE/Financial Coordinator (3%).

CESA/WASH Technician (100%) WASH technical assistance

CESA/Administrative & Finance Assistant (30%) administrative and financial assistant

CESA/Local Technician (100%) responsible for field WASH coordination with the selected communities

In July 2024, two agreements were signed with ADRA, the following staff joined the project team:

ADRA/ Alausí and Cotopaxi Project Coordinator (88%)

ADRA/Follow-up and monitoring assistant Alausí and Cotopaxi (78%)

ADRA/Logistics Alausí and Cotopaxi (100%)

ADRA/Accountant Alausí and Cotopaxi (100%)

ADRA/ RRD technician Cotopaxi (100%)

ADRA/ RRD technician Alausí (100%)

ADRA/Psychosocial technician with a focus on DRR Alausí (100%)

ADRA/Program Management (15%)

ADRA/Finance Management (10%)

ADRA/Human Talent Management (14%)

ADRA/Department of Communications (7%)

| | |
|---|---|
| ***10.2 Do you intend to deploy EU Aid Volunteers in the framework of this action?*** | No |

### *10.3 Logistics*

| | |
|---|---|
| ***10.3.1 Are you overseeing your entire supply chain? Please answer "No" if you are relying on other entities to do this either fully or partially (e.g. Humanitarian Procurement Centre, Global Logistics Cluster, through joint procurement initiatives etc.)?*** | Yes |

### *10.3.2 Please describe shortly the approaches you are using. If used, please also provide details on the Humanitarian Procurement Centre*

Procurement will be done following UNDP, Plan International, CARE, CESA, ADRA policies.

The number of items is small and will be purchased locally, in the national market. No need to use Humanitarian Procurement Centre for a Disaster Preparedness action.

Specific humanitarian emergency kits such as non-food items, food items among others will only be purchased if the crisis modifier is activated and immediate needs are clearly identified. Always in close coordination with the SGR.

This action plan will consider strengthening capacities of local communities on environmental standards related to humanitarian assistance. Also, all the supplies would try to support local market players and develop opportunities for local production and procurement, while considering the need to procure environmentally friendly humanitarian goods in case crisis modifier is activated.

All suppliers'/vendors'/contractors Expressions of Interest (EOIs), Statements of Work (SOWs), tender documents, and contracts, will match environmental requirements based on the UNDP rules and regulation.

### 10.3.3 [INT] Update on supply chain

The acquisitions have been made in accordance with the policies and procedures of UNDP and the Project partners.

Priority has been given to local suppliers since it is necessary to promote the economy of the localities where the project is executed; in many cases this represents a challenge, because not all suppliers manage or have an invoicing system; in other cases, they are not used to payment methods for micro-purchase processes.

Local suppliers were successfully included in procurement processes from UNDP and NGOs, mainly for food, lodging, transportation, stationery and advertising services; these suppliers meet the criteria of quality, market prices, transparency, sustainability and are aligned with the policies and procedures of UNDP and its partners. This reaffirms the project's commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

### 10.4.1 Do you anticipate any implementation challenges in the supply chain?

No

### 10.4.3 [INT] Update on supply chain challenges and mitigation measures

Any updates on supply chain, no challenges identified in the supply chain

### 10.6 Are there any other participants in the action?

Yes

### 10.6.1 Implementing partners / co-partners

| Name | Type | Estimated amount of EC budget allocated to organisation at RQ/MR stage | Final amount of EC budget allocated to organisation at FIN stage |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Plan International Ecuador | Implementing partner | 367.088,65 | - |
| 2. CARE | Implementing partner | 204.573,00 | - |
| 3. CESA | Implementing partner | 179.556,00 | - |
| 4. Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA Ecuador) | Implementing partner | 205.985,71 | - |
| | Total | 957.203,36 | - |

### 10.6.1 Implementing partner (1/4)

#### Name

Plan International Ecuador

#### Address

Av. República OE1-135, entre 10 de Agosto y Teresa de Cepeda

#### Status

International NGO

#### Estimated amount of EC budget allocated

367.088,65

#### Added value, role and main tasks

PI is recognised in Ecuador for its public policy advocacy work in disaster preparedness, usually carried out in coordination with ministries and local governments. The organisation has broad experience in implementing DIPECHO Projects, at both national and international levels, and a thorough understanding of ECHO’s policies and regulations.

PI has expertise in child protection in emergencies, risk management, and disaster response. The new manual of the Emergency Operations Committee in Ecuador and the guidelines of the National Response Plan were developed jointly by Plan International and the Secretariat of Risk Management. PI has also supported local coordination mechanisms for disaster risk reduction focused on children. Since June 2018, PI has been one of the leading organisations in developing a response plan for the migration crisis and has delivered food, hygiene kits, shelter, child-friendly spaces, and education projects for out-of-school migrant children. Since 2020, PI has led, together with CARE, the implementation of the Response Plan in the city of Quito and disaster preparedness actions in the education sector, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education.

Regarding protection, PI has a long-standing expertise in working with children and adolescents. Plan International's work prioritizes the most vulnerable children, adolescents, and young people, and addresses the specific risks and violence faced by girls, adolescents, and young women.  In addition, PI has extensive experience in implementing GBV prevention projects nationwide. The organization has prioritized building community capacity to strengthen and restore the protective environment. PI tries to be the

leading organization and reference in the creation and strengthening of community protection mechanisms, through which it works with rights guarantors, as well as non-governmental actors, to strengthen their capacities and knowledge in protection matters and ensure links between formal and informal community services. In addition, it has developed successful training processes with service providers to strengthen the rights, gender, and age approach, resulting in a greater demand and quality of survivor-friendly services.

At the community level, PI supports community-based child protection networks, such as local child protection groups, youth clubs, and families. The life skills, resilience, and self-protection capacities of children, adolescents, and youth will help them break the cycle of violence and support the creation of new social norms that reject violence. Involve children and youth in violence prevention in all contexts, including online; Simultaneously with the promotion of intergenerational dialogue, it will contribute to changing attitudes, behaviors, and norms related to violence. Aware that during emergencies, children and adolescents are in an even greater condition of vulnerability, PI has worked with them in generating processes of capacity building and agency in children and adolescents as well as their families to support and provide tools for resilience regarding these matters.

PI implements rights-based, risk-informed, and gender approaches in its projects, in which girls and boys, families, and communities actively participate for their own development, optimising their abilities and opportunities to address the structural causes and consequences of poverty at every level, and to deeply understand the structures and power relations existing in the communities.

### *Coordination, supervision and controls*

PI Ecuador and PI Deutschland hold an inter-institutional cooperation agreement, which includes disaster risk management as an axis of cooperation. For the proposed action, they will sign a Specific Cooperation Agreement to define details on implementation, monitoring, accountability, and reporting, which will include control and supervision processes, in which technical and strategic committees will be included for periodic project monitoring.

PI Ecuador and PI Deutschland will maintain quarterly coordination spaces for monitoring key indicators and programmatic and budget execution.

UNDP is the lead organisation in the implementation of this action. Therefore, coordination, supervision, and controls will be carried out in strict accordance with UNDP rules established for working with implementing partners. The system is known as the HACT (Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers) framework for implementing partners. The HACT framework is a risk-based management tool and shall be the sole framework applied by UNDP when transferring cash to IPs. The HACT shall be applicable in all situations, including emergencies and crises.

### *Implementing Partner (IP) level*

IP Level 1

### *[INT] Update on this participant in the action*

Not applicable

## *10.6.1 Implementing partner (2/4)*

### *Name*

CARE

### *Address*

El Nacional N39-111 y El Telégrafo, Quito - Ecuador

### *Status*

International NGO

### *Estimated amount of EC budget allocated*

204.573,00

### *Added value, role and main tasks*

CARE has extensive experience in implementing disaster preparedness actions in urban and rural areas of the country, as well as in the fields of climate change, governance, and women’s empowerment. CARE has well-established relationships with relevant government agencies, other non-governmental organisations, and local communities in Cotopaxi, as well as a strong management and logistics infrastructure, experienced staff, and rigorous accountability systems and procedures.

CARE has gained broad experience working on gender issues in Ecuador over the last 20 years. The main areas of intervention in recent years have focused on prevention of gender violence, promoting gender-based laws/regulations, the defence of women’s labour rights (including women in domestic work), etc.

### *Coordination, supervision and controls*

CARE Netherlands defines the standards required for the logical and efficient execution of the project. In accordance with CARE International's management systems and policies, CARE Netherlands will establish a set of technical, administrative, and financial control processes to ensure the quality and transparency of the intervention. At least twice during the life of the project, CARE Netherlands will visit CARE Ecuador to provide general technical assistance. Additionally, bimonthly monitoring with CARE Ecuador will ensure the effective and efficient implementation of the project on behalf of CARE. Internally, CARE Ecuador has centralised processes in its Country Office led by a Directorate, Programme Quality Management, Support Areas Management, and the coordination with the Societies Prepared for Risks and Disasters Programme that work in an articulated way to guarantee efficient and quality processes.

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UNDP is the lead organisation in the implementation of this action plan; coordination, supervision, and controls will be carried in strict adherence with UNDP rules established for work with implementing partners. The system to follow is known as the HACT (Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers) framework for implementing partners. The HACT framework is a risk-based management tool and shall be the sole framework applied by UNDP when transferring cash to IPs. The HACT shall be applicable in all situations, including emergencies and crises.

### *Implementing Partner (IP) level*

IP Level 1

### *[INT] Update on this participant in the action*

The agreement signed between UNDP and CARE on October 13, 2023, with the aim of executing actions to strengthen the capacities of rural community populations in the face of a volcanic eruption event, faced significant difficulties in its implementation during the first two quarters (Q4-2023 and Q1-2024). there was evidence of difficulties on the part of CARE in the management and compliance with programmatic and financial planning and the impossibility of settling advances as established by UNDP rules and regulations. Despite multiple efforts to remedy these shortcomings, the constant changes in CARE's management and technical staff prevented the expected results from being achieved, in view of this situation and in order to ensure the effective implementation of the community component of the project, the Responsible Party Agreement signed between CARE – UNDP on May 31, 2024, was terminated by mutual consent.

## *10.6.1 Implementing partner (3/4)*

### *Name*

CESA

### *Address*

Inglaterra N31-30 and Vancouver

### *Status*

Local/national non-profit organisation

### *Estimated amount of EC budget allocated*

179.556,00

### *Added value, role and main tasks*

FUNDACIÓN CENTRAL ECUATORIANA DE SERVICIOS AGRICOLAS – CESA is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation registered with the Internal Revenue Service (SRI), whose main registered activity is defined as encompassing "Activities of international organisations, such as the organisation of economic cooperation and development.

CESA was legally enacted on May 19, 1967, through Ministerial Agreement No. 09025 granted by the Ministry of Social Welfare and Labour, today the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES), formerly the Ministry of Social Welfare. Currently, CESA is regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ranching.

CESA's mission has always been to work with social struggles toward a more equitable society in the field of human, agrarian, and rural development; it deals primarily with rural populations as well as small and medium rural producers. CESA supports the strengthening of these sectors. The organisation accompanies and supports understanding within collectives, platforms, forums, organisations, and social movements to promote political advocacy processes related to its strategic management lines. Its capacities accumulated during more than five decades of institutional work in the agrarian and rural sphere are available to both the Ecuadorian State and other parts of the world, for which its strategic alliances are essential.

CESA had been working with UNDP as an implementing partner in the last four years with outstanding results in the field of WASH interventions in vulnerable rural indigenous communities. Their experience working with rural populations and in indigenous communities adds value to the intervention. Its role in this action plan will be related to its expertise in the WASH sector whose main task is to improve the water systems located in the projected host communities of Cotopaxi.

### *Coordination, supervision and controls*

CESA has a directorship, an executive board, and several work areas, all with a focus on knowledge management and technical direction. The areas in this initiative that are directly connected with CESA are those concerning the social and technical aspects of water supply. CESA will sign an agreement with UNDP to implement Result 4 relating to the improvement of water systems in host communities. Coordination will be carried out with UNDP as lead agency. Internally, CESA has a field office in Riobamba in close communication with its headquarters in Quito. CESA has established mechanisms of supervision and controls between their field offices and headquarters. In this action plan, UNDP will lead the programme with all partners.

UNDP is the lead organisation in the implementation of this action plan; therefore, coordination, supervision, and controls will be carried out in strict compliance with UNDP rules established for work with implementing partners. The system to follow is known as HACT (Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers) framework for implementing partners. The system to follow is known as the HACT (Harmonised Approach to Cash Transfers) framework for implementing partners. The HACT framework is a risk-based management tool and shall be the sole framework applied by UNDP when transferring cash to IPs. The HACT shall be applicable in all situations, including emergencies and crises.

### *Implementing Partner (IP) level*

IP Level 1

### *[INT] Update on this participant in the action*

Not applicable

## *10.6.1 Implementing partner (4/4)*

### *Name*

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA Ecuador)

### *Address*

Mariano Paredes N72-49 street and Rodrigo Villalobos street, Quito info@adra.com Tel. (593)02 2473339 ext. 127

### *Status*

Local/national non-profit organisation

### *Estimated amount of EC budget allocated* 205.985,71

### *Added value, role and main tasks*

ADRA is a non-governmental organization, legally constituted since 2005 under Ministerial Agreement No. 0325, whose main purpose is to promote the comprehensive development of people, families and communities living in situations of poverty and vulnerability, to create fair and positive change through the empowerment of alliances and responsible actions.

ADRA added value to this action plan because they are in-the-field work for 16th years now. They are members of, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), the Refugee and Migrant Working Group (GTRM), the Global Compact Network and they participate in many EOC at local level. In addition, they have offices in twelve provinces. ADRA is a professional, efficient, and learning network that embodies integrity and transparency. ADRA crosses borders, empowers, and speaks on behalf of the forgotten, at risk, to bring about measurable, documented, and lasting change in lives and society. The main tasks in this action plan are related to the implementation partially Result 1 and 3, in close coordination with SGR. Based on the role they currently fulfill. ADRA has large experience giving services to the SGR for shelters, last month they renewed the agreement related to bring effective response after 48 hours of any disaster, ADRA is in charge to provide services for shelters in the agreement. This demonstrates the extensive ability to work in different areas of the country and the professional knowledge that ADRA has in relation to shelter management. Their clear compromise with the community they serve and the large number of volunteers they can mobilize is another important added value of ADRA`s work in-the-field.

### *Coordination, supervision and controls*

UNDP is the leader of this action plan, in this sense coordination, supervision and controls will be done, following strictly UNDP rules established to work with implementing partners. The system to follow is known as HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfers) framework to implementing partners. The HACT framework is a risk-based management tool and shall be the sole framework applied by UNDP when transferring cash to IPs. HACT framework shall be applicable in all situations, including emergency and crisis. Supervision in the field will be done by the SGR, all the local staff working for this action plan, will be working in the SGR premises in Francisco de Orellana city in close collaboration with the Zone Coordination of the SGR. On top of this day-to-day supervision and control, UNDP will be monitoring the whole project and zoom meeting will be established at least one per week to guarantee the action plan has been implementing on time and following the log frame. Following UNDP rules, a micro-assessment will be conducted before signing the agreement with ADRA and during the implementation at least one a spot check would be carried out. For its part, ADRA maintains a programmatic control and supervision structure through the Country Director, Program Director, Project Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and Protection and Gender Officer.

### *Implementing Partner (IP) level*

IP Level 1

### *[INT] Update on this participant in the action*

To ensure the continuity of actions at the community level within outcome 3, the strategic alliance with ADRA was formalized through the signing of a Responsible Party Agreement (RPA). This agreement has been in force since July 2024.

On the other hand, with the inclusion of 3 new results in the modification of the project to work on disaster preparedness and anticipatory actions in the canton of Alausí, province of Chimborazo, ADRA was considered a responsible party in the execution of the activities of the R5 and part of the R7, due to the previous experience of working at the community and local level in the implementation of projects with UNDP.

The settlements of the first quarterly advance took a considerable amount of time. This is because ADRA changed the hiring method of its professional services staff to permanent personnel (payroll), which significantly hinders the accounting management of advance settlements. UNDP is assessing whether this dynamic complicates project management.

ADRA is a partner that knows the subject of disaster preparedness and has execution capacity in the territory; however, it is encountering certain difficulties in the administrative-financial management of the project, and certain internal difficulties. UNDP as leader of the consortium is closely monitoring these difficulties so that they do not have an impact on the implementation in the territory.

### *10.8 [INT] Update on the other participants in the action (4/4)*

Not applicable

# 11. Field Coordination

### *11.1 Operational coordination with other humanitarian actors*

Given the multi-sectoral and multi-partner nature of this action plan, the project team will promote field coordination with a wide range of partners and stakeholders without distinctions between humanitarian actors and development actors, at the national and local levels.

The SGR will play a pivotal role in all interventions so that the institutional enhancements foreseen in Results 1 and 5 constitute a basis for the rest of the planned activities. At the local level, the DRM focal points are key actors to follow the reinforcing activities as well as the decentralised national institutions.

UNDP, Plan International, CARE and ADRA are part of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) currently participating in meetings, discussions, and regular sectoral (cluster) meetings. CESA will be invited to participate in the HCT and WASH cluster meetings, as they are not currently participating.

Thus, a coordinated humanitarian response will be promoted during this action plan through participation in contingency plans, assessment coordination, and collective analysis organised by the HCT as well as drills and other exercises to be prepared as international organisations and NGOs react when international cooperation is needed.

UNDP and its partners will implement this action plan in close coordination with other actors from humanitarian and development entities, especially the NGO working in the target provinces and communities. During needs assessment, Red Cross Cotopaxi and CACTU (Corporación de Asociaciones de Cotopaxi y Tungurahua) participated in the meeting held with the provincial government of Cotopaxi.

SGR intends to request an advisory mission of the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. At the time this action plan is being designed, SGR is internally determining the moment at which they will need this high-level expertise. A massive evacuation is a key element in this complex Cotopaxi risk scenario. If a major eruption occurs, the entire city of Latacunga (pop. about 175,000) would need to be evacuated, as well as surrounding rural communities categorised as having high exposure.

A strategic alliance has been consolidated with the Secretariat of Risk Management to execute the interventions of the action plan and synergy with the local governments in the province, cantons and parishes of intervention, who are key to influence the active participation of the communities. The local governments are co-responsible for the execution of the interventions, they are counterparts of the project through the contribution of their installed capacity.

At the community level, the project consortium worked directly with the leaders of the 15 communities involved and also with the 4 Water Boards, as well as with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Environment and Water, the Ministry of Health and the Academy in the Cotopaxi province.

The participation of a variety of actors contributes to the project with the inclusion of diverse perspectives and knowledge in the capacity building process, which enriches the understanding of local risks and vulnerabilities and has led to more effective and contextualized solutions and facilitates local actions to transcend to the national level.

Finally, UNDP and its partners will be contributing actively to the quarterly Disaster Preparedness thematic meetings organized by UNDRR (Urban, Social Protection, Climate shocks, protection, Preparedness) to share with other humanitarian actors at regional level the experiences, lessons, and tools developed by this action plan.

### *11.2 Action listed in*

| | |
|---|---|
| ***Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)*** | No |
| ***UN Flash Appeal*** | No |
| ***Red Cross / Red Crescent appeal*** | No |
| ***Other*** | No |

### *11.3 Coordination with national and local authorities*

This action plan will be implemented in coordination with the SGR at both national and deconcentrated offices located in Riobamba. At the local level, decentralised autonomous governments in Ecuador comprise three levels: province, canton, and parish. A major issue is arranging for all these actors to work together in a proper and organised manner; interinstitutional meetings, mechanisms, and protocols will be established as part of R1.

R1 and 5 will be coordinated mainly with the SGR, but also with two sectoral ministries chosen for the contingency plans and with the technical working groups (MTTs).

R2 will work in close coordination with the Ministry of Education and the Rights Protection Board of Latacunga, Salcedo, and Saquisilí.

R3 will work in close coordination with the SGR and the National University of Cotopaxi, the Technological Institute of Cotopaxi, and community leaders.

R4 will work in close coordination with the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Ecological Transition, and local authorities at parish, cantonal, and provincial levels.

R6 will be coordinated with SGR, municipality of Alausí, parishes and communities.

R7 will be coordinates mainly with the municipality of Alausí, and the participation of Cantonal Council for the Protection of Rights.

This action plan will contribute substantially to the contingency government plans of two sectors and to the strategy planned by the SGR.

The timing of the project's implementation coincides with the take office of new local authorities, which will give a new impetus to ongoing disaster preparedness actions and anticipatory actions. It will be an opportunity to strengthen the coordination and articulation mechanisms between the different levels of government and provide solid tools to the community that lives with the Volcano.

### *11.4 Coordination with development actors and programmes*

In Ecuador, development actors and institutions usually work during humanitarian emergencies. Each institution has a Disaster Risk Management Department in charge of mainstream disaster preparedness, contingency plans, establishing humanitarian assistance, and overseeing the coordination of humanitarian assistance as well as disaster risk reduction programmes. In this sense, this action plan will coordinate and motivate public development institutions to ensure the ongoing development actions in these territories; coordinating with them and understanding their development programmes will help avoid duplication and enhance synergies. At the same time, harmonisation with development interventions increases the sustainability of the results after the project ends, thanks to knowledge and capabilities acquired by public officials.

The coordination mechanisms to enhance synergies and complementarities will be to work through the technical working groups (MTTs in Spanish) because these MTTs are directly connected with the Emergency Operation Committee (COE) and in close coordination with SGR, the lead public institution of DRM policies.

By increasing the capacities of all actors involved (both humanitarian and development), the root causes of the target population’s vulnerability will be reduced by having improved coordination mechanisms in place and clear procedures and protocols established in the contingency plans. Likewise, working with children and adolescents will improve the capacity and resilience across a wide age range of the population, bearing in mind that the Cotopaxi scenario is Ecuador’s most complex risk scenario.

Some opportunities with development actors have been mapped, recently in Alausí, the Development Bank of Ecuador, using a credit from the European Investment Bank, signed a financing contract for the improvement and expansion of the drinking water and sewage networks of Alausi. The presence of this project in the area would be highly beneficial for both parts, as the development intervention needs disaster preparedness strengthened.

A JICA project named “Follow-up cooperation” is also mapped in Cotopaxi. This project is working with the National Geophysical Institute of Ecuador (IG-EPN) with the objective of working with training in educational units in response to the activity of the Cotopaxi Volcano. The project team will contact IG-EPN to talk about this opportunity to add additional DRR funding in the area and consolidate the intervention in a large area.

### *11.5 [INT] Update on field coordination*

Close coordination has been maintained with the technical focal points and authorities of the Zonal Coordination 3 of SNGR. Due to the high turnover of authorities in this entity, it has been necessary to implement a constant process of socialization and joint planning of the project with each new zonal coordinator. These actions have made it possible to establish effective communication channels and ensure the alignment of project activities with local priorities and SNGR competencies. Between January and October 2024, four zonal coordinators changed, which has demanded initiative-taking management of institutional relations.

The project established coordination with various institutions for the successful implementation of the activities. With the Ministry of Education, joint work was carried out on the implementation of improvement plans in the Educational Units, strengthening emergency preparedness through training and the Teacher Training of Trainer process.

Along with the IG-EPN, training was carried out for teachers, children and adolescents on volcanic risks; together, various edu-communication materials were developed for the management of technical-scientific information so that the local population is better prepared.

Alliances were established with the Ecuadorian Red Cross, through its Cotopaxi Provincial Board, MIES, Councils and Boards for the protection of Rights of Latacunga and Saquisilí, parish GADs of Mulaló, Joseguango Bajo, Chantilin and Guaytacama, for work at the community level and strengthening the capacities of children and adolescents.

To carry out the activities to strengthen disaster preparedness at the community level, coordination was carried out with the Risk Management Units of the Cantonal GADs of Latacunga and Saquisilí, and the Prefecture of Cotopaxi, to guarantee a correct execution of the activities, maintaining an adequate organization and communication with the governing institutions in risk management and also maintaining coordination with the parish GADs.

For the implementation of the activities of the WASH component in Cotopaxi, close inter-institutional coordination was established with MAATE, the GADs of Latacunga and Saquisilí, the parish councils of Guaytacama, Tanicuchí and Aláquez, and the Cotopaxi University Institute (ISUC). This coordination made it possible to identify and select 17 Drinking Water Boards (JAAPs) to carry out participatory diagnoses, in collaboration with their strategic partners. In addition, an alliance was established with the Ministry of Public Health (MSP) of Saquisili to address aspects related to hygiene.

In the Alausí Canton, strategic alliances were established with the Provincial GAD of Chimborazo and Zone 3 of the SNGR, the Alausí GAD and the GADs of Huigra, Multitud, Sibambe and Achupallas, the Health District, the ESPOCH, and the State University of Bolivar. These collaborations facilitated the identification of local needs and the mobilization of resources. However, there have been challenges in inter-institutional coordination, such as the lack of communication between actors due to the shortage of personnel at the UGR Alausí. To mitigate this, regular meetings are held that promote open communication and reinforce everyone's commitment.

Activities have been coordinated with members of MTT1 to strengthen coordination actions with various actors at the state, provincial and cantonal levels, trying to involve all levels. It hasn’t been easy to get all these actors involved, despite making a considerable effort to ensure their presence at the workshops. Other more direct communication channels have been strengthened.

# 12. Visibility, Communication and Information Activities

### *12.1 Standard visibility*

| ***A. Compulsory display of EU Humanitarian Aid visual identity on (all points required):*** | |
|---|---|
| ***A1: Building signage (e.g. partner office buildings, health centers, distribution points)*** | Yes |
| ***A2: Equipment (for e.g. vehicles, water tanks, containers)*** | Yes |
| ***A3: Shipments and goods for distribution as part of the humanitarian response (e.g. blankets, sacks, tents, buckets, hygiene kits, debit cards)*** | Yes |
| ***A4: Branding of the operational materials/outreach materials addressing beneficiaries (e.g. training materials, flyers, notebooks, posters etc.)*** | Yes |
| ***A5: Clothing items worn by project staff (e.g. T-shirts, field vests, caps)*** | Yes |

| ***B. External communication of EU funding and partnership through (select at least 5 points):*** | |
|---|---|
| ***B1: Press releases, press conference, other media outreach*** | Yes |
| ***B2: Videos*** | Yes |
| ***B3: Photos*** | Yes |
| ***B4: Human interest stories with visuals*** | Yes |
| ***B5: Social media posts*** | Yes |
| ***B6: Events*** | Yes |
| ***B7: Print materials (e.g. brochures, factsheets etc.)*** | Yes |
| ***B8: Others*** | No |

***Specify for each communication action: frequency, scope, timeline, channels to be used and number of people to be reached. If less than 5 options are selected, please justify:***

During the execution of this action, visibility and communication will be guaranteed in compliance with the contractual obligations applied to EU-funded humanitarian aid projects. The provisions of HACA General Conditions will be followed by all members of the consortium. The latest version of the “Communication and Visibility Manual for European Union-funded Humanitarian Aid Actions” will also be considered to carry out communication and visibility activities.

UNDP, as a lead agency, will ensure the compliance of all implementing partners with visibility and communication obligations.

Clear visibility of all donors will be guaranteed.

To comply with visibility standards, the following actions will be carried out:

- Installation of signage with the logos of donor entities in sites and activities contemplated in the project´s action plan.
- All equipment acquired during the execution of the project will be marked with the ECHO logo, the logo of UNDP, and those of other implementing partners and donors.
- Although the distribution of large quantities of goods is not expected in this action plan, if necessary as part of the Crisis Modifier, all humanitarian kits will be marked with the ECHO logo, the logo of UNDP, and those of other implementing partners and donors.
- Operational materials and all training materials, flyers, notebooks, or posters will have the ECHO logo and the logo of other implementing partners and donors.
- Clothing and supplies to be used by the project staff will have the logos of donor entities and the project’s implementing
    - The start of the project will be published on the UNDP webpage.
    - A quarterly newsletter will be published and shared through the social media of UNDP and its partners.
    - Printed materials will be given to the beneficiaries.
    - All meetings, workshops, training sessions, and events will be announced in UNDP’s social media and in local broadcasting media.
    - Audiovisual records (photos and videos) will be gathered at various activities, especially those with community participation, and posted on UNDP’s social media, in SGR channels, and in those of the partners as well.
    - At least three blogs will be prepared, some of which will be prepared in English for a wider audience, with articles about the relevant results of the project.

Conservation measures aligned with Greening the Blue (promoted by UNDP) relating to environmental issues, such as proper waste management and avoiding the use of plastic materials, will be strictly followed during implementation and in all workshops and events.

Furthermore, to ensure capitalization of all lessons, tools and experiences achieved by this action plan the project will used the dipecholac webpage to disseminate in the region.

### *12.2 Do you foresee communication actions that go beyond standard obligations?* No

### *12.3 [INT] Update on the progress and on the challenges encountered*

Various communication and visibility strategies were implemented, achieving a significant impact on the community and associated institutions. The main actions include:

The project participated in open houses in Alausí, where information stands were installed in October and educational materials on risk management were distributed and the project's actions were made known.

The project's milestone activities were disseminated on social media: Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter and on the official websites of UNDP and the implementing partners (Plan International, CESA, ADRA, SNGR and IG-EPN). They were also broadcast in local Cotopaxi media: Panorama TV and TV Noticias, Cotopaxi radio in the Ñukanchik Shimi "Our Voice" program.

A photographic book, video and testimonies of the activities with children and adolescents were generated and disseminated on social networks and websites of the institutions that are part of the consortium.

CESA implemented a communication strategy on social networks, disseminating at least one publication per quarter to make visible the progress of the project in the field, with the prior approval of UNDP. As a notable milestone, a video was produced that documents the capacity strengthening process of 17 Potable Water Boards (JAAPs)

A visual identity manual was built for the project for Cotopaxi and Alausí. This is used by the entire Consortium for communication and visibility. (See a photograph and visual presentation as annex)

# 13. Financial Overview of the Action

### *13.1 Estimated costs*

| | *Initial budget* | *Revised budget* | *Interim report incurred costs* | *Final report incurred costs* | *[RCI] Final update* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Total direct eligible costs*** | 1.225.459,52 | 1.869.158,88 | 690.196,08 | - | - |
| ***% of indirect costs (max 7%)*** | 7,0 | 7,0 | 7,0 | - | - |
| ***Amount of indirect costs (cut after 2nd decimal)*** | 85.782,17 | 130.841,12 | 48.313,73 | - | - |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Total costs*** | 1.311.241,69 | 2.000.000,00 | 738.509,81 | 0,00 | 0,00 |

### *13.2 Percentage of direct eligible costs allocated to the support costs*

| | *Initial budget* | *Revised budget* | *Interim report incurred costs* | *Final report incurred costs* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***% of support costs*** | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 | - | |

### *13.3 Funding of action*

| | *Initial budget* | *Revised budget* | | *Final budget* | *[RCI] Final update* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ***Direct revenue of the action*** | 0,00 | 0,00 | | - | - |
| ***Contribution by applicant*** | 25.000,00 | 25.000,00 | | - | - |
| ***Contribution by other donors*** | 86.241,69 | 125.000,00 | | - | - |
| ***Contribution by beneficiaries*** | - | - | | - | - |
| ***Contribution requested from ECHO*** | 1.200.000,00 | 1.850.000,00 | | - | - |
| ***% of total funding*** | 91,5163 | 92,5000 | | - | - |
| ***Total funding*** | 1.311.241,69 | 2.000.000,00 | | 0,00 | 0,00 |

### *13.8 VAT exemption granted (including to the implementing partners)?*

Do not know yet

### *13.10 Do you intend to involve and charge HQ staff costs to project?*

No

# 14. Requests for Alternative Arrangements

### *14.3 Permanent derogations*

| *#* | *Derogation* |
|---|---|
| 1 | Art. 7.1.1 Where the implementation of the Action requires the setting up or the use of one or more project offices, the Organisation and/or the Partner(s) may declare as eligible direct costs the capitalised and operating costs of the structure if all the following conditions are fulfilled: a) They comply with the cost eligibility criteria referred to in Article 18.1 of Annex II; b) They fall within one of the following categories: i) costs of staff, including administration and management staff, directly assigned to the operations of the project office. The tasks listed in the Single Form (Annex I), undertaken by staff assigned to the project office will be directly attributable to the implementation of the Action. ii) travel and subsistence costs for staff and other persons directly assigned to the operations of the project office; iii) depreciation costs, rental costs or lease of equipment and assets composing the project office. iv) costs of maintenance and repair contracts specifically awarded for the operations of the project office; v) costs of consumables and supplies specifically purchased for the operations of the project office; vi) costs of IT and telecommunication services specifically purchased for the operations of the project office; vii) costs of energy and water specifically supplied for the operations of the project office; viii) costs of facility management contracts including security fees and insurance costs specifically awarded for the operations of the project office; c) Where costs of the project office are declared as actual costs, the Organisation and/or the Partner(s) declares as eligible only the portion of the capitalised and operating costs of project office that corresponds to the duration of the Action and the rate of actual use of the project office for the purposes of the Action. d) Costs of the project office not declared as actual costs are only eligible if they have been ex ante-assessed by the European Commission. |
| 2 | Art. 7.1.5 Where the communication of specific information to the Commission under Article 6.1 of the General Conditions would raise difficulties in light of the internal rules of the International Organisation, both Parties commit to consult each other with a view to finding a mutually acceptable solution. |

# 15. Administrative Information

### *15.1 Name and title of legal representative signing the Agreement*

Ms Camilla Bruckner - Director UNDP Brussels Office

### *15.1 Name and title of legal representative signing the Agreement*

| *Name* | *Office location* | *Phone* | *E-mail* |
|---|---|---|---|
| UNDP Brussels Office | Brussels | +32 2 5054625 | Brussels.office@undp.org |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Nury Bermúdez | National Officer for DRM, Ecuador UNDP | +593 23824240 | Nury.bermudez@undp.org |
| Claire Medina | Deputy Resident Representative | +593 23824240 | claire.medina@undp.org |

# 16. Conclusions and Lessons Learned

## *16.1 Comments at proposal stage*

In mutual agreement with the Secretariat of Risk Management (SGR), a national entity in charge of coordinating all relevant actors in the territory, UNDP decided to develop this action. SGR requested the support and international cooperation to accelerate the anticipatory actions and preparedness process in place, with the main objective of accelerating community and local activities in place in the area surrounding Cotopaxi volcano, the eruption of which could gravely affect the communities and the population. SGR asked UNDP to take the lead in this action plan. UNDP decided to work with Plan International, CARE, CESA, and the Institute of Geophysics of the National Polytechnic University to act in a coordinated manner in all actions proposed in this plan. As mentioned, the proposed results emerged from a consensus with the SGR as the national authority. The Institute of Geophysics of the National Polytechnic University will provide technical project support on volcanic hazard situations.

At this stage, and based on UNDP's extensive experience in this type of project, it was decided to act as a consortium composed of UNDP and the three NGOs previously described.

Based on successful intervention experiences, this action plan will incorporate citizen participation mechanisms, will work with the community organizations, in this way it is sought that decisions are made collectively in order to transcend temporary decisions and seek that they are part of the life of the communities.

The articulation with grassroots organizations will allow the work to be sustained beyond the life of this action plan. In addition, the effective articulation with the private companies in the area and the government would allow us to have other proposals to cope with the Cotopaxi volcano.

The entry of new local authorities into the GADs will be an opportunity to strengthen the anticipatory actions and disaster preparedness actions already started by the SGR and the actual local authorities. In turn, it will make it possible to consolidate the processes and reinforce the actions in an articulated way between the different actors.

Community strengthening is essential for the sustainability of the actions, therefore the link with the responsible institutions with good coordination mechanisms will allow a better response. The community volcanic observers are another space that guarantees the active participation of the communities and they are empowered to strengthen the coordination mechanisms between the community and the institutional framework through co-responsibility.

If the volcano diminishes the activity, there is the possibility that the local and indigenous population ignores the need to be better prepared for a major volcanic eruption. In this sense, this action plan is a key element to reinforce the process in place and to articulate the institutions and stakeholders, update or create contingency plans, community emergency plans and sectoral plans.

This action plan combines anticipatory actions and disaster preparation. At the start of implementation, in close coordination with ongoing actions by the government, UNDP will lead a conversation on the most important anticipatory actions needed based on the level of progress made by national and local authorities and communities, encouraging all participants and stakeholders to prioritize life-saving activities, all in relation to the logical framework of this action plan.

## *16.2 [INT] Conclusions and lessons learned*

- The close coordination with the Decentralized Autonomous Governments (GAD) and other public institutions present in the territory has been fundamental for the progress and subsequent sustainability of the project. This collaboration has made it possible to optimize resources, share knowledge and experiences, and ensure the complementarity of the implemented actions. Furthermore, it has guaranteed greater social legitimacy and long-term sustainability of the results obtained.

- Community work requires constant adaptation to local dynamics. It is imperative to make project activity schedules flexible to guarantee effective participation. Training sessions, meetings or workshops are usually held after working hours (starting at 5:00 p.m.) or at weekends.

- The trust established with the JAAPs has been fundamental for the success of the actions implemented. Technical support in the field has allowed them to strengthen their management capacity and promote a sense of belonging to the project. In this way, the foundations have been laid for the JAAPs to continue autonomously with the actions implemented, increasing their resilience to future adverse events.

- The need to adopt a multi-hazard approach is evident. The occurrence of prolonged droughts, forest fires and energy crises and increased insecurity have shown that territories face multiple interconnected threats that require a coordinated and flexible response.
- In Ecuador, the incorporation of a gender approach in community water management is undoubtedly a challenge. This reality is

not foreign to the JAAPs in the area of impact of the project. Thus, of the 17 JAAPs diagnosed, it is evidenced that only in 4 JAAPs the presidency is held by a woman, and the operators are also only men. Added to this is the lack of generational change, 65% of the directors of the 17 JAAPs are elderly. The R4 has promoted certain actions with the aim of incorporating women and young people in the management and decision-making of water boards for human consumption. In all the calls that were sent through official letters, equal participation was requested both in terms of gender and age. Likewise, one of these actions was to provide training on optimal operation and maintenance of water systems aimed at men and women, despite the fact that no woman is an operator. This was with the objective of generating capacities in women so that they can take on this activity in the near future. A total of 68 leaders (55% men and 45% women) were trained.

- With the implementation of the feedback and complaints mechanism, a more open and constructive dialogue between the different actors involved in the project at the institutional and community level is encouraged, which facilitates coordination and collaboration. It also helps us to promptly identify and address any problems or conflicts that may arise during the implementation of the project, preventing them from aggravating and affecting the results.
- In the Alausí Canton, a key support network for the coordination and management of emergencies was established, with the National Police, the Ministry of Health, the Fire Department and the Decentralized Autonomous Governments of parishes such as Multitud, Sibambe, Huigra and Achupallas.