



One of the facilitators leading a discussion on the content of an MHM kit, with training participants looking on
(Photo: BDRCS)

Strengthening capacity of emergency WASH response and preparedness

Pledge number:	M2103084
Donor name:	Japanese Red Cross Society
Pledge amount in donor currency:	CHF 214,255
County of operation:	Focused on Bangladesh, Cambodia and Lao PDR with some regional level activities
Reporting period:	01/04/2021 to 30/06/2022
Pledge start date:	01/04/2021
Pledge planned end date:	30/06/2022

CORE QUESTIONS

Q1: Overall Performance

The emergency water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) activities under this project supported by the Japanese Red Cross Society (JRCS) is focused on Bangladesh, Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Asia Pacific Regional Office (APRO) in Kuala Lumpur has also been allocated some funding, particularly to support the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) and for the procurement of water purification units and other key WASH materials, and printing of WASH-related publications.

The main objective of the support is for selected Asia Pacific (AP) National Societies (NSs) to maintain, improve and scale-up WASH capacities in emergencies through:

- Contribution to timely response in the provision of safe drinking water to those affected by disasters
- Strengthening technical skills and knowledge of selected staff and volunteers in delivering emergency WASH services
- More effective and efficient response through clearer guidance in emergency-related documentations and learning from monitoring-related activities
- Development and localization of relevant WASH-related information, education and communication (IEC) materials

Support to NSs is a combination of hardware and software activities. Hardware activities include procurement and prepositioning of key WASH-related items, especially at the Branch level, while software efforts include capacity building through emergency WASH trainings, hygiene outreach activities, and monitoring and evaluation. Due to the continued pandemic situation, more consistent and scheduled discussions have been carried out between the IFRC APRO and the respective country teams in place of in-country missions.

Main interventions carried out within the reporting period mainly contributed towards strengthening the know-how and competencies of NS staff and volunteers and increasing the general public's level of knowledge and awareness on key hygiene messages. This is achieved through emergency WASH trainings, dissemination of key hygiene messages through monitoring visits and alleviating the suffering of flood-affected populations through the deployment of WASH-related items. Funding support for small-scale disasters provided to selected NSs under the project were utilized and proved to be beneficial in enabling immediate emergency response and delivery of much-needed services.

Q2: Changes and amendments

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to have an impact on the implementation of some of the planned activities at the country level, particularly due to movement restrictions and delays in procurement processes. In view of this, a three-month, no-cost extension was requested by the IFRC APRO, and was later granted by the JRCS, extending the pledge to 30 June 2022. The extension had enabled completion of all the activities by the targeted NSs.

More consistent discussions were carried out to support the targeted NSs, to ensure a healthy exchange of information and to come together to re-group and re-think the planned activities in adapting to the evolving situation. Planned activities at the country level continued to incorporate COVID-safe practices, e.g., incorporating the topic of COVID-19 into emergency WASH training modules and practising preventive measures throughout the training duration to minimize transmission risks. The same precautions were also practised when NS staff and volunteers interact with one another and with the communities they serve.

Q3: Measuring results

APRO-led activities

(Remote) technical support

The IFRC APRO continued to provide technical support to the targeted NSs, particularly in trainings, procurement of water purification units and relevant WASH items, and development of key WASH-related materials. This is further elaborated below:

i. Emergency WASH trainings:

In terms of planning and preparation of trainings, the IFRC APRO worked closely with the NS focal points to develop training modules and materials, including the different approaches and methodologies to be applied. This encourages learning and sharing amongst the participants and ensures their knowledge and skillsets progress. The topic on COVID-19 has been incorporated into trainings to strengthen/reinforce the awareness of NS staff and volunteers on its transmission risks and preventive measures. Trainings were conducted with considerations of COVID-safe practices such as wearing masks, maintaining physical distance and hand hygiene. In addition to the targeted NSs of Bangladesh, Cambodia and Lao PDR, the IFRC APRO also worked closely with the MRCS in organizing two emergency WASH trainings.

ii. Procurement and prepositioning of WASH-related materials

Several WASH-related materials were procured, some carried out through the regional Global Humanitarian Services and Supply Chain Management (GHSSCM) unit in Kuala Lumpur. The purchased items are as listed below:

- Two Aquaplug AP 700CL¹ units (more commonly known as Man-pack) and some spare parts for Lao RC (further details can be found under the 'NS-led activities' section)
- 36 Glo-Germ kits², which is a visual tool for teaching proper handwashing, aseptic techniques and general infection control
- 26 menstrual cups and 2 packs of tampon (32 pieces/pack), which complements the procurement of AFRIpads³ in the previous round of support

The Glo Germ kits, menstrual cups and tampons have been distributed to NSs of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Malaysia, particularly for emergency WASH trainings, to supplement the sessions on handwashing with soap and MHM (the rest will be distributed or used as per needs). By having these MHM-related items, it helps training participants to be aware and familiarize themselves with different types of sanitary products.

The IFRC APRO also worked with the logistics officer based at the IFRC Bangladesh country delegation to procure some spare parts for the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS). Further details on this can be found under the 'NS-led activities' section.

iii. All-in-one guide on AP 700CL

The IFRC APRO has finalized and circulated the [all-in-one guide](#) on the AP 700CL to relevant AP NSs, which serves as a reference document to provide detailed guidance on operation and maintenance (O&M), and troubleshooting.

Other important topics have also been included, e.g., some pointers on site selection and water testing, and examples of templates such as daily water production sheet, equipment loan form, O&M checklist, and water quality monitoring sheet. The aim of these templates is to improve monitoring/tracking and recording, in relation to the production of water using the Man-pack.



The all-in-one guide has been translated by several NSs, making it more accessible to a wider group of users **(Photo: IFRC)**

¹ AP 700CL is an emergency mobile water treatment system designed to produce clean water at a flow rate of 700 L/hour. For more information, visit <https://aquaplusltd.com/>

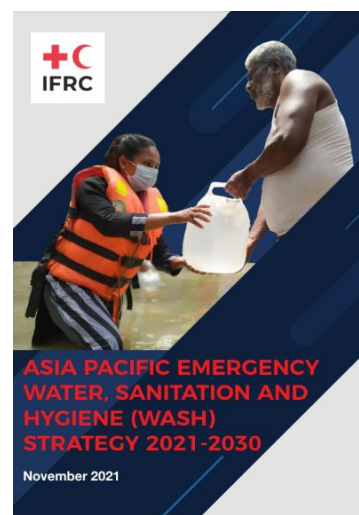
² For more information, visit <https://www.glogerm.com>

³ AFRIpads is a social enterprise dedicated to manufacturing reusable sanitary pads in Africa, offering a holistic menstrual health and hygiene solution such as through its reusable menstrual kits. For more information, visit <https://www.afripads.com/products/>

iv. The IFRC Asia Pacific Emergency WASH Strategy 2021-2030

This is a longer-term framework for AP NSs and IFRC to scale up programming in emergency WASH. This strategy represents a convergence of regional priorities resulting from consultations with various groups working in emergency WASH and disaster response, together with analyses of current environments and experiences of past operations. It is aligned with global strategies and guiding principles of the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to strengthen the capacities of Asia Pacific National Societies in emergency WASH response and preparedness.

This strategy was developed through a consultative process as part of continuing efforts in mapping aspects of NS capacities and interests to better coordinate appropriate support. A wide online survey was conducted, focusing on feedback and experiences of AP NSs and voices of the communities they work in. Partners in the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and other agencies were also consulted to understand their priorities and insights. In total, 52 persons contributed to the consultation process, including 12 persons who provided key information through interviews and email communications. A consultant was recruited to develop this strategy, in close consultation and guidance from the IFRC APRO WASH team. The full version of the framework can be found [here](#) and the summary version [here](#).



The Asia Pacific Emergency WASH Strategy 2021-2030 (Photo: IFRC)

NS-led activities

Lao PDR

In general, Lao RC was experiencing delays in rolling out the planned activities, especially the emergency WASH trainings. This was due to the movement restrictions and challenges resulting from the increasingly worrying situation of COVID-19 in the country. With the approval of the no-cost extension, the Lao RC was able to fully implement the planned activities, with the support of IFRC colleagues at the country level, country cluster delegation in Bangkok and in the APRO.

Procurement and prepositioning of Man-packs and other key WASH materials

Two Man-packs and some spare parts have been procured through GHSSCM unit and handed over to the Lao RC in September 2021 (list of spare parts in the table below). The Man-packs have been handed over to the Lao RC Branches in Huaphan and Bolikhamxay. These items will be utilized in future emergency WASH training and emergency response operations.

No.	Item	Qty
1	Multiport valve	4 pieces
2	Foot valve with pipe	5 pieces
3	Micro filter	20 pieces
4	Housing for micro filter	2 pieces
5	Wrench	10 pieces
6	Chlorination device cover	10 pieces
7	Chlorination cartridge	50 pieces
8	Turbidity tube	5 pieces
9	Pool tester	5 pieces
10	Phenol red tablets	2 boxes
11	DPD 1 tablets	2 boxes



2 Man-packs and spare parts which were placed at the Lao RC NHQ in Vientiane before being handed over to the targeted provinces (Photo: Lao RC)

The Lao RC worked on developing various documentation and videos. These materials will encourage a wider group of first responders to better understand some of the processes related to water treatment and water quality. Further information are as seen below:

- WATA-Standard kits: In the previous round of support, three WATA-Standard kits were procured and handed over to the Lao RC. These kits offer a local and affordable way to disinfect and treat water by producing an active chlorine solution with only salt and water. Since the handover of the kits, Lao RC has developed and/or translated several key documents to ensure proper usage, e.g., documentation about the kit and its use, dilution rate and a logbook/template for monitoring the production of chlorine. Printing of these materials has been completed.
- Compartment bag test⁴: Lao RC has translated instructions to use the compartment bag test and has recorded a video to demonstrate its proper use in the local language.
- All-in-one guide on Man-pack: The all-in-one guide has been translated, and printing has been completed. The availability of this guide in the local language will encourage wider dissemination and its usage among the trained NS staff and volunteers.



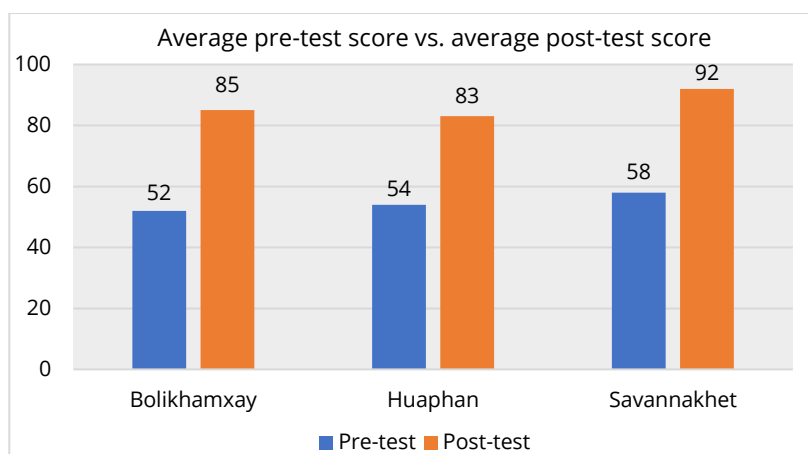
Handing over of the Man-packs and some spare parts to Lao RC Chapters of Huaphan (left) and Bolikhamxay (right)
(Photos: Lao RC)

Emergency WASH trainings

Three emergency WASH trainings were carried out, targeting RC branch staff and volunteers of Bolikhamxay, Huaphan and Savannakhet provinces. A total of 83 people (28 female) had participated, consisting of 48 staff, 4 volunteers and 31 participants from local government authorities such as representatives from the provincial and district Health, and Labour and Social Welfare. The participation of these local government representatives is critical to ensure continued close coordination during emergency response and for them to be aware of the capacity of the Lao RC, specifically in emergency WASH. See below table containing details of all the trainings as well as a comparison of the test scores.

Date of training	Location of training (RC branch)	No. of RC branch staff		No. of volunteers		Others		Total
		M	F	M	F	M	F	
8-10 Feb 2022	Bolikhamxay	4	2	2	0	13	6	27
16-18 Feb 2022	Huaphan	13	8	0	1	4	0	26
14-16 Jun 2022	Savannakhet	13	8	1	0	5	3	30
Total		30	18	3	1	22	9	83

⁴ A kit that detects E. coli and total coliform in water (a positive result indicates faecal contamination). For more information, visit <https://www.aquagenx.com/cbt-ectc/>



Some of the main topics covered include:

- An overview of emergency WASH activities of the Lao RC
- Introduction to emergency WASH and Sphere minimum standards
- Water treatment and water quality testing
- Sanitation in emergencies
- Hygiene promotion in emergencies
- Setting up and running the Man-pack unit

A variety of methodologies and approaches were used during these trainings, to make it as practical-orientated as possible and to maximize interaction among the participants as well as between the participants with the facilitators. Similar to previous trainings, the participants were broken up into smaller groups for some of the sessions. Smaller groups allowed for more space for interaction and to raise any concerns or to seek further clarifications from the facilitators.



Some participants using the pool tester to test for pH and free residual chlorine (*left*) while some carrying out jar test to determine the optimal dose of coagulant (part of mass water treatment module) (*right*) (Photos: Lao RC)



Participants carrying out the three-pile sorting exercise (*left*), demonstration of handwashing steps (*middle*) and compartment bag test to test for fecal contamination (*right*) (Photos: Lao RC)

Monitoring visits and maintenance of Man-pack units

Two staff from the Lao RC NHQ visited provinces of Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Vientiane and Xayabouly from 23 to 31 March 2022. During these monitoring visits, the NHQ staff met with the head of the respective branches and the WASH committee members.

Man-pack units which were handed over to the Lao RC through previous JRCs support, continue to be maintained. Every branch has set up its own committee, tasked with specific responsibilities related to the Man-packs. These committee members remain active to date. Committee members usually consist of three staff from the departments of Health and/or Disaster Management. Their key responsibilities are as follows:

- To support overall emergency response activities
- To take care of the Man-pack, including regular maintenance works, undertake minor repairs, and to identify local repairmen for major repairs
- To oversee the process of assessment and deployment of the Man-pack and trained human resources when needed (within their own province or to another province)

During monitoring visits by Lao RC HQ staff to the targeted provinces, the units were checked and found to be in overall good condition. Together with the committee members, local spare parts and consumables needed were listed, sourced and replaced.



Setting up and running of the Man-packs as part of routine equipment check in Oudomxay (left), Luang Prabang (middle) and Vientiane (right) (Photos: Lao RC)

Small-scale emergency response

Several villages in Xayabouly district of Xayabouly province were hit by serious floods in June 2021, after days of torrential rain in the northern parts of the country. It was reported that more than 3,000 people were affected, where rising floodwaters was seen washing houses away and damaging agricultural land and cutting off roads.

In response to the floods, the Xayabouly Provincial Red Cross Chapter immediately deployed three Man-packs, i.e., one from Xayabouly Chapter itself and the other two units supplemented by neighbouring Red Cross Chapters of Luang Prabang and Vientiane. As a result of the deployment of Man-packs, a total of 29,535 litres of safe water was distributed to 6,147 people (2,436 female) from 7 villages in Xayabouly district. A total of 17 Lao RC staff and volunteers from Xayabouly, Luang Prabang and Vientiane province was deployed to assist in the safe water provision activities from 16 to 19 June 2021. The majority of those deployed had received emergency WASH trainings in the past, while the others who were not trained, received on-the-job orientation.

The Lao RC team members on the ground coordinated well with the relevant government authorities, such as the Provincial Disaster Management Committee and the Provincial Health Department. In addition, the Provincial Health Department also distributed 70 buckets in support

of the safe water distribution activities by the Lao RC. The Lao RC continue to be recognized as a key actor in emergency response, including delivering emergency WASH services. Through this response operation, it was also clear that there was great coordination between the different Provincial Red Cross Chapters where staff and volunteers from Luang Prabang and Vientiane provinces provided support not only in terms of deployment of its trained human resources, but also key WASH assets such as their Man-packs for the response in Xayabouly.



Lao RC volunteers setting up and operating the Man-pack, which continued well into the night (Photos: Lao RC)



Raw water before being treated (left) and after being treated by the Man-pack (right) (Photos: Lao RC)



Distribution of buckets by Provincial Health Department, supplementing safe water provision efforts by Lao RC (Photo: Lao RC)

Hygiene promotion campaigns

A total of 24 staff and volunteers (10 female) carried out hygiene promotion campaigns in selected schools and communities in the provinces of Champasak, Sekong and Salavan, reaching a total of 1,105 people (569 female). The main objective of these campaigns was to promote good hygiene practices to the teachers, students and targeted community members, through the below activities:

- Communication of key hygiene messages: Some of the topics covered were on transmission of diseases and its prevention measures (using the F-diagram⁵), proper handwashing techniques with soap (including demonstration), and prevention of COVID-19 and malaria. A few cross-cutting topics were also covered namely the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the seven Fundamental Principles and the role of Lao RC in emergency response. Relevant IEC materials were used to supplement the delivery of messages such as posters and simple community tools were used, for example three-pile sorting⁶.
- Building tippy taps⁷: Teachers and students were taught how to build tippy taps, which is a hands free way to wash hands with soap and water. Tippy taps are devices that are operated by a foot lever, which requires minimal amount of water, particularly appropriate for rural areas.
- Distribution of hygiene items: Some basic hygiene items were also distributed, to encourage good hygiene practices, such as basin, soap and wash cloth.

⁵ A diagram showing pathways of faecal-oral disease transmission, and possible barriers to prevent excreta-related pathogens from finding a new host.

⁶ https://www.susana.org/_resources/documents/default/3-4686-7-1641565853.docx

⁷ [Tippy Taps](#)

- Cleaning-up activities: Teachers and students also carried out cleaning-up activities around their schools, to improve cleanliness of their school compound and their overall well-being.

Date	Province	Location	No. of people		Total
			M	F	
6-10 Jun 2022	Sekong	• 7 schools in Kaleum district	225	138	363
9-11 Jun 2022	Salavan	• 2 schools in Ta Ouy district	137	192	329
13-17 Jun 2022		• 5 schools in Samouai district			
16-23 Jun 2022	Champasak	• 2 schools and 2 communities in Soukhoummal district • 2 schools and 2 communities in Mounlapamok district	174	239	413
Total			536	569	1,105



A Lao RC staff explaining the transmission of diseases using the F-diagram (*left*), while some students in the middle of discussion about good and bad hygiene behaviour using the three-pile sorting (*middle*) and some trying out the tippy tap that they have built (*right*) (Photos: Lao RC)

Cambodia

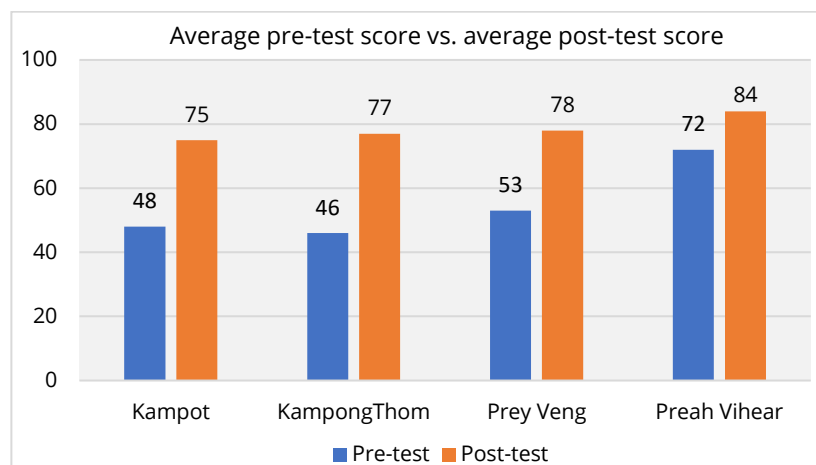
During the reporting period, the country experienced COVID-19 case surges and, as a result, underwent movement restrictions and stricter protocols. Despite these challenges, the Cambodian RC was able to carry out its planned activities, particularly the dissemination of hygiene messages through monitoring visits by the relevant Branch staff and volunteers. These activities were carried out with the necessary measures to protect the staff, volunteers, and the villagers they interact with.

As for the emergency WASH trainings at the Branch level and the lessons learned workshop, these activities were also delayed due to restrictions caused by the pandemic. As a result, the project timeframe was extended to December 2021 (originally September 2021). To formalize this two-month, no-cost extension, an amendment agreement was signed in August 2021. This extension enabled the Cambodian RC to re-strategize and revise its workplan, and all the activities were implemented as per planned.

Emergency WASH trainings

Four refresher emergency WASH trainings were carried out, targeting RC branch staff of Preah Vihear, Prey Veng, Kampot and Kampong Thom provinces, where a total of 50 people (16 female) had participated. These trainings also indirectly benefitted 150 people, through informal sharing of the participants upon return to their respective villages. Details of all the trainings carried out as per table below as well as a comparison of test scores.

Date of training	Location of training	No. of participants		Total
		M	F	
25-26 Oct 2021	Kampot	7	5	12
16-17 Nov 2021	KampongThom	7	5	12
25-26 Nov 2021	Prey Veng	11	3	14
26-27 Nov 2021	Preah Vihear	9	3	12
Total		34	16	50



The trainings focused on three main topics i.e., hygiene promotion in emergencies, MHM and Man-pack O&M. These volunteers have been trained before in emergency WASH, with this specialized training serving as a refresher course. This training was facilitated by selected Branch staff, who have received similar training previously, with guidance and remote support of the Project Officer based at the Cambodian RC NHQ in Phnom Penh. These Branch staff are now empowered to carry out similar trainings in the future, if and when the opportunity arises.

As with previous trainings, a variety of methodologies and approaches were used, with continued emphasis on practical, hands-on sessions. For some sessions, smaller groups were formed to create opportunities and space for them to raise any questions and to seek further information from the facilitators.



Participants setting up the Man-pack (left), testing the processed water using a pool tester (middle) and carrying out pocket chart voting (right) (Photos: Cambodian RC)

Dissemination of key hygiene messages through quarterly monitoring visits

Cambodian RC Branch staff, together with selected Branch volunteers, carried out quarterly monitoring visits of the targeted provinces, i.e., Kampot, Kampong Thom, Prey Veng and Preah Vihear. A total of 13,520 villagers (8,208 female) participated in these visits. This activity also indirectly reached 40,539 villagers (24,603 female) through informal sharing when they returned to their respective families/villages. During these visits, key hygiene messages were communicated, mainly relating to COVID-19 preventive measures, the transmission of diseases using the F-diagram,

protection of water sources, and household water treatment and safe storage. Messages on the importance of handwashing with soap and hand hygiene, and demonstration of proper handwashing with soap and water, were focused upon. While carrying out these monitoring visits, Cambodian RC staff and volunteers practiced necessary measures such as keeping a safe physical distance, wearing a mask and limiting the number of villagers to a smaller group of people.

The delivery of these messages was carried out interactively, utilizing a variety of visual aids, to ease the villagers' understanding. Each villager received a copy of the emergency WASH leaflet, which served as a reference for these key messages. Villagers who managed to participate expressed their appreciation for such an initiative. They would not have such an opportunity to get information if not for these sessions organized by the Cambodian RC, particularly critical in times of the pandemic. The details of the monitoring visits as seen in the table below:

Monitoring activities	Direct*			Indirect**		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Monitoring visits by NHQ staff	27	35	62	81	84	165
Monitoring visits by RC Branch	5,285	8,173	13,458	15,855	24,519	40,374
	5,312	8,208	13,520	15,936	24,603	40,539

* Some villagers may be repeat participants of these monitoring visits.

** Refers to people who have received information (second hand) from those participated in the monitoring visits



Branch volunteers disseminating key hygiene messages during their monitoring visits, including on the topic of COVID-19 prevention. A variety of IEC materials were used to illustrate and communicate these messages to maximize understanding of the villagers on these important topics. (Photos: Cambodian RC)

Debriefing and lessons learned workshop

A 2-day debriefing and lessons learned workshop was organized by the Cambodian RC, where a total of 21 participants were present from the provinces covered under current and past JRCs funding support i.e., Kampot, Kampong Thom, Prey Veng and Preah Vihear. The participants consisted of 11 Branch and sub-branch staff, and 10 Branch-level volunteers. The workshop was carried out in Kampong Thom province from 17 to 18 February 2022. Detailed breakdown of participants as seen below:

Province	No. of staff		No. of volunteers	Total
	Branch	Sub-branch		
Kampot	1	1	3	5
Kampong Thom	1	1	4	6
Prey Veng	1	3	1	5
Preah Vihear	1	2	2	5
	4	7	10	21

The support to Cambodia started in January 2016 and recently ended in February 2022. The main objective of the workshop was to present an opportunity for staff and volunteers, whom have been involved in this project, to come together and share experiences, lessons learned and

recommendations, gained over a period of six years. Each province was given an opportunity to present a summary of their achievements and worked on their respective strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats i.e., a SWOT analysis (they were broken up to groups, according to their respective provinces). The workshop concluded with a field trip to Bo Peng village in Kampong Kor commune, Kampong Thom province, where participants witnessed a hygiene outreach session. Some of the villagers were interviewed by the group of participants, who have benefitted from this project.

The participants felt that the workshop was a great opportunity to come together to share and exchange their experiences (majority of them have not met one another as they are based at different provincial Branch offices), particularly in sharing their provincial perspective. They also highlighted that they have noticed improvements in terms of hygiene awareness amongst community members in the targeted villages, which would not have been possible without the hygiene outreach activities under this project. The Branch and sub-branch staff also saw the project as an opportunity to better understand the needs and challenges of their communities, and with this improved understanding, they were better able to address them through the project.

Another key feedback was that the project enabled the Cambodian RC to have the capacity to carry out emergency WASH response, moving outside what the NS traditionally had done in emergencies (such as distribution of food items). This was evident from the floods response carried out by the Cambodian RC in September 2018, where two Man-packs were deployed to Stung Treng province, which were setup and operated by ten trained emergency response team members from Kampong Thom Branch. As a result of that deployment, more than 16,000 litres of safe water was distributed, reaching more than 3,000 people. This was in response to the floods that was caused by the dam collapse in Attapeu province in Lao PDR.



Group photo of the participants of the workshop
(Photo: Cambodian RC)



Some of the participants working on the SWOT analysis (Photo: Cambodian RC)



A representative presenting the key achievements of the province he is from, to the rest of the workshop participants (Photo: Cambodian RC)



Kampong Thom RC Branch staff talking to a group of villagers during a hygiene outreach session, in Bo Peng village (Photo: Cambodian RC)

Bangladesh

Procurement of Man-pack spare parts

Some Man-pack spare parts such as multiport valves, micro filters and ultra membrane filters, were procured through an in-country distributor. These parts have since been distributed to the districts of Jamalpur, Sirajganj and Tangail, while the rest are prepositioned at the BDRCS NHQ in Dhaka (which will be distributed to the relevant districts as per needs). The purchase of these spare parts contribute to the readiness of the districts, to deploy their Man-packs as and when needed.



A few district level volunteers replacing some of the Man-pack spare parts (Photos: BDRCS)

Man-pack maintenance and orientation

All the Man-packs prepositioned at the different districts undergo frequent checks and maintenance (ranging from every month to every three months), as well as when the units are being returned after a deployment. A routine check involves setting up and running the system, checking the condition of the different components, and replacing the needed parts with locally sourced materials. Finally, the components are cleaned and dried before storage. These activities are carried out mainly by RCY volunteers who have been trained before, at times receiving advice from the BDRCS WASH officer and unit level officers where and when needed.

Orientation sessions were also carried out for 60 RCY volunteers from the districts of Bogura, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Kurigram, Sirajganj and Tangail (10 volunteers from each district). This day-long orientation provided an opportunity for these volunteers to get some hands-on time in setting up and running the Man-packs. The all-in-one Man-pack guideline was used as a key reference document (which has been translated to maximize understanding of the users).



Running and checking of the Man-packs by some of the trained RCY volunteers, including replacement of spare parts (Photos: BDRCS)

Emergency WASH response and preparedness trainings at the unit and national level

Two emergency WASH trainings were carried out, targeting staff and volunteers based at disaster-prone districts. A total of 54 people (22 female) received the trainings, consisting of Red Crescent Youth (RCY) volunteers for the unit level training and National Disaster WASH Response Team (NDWRT) members for the more advanced NDWRT training. Participants came from 30 districts

(Bandarban, Barguna, Bagerhat, Bogura, Bhola, Barisal, Chattogram, Chapai Nawabganj, Dhaka, Faridpur, Gaibandha, Gopalganj, Gazipur, Jamalpur, Jhenaidah, Joypurhat, Kurigram, Khulna, Lalmonirhat, Magura, Mymensing, Netrokona, Noakhali, Patuakhali, Rajshahi City, Rangpur, Sirajganj, Satkhira, Sylhet and Tangail).

Date of training	Location of training	Training type	No. of participants		Total	Average pre-test score (%)	Average post-test score (%)
			M	F			
13 to 16 Sep 2021	CCDB Hope Foundation, Dhaka	Unit level	13	11	24	33	81
9 to 13 Feb 2022		National level (NDWRT)	19	11	30	42	85
Total			32	22	54		

Majority of the participants appreciated the diverse methodologies used during the training and the opportunity to learn new tools and equipment. The methodologies adopted was a combination of theoretical classroom sessions, tabletop exercises, group works, demonstrations and practical sessions. The participants were particularly appreciative of the opportunity to have hands-on time in setting up and running different water purification systems.

Information on COVID-19 continues to be incorporated, focusing on its preventive measures and orientation of COVID-19 safe practices. The training was carried out with COVID-19 precautions in place, such as wearing relevant personal protective equipment and maintaining safe physical distance and hand hygiene. Some of the main topics covered are as follows:

- General WASH in emergencies
- Sphere minimum standards
- Mass water treatment including a demonstration on jar and bucket tests
- Demonstration of PuR water purification sachet⁸
- Household water treatment and safe storage
- Hygiene promotion in emergencies
- Menstrual hygiene management (MHM)
- Excreta disposal (sanitation, drainage, solid waste management and vector control)
- Tube well disinfection and raising of the tube well platform
- Installation of rapid latrines using locally available materials

For the NDWRT training, majority of the modules overlapped with the topics covered for the unit level training except for a few additions, as listed below:

- An introduction to the IFRC emergency plan of action – this is to orientate participants on how to use this planning tool and template (especially important when applying for IFRC funding mechanism such as the disaster response emergency fund and emergency appeal).
- A few cross-cutting topics were also included as part of the NDWRT training agenda such as topics covering cash and voucher assistance, concepts and terminologies relating to disaster management, fraud and corruption, community engagement and accountability, and protection, gender and inclusion.
- Simulation exercise to cap off the training – this exercise provided an opportunity for participants to put into use what they have learned throughout the training days. Participants were broken up into two groups and given a scenario and some basic guidance on what needs to be achieved. The participants, tasked with their own roles and responsibilities executed activities in order to be able to provide emergency WASH services to those affected.

⁸ For more information, please visit <https://csdw.org/pg-purifier-of-water-packets>

Significant improvements amongst the participants were observed based on the comparison of the average pre- and post-test scores. The participatory and interactive training methods had facilitated the understanding of new WASH concepts among the participants. The training also provided a great platform for the participants from different districts to share their experiences and knowledge. BDRCS continues to strongly advocate for equal participation, requesting its Branches to nominate one male and one female participant to trainings such as this.



Participants setting up and running the Man-pack (left) and carrying out jar test to determine optimal coagulant dose (right) (Photos: BDRCS)



Participants testing for free residual chlorine using the pool tester (left) and carrying out tube well disinfection (middle). The participants also demonstrated the pocket chart voting methodology when the Chairman of the BDRCS visited the training (right) (Photos: BDRCS)

Specialized trainings on hygiene promotion in emergencies (HPiE) and MHM

A total of 48 RCY volunteers (23 female) participated in 2 trainings specifically focused on the topics of HPiE and MHM. This was the first time the BDRCS has organized trainings focusing on these topics. The participants hailed from 22 districts (Bandarban, Barisal, Chapai Nawabganj, Comilla, Chuadanga, Chattogram, Faridpur, Gazipur, Gopalganj, Jashore, Jhenaidah, Joypurhat, Khagrachari, Lalmonirhat, Magura, Mymensing, Netrokona, Noakhali, Rajshai, Rajshahi City, Rangpur, Sylhet) and BDRCS NHQ.

Date of training	Location of training	No. of participants		Total	Average pre-test score (%)	Average post-test score (%)
		M	F			
29 Oct to 1 Nov 2021	CCDB Hope	12	12	24	48	82
12 to 15 Dec 2021	Foundation, Dhaka	13	11	24	45	81
Total		25	23	48		

Two key IFRC reference documents that had guided this training were the [IFRC WASH guidelines for hygiene promotion in emergency operations](#) and the [IFRC MHM guide and tools](#). Both documents have been translated into the local language (translated HPiE guide [here](#) and MHM guide and tools [here](#)). The main objective of this training is to assist staff and volunteers to work systematically, working through all the important steps for planning, implementing and monitoring hygiene promotion activities and ensuring appropriate, comprehensive and effective MHM action in emergency operations.

The training sessions were delivered in a participatory and interactive manner, through a variety of methodologies such as group discussions, parallel demonstration stations and role play. The participants had hands-on experience learning different tools that they could utilize in future emergency operations such as three-pile sorting, pocket chart voting and use of Glogerm to highlight the importance of handwashing with soap, and had the opportunity to get to know different items in a hygiene promotion box and an MHM kit. The training environment enabled and encouraged sharing and exchange of experiences and knowledge with one another, bringing different perspectives particularly on topics that may not be discussed that often in the open such as issues related to menstruation needs during emergencies.



One of the facilitators leading a discussion on the content of an MHM kit (*left*) and a group of participants working on a group exercise in relation to Step 1 of the HPIE guideline i.e., identifying problem (*right*) (Photos: BDRCS)

Distribution of MHM kits and orientation on menstrual health

In Bangladesh, adolescent girls have negative attitudes towards menstrual hygiene practices and many do not know about menarche or maintain menstrual hygiene. According to the Bangladesh Demographic Health Survey in 2014, only 33.7 per cent of adolescent girls between the ages of 15 to 19 had heard about menstruation before menarche. A study conducted among adolescent girls in rural area of Bangladesh reported that about 69 per cent used unhygienic cloth or even no protection during menstruation. With most schools lacking proper latrine facilities, this has contributed to girls skipping school days and to girls suffering from major health problems due to poor hygiene practices during menstruation.

Considering the issues surrounding MHM and menstrual health, BDRCS developed and procured 350 MHM kits where 340 of those kits have been distributed to students of the Gandhail Girls High School in Sirajganj district and Hosne Ara Hasan Girls School in Tangail district (170 each). Table below outlines the content of the MHM kit:

No.	Item	Quantity
1	Plastic bucket	1 piece
2	Underwear	3 pieces
3	Reusable sanitary pad	6 pieces
4	Bathing soap (100g)	2 pieces
5	Detergent powder (500g)	2 packets
6	Torchlight (chargeable via USB and solar)	1 piece

The distribution of the MHM kits was accompanied with orientation sessions where information on menstrual hygiene, and use, care and proper disposal of sanitary materials were touched upon. These students also received a copy of leaflet on reusable pad guideline (translated in the local language).



Some of the items in the MHM kit (Photo: BDRCS)



Orientation session with high school students on menstrual hygiene and care and use of sanitary materials (Photo: BDRCS)



Distribution of MHM kits to secondary school students in Sirajganj and Tangail districts (Photos: BDRCS)



Development and printing of IEC materials

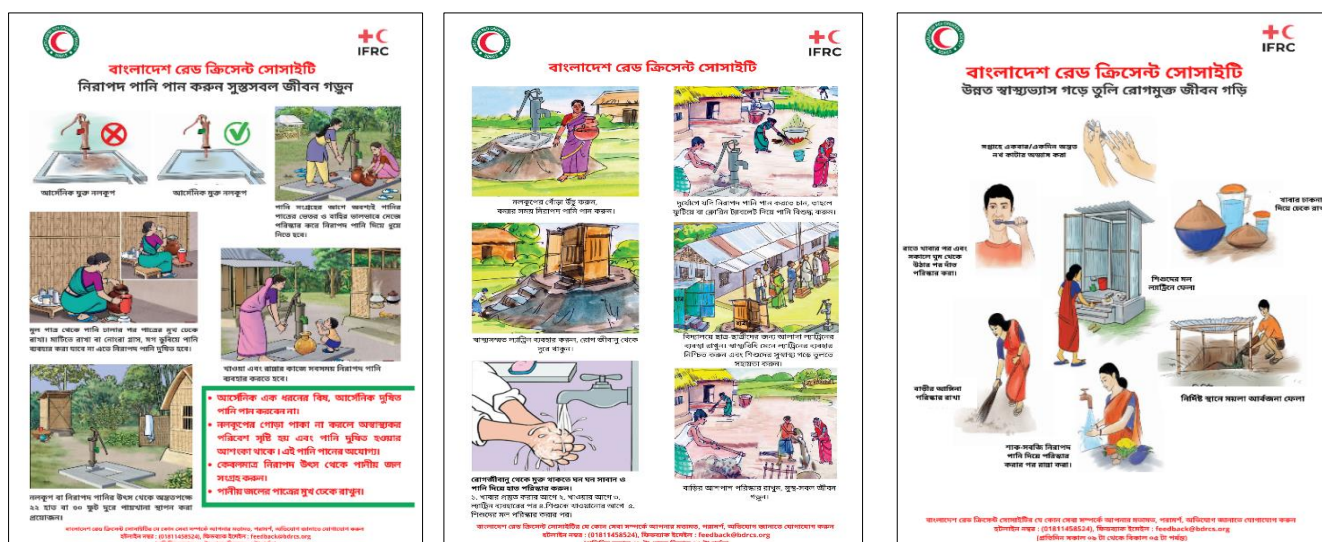
To supplement/complement the emergency WASH activities, relevant IEC materials have been developed and printed, covering the below topics:

- Handwashing steps, key transmission routes and prevention of diseases
- Step-by-step guidance on how to use water purification tablets
- Tube well disinfection guideline
- Personal and environmental hygiene
- Household water treatment and safe storage
- Practicing good habits in building a healthier, disease-free life
- MHM guideline
- Reusable pad user guideline



Translated version of the reusable pad user guideline, which provides information on how to use and care for reusable pads (Photo: BDRCS)

A total of 21,000 copies have been distributed to several disaster-prone districts i.e., Bogura, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Kurigram, Sirajganj and Tangail. Some of these leaflets were distributed during the distribution of MHM kits.



Posters on household water treatment and safe storage (*left*), personal and environmental hygiene (*middle*) and on the practice of good habits for a healthier, disease-free life (*right*) (Photos: BDRCS)

Malaysia

Emergency WASH trainings

A total of 49 volunteers (14 female) participated in 2 emergency WASH trainings. For the training that was carried out in Kelantan, participants came from nine states/federal territory i.e., Kuala Lumpur, Kelantan, Johor, Pahang, Penang, Perak, Selangor, Sabah and Terengganu. While for the training in Sabah, participants came within the state and from the neighbouring state of Sarawak.

Date of training	Location of training	No. of participants		Total	Average pre-test score (%)	Average post-test score (%)
		M	F			
2 to 5 Dec 2021	Bachok district, Kelantan state	20	5	25	26	56
21 to 25 Feb 2022	Ranau district, Sabah state	15	9	24	45	66
Total		35	14	49		

The modules for these two trainings closely followed the modules of the regional emergency WASH training (what used to be known as the regional disaster response team - RDRT training). The methodologies adopted was a combination of theoretical classroom sessions (covered mainly in the first two days), tabletop exercises, group works, practical sessions, followed by a simulation exercise on the last training day where participants applied what they have learned on previous training days. Emphasis was placed on ensuring sufficient time for participants to try out different equipment and tools. Some of the main topics covered are as follows:

- MRCS emergency response mechanism and disaster management standard operating procedures
- General WASH in emergencies and Sphere minimum standards
- Assessment and mobile data collection
- Introduction to disaster emergency response fund and emergency plan of action (EPOA)
- Water treatment, covering mass/bulk water treatment and household water treatment and safe storage
- Hygiene promotion in emergencies and MHM
- Parallel stations covering different practical sessions on various tests (such as jar test, bucket test, water quality testing) and demonstration of tools (such as Glogerm, three-pile sorting, pocket chart voting)

- Simulation exercise on the last training day where participants was tasked to respond to a mock-up floods scenario, starting from the beginning i.e., drafting of the EPoA until implementation of emergency WASH activities, covering water supply, emergency sanitation and hygiene promotion

In addition to the above topics, a team from the ICRC based in Kota Kinabalu, presented a session on their activities in Sabah, and another session on role-play, which is an activity where the audience (this method is usually used for children) are asked to point out the rights and wrongs of a behaviour, for e.g., etiquette after using the washroom. The ICRC has been active in Sabah since 2013, working with the MRCS, to organize health and hygiene community programmes for marginalized communities and those living in remote areas. Having the presence of ICRC in the training fostered greater collaboration and integration with the MRCS and IFRC.

In general, improvements amongst the participants were observed based on the comparison of the average pre- and post-test scores, contributed by the participatory and interactive training methods applied throughout the trainings. However, there was a general feedback from the participants of the Kelantan training that four training days was too packed, especially those having minimal WASH experience and/or knowledge. Learning from this feedback, the below key measures/changes were done when preparing for the Sabah training:

- The training in Sabah was carried out over five days, where the additional training day was critical in improving the understanding of the participants. More time was allocated for practical sessions and for the simulation exercise.
- In preparation for the Sabah training, three webinar sessions were carried out, covering the topics on (i) Introduction to emergency WASH and Sphere minimum standards (ii) Household water treatment and safe storage, and sanitation in emergencies and (iii) HPiE and MHM. In addition to participation in these webinars and passing the quiz at the end of each webinar, interested participants were also required to take two e-learning courses i.e., an introduction to WASH and the 8 steps for HPiE. This was the first time where MRCS had organized such a webinar series. By doing so, this had significantly improved the quality of the participants, where those who qualified for the face-to-face training came more prepared, having gone through the webinars and e-learning courses. The organization of Sabah's webinar series was done in close support and guidance from the IFRC APRO (the same is done as part of selection process for participants for the regional emergency WASH trainings).



Emergency WASH training in Kelantan: (Left) Participants trying out the PuR water purification sachet as part of the household water treatment and safe storage session (Middle) One of the MRCS facilitators giving an orientation on the content of a hygiene promotion box (Right) Demonstration on how to setup and run the Man-pack
(Photos: MRCS)



Emergency WASH training in Sabah: (Left) Participants trying out different community tools that can be used to identify key risky behaviours (Middle) Participants working on installation of a rapid latrine, using available local materials (Right) MRCS Sabah State WASH Focal Point showing the workings of the Man-pack to the Assistant Minister of the Sabah Ministry of Community Development and People's Wellbeing (in light colour top), with the Chairman of the MRCS Sabah State looking on (in red vest) (Photos: MRCS)

Q4: People reached

A total of 21,396 people (11,656 female) was directly reached through emergency WASH trainings, hygiene and MHM-related activities, and WASH interventions through small-scale emergency response. A total of 40,539 people (24,603 female) was indirectly reached through the second-hand dissemination of information on key hygiene messages (applicable only in the case of Cambodia). The table below summarizes the number of people directly and indirectly reached through the implemented activities in the targeted countries:

Country	Emergency WASH trainings		Monitoring visits				Hygiene promotion campaigns		MHM kit distribution & orientation	Small-scale emergency response	
	Direct		Direct		Indirect		Direct		Direct	Direct	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	F	M	F
Cambodia	34	16	5,312	8,208	15,936	24,603	-	-	-	-	-
Lao PDR	55	28	-	-	-	-	536	569	-	3,711	2,436
Bangladesh	57	45	-	-	-	-	-	-	340	-	-
Malaysia	35	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	181	103	5,312	8,208	15,936	24,603	536	569	340	3,711	2,436

Q5: Community engagement and accountability

Methodologies used when communicating key hygiene messages took into consideration the audience's level of understanding, influenced by their backgrounds. Visual aids and simple exercises were used to communicate/relay the information. Due to the pandemic situation, more emphasis was placed on topics related to prevention of the disease, particularly on handwashing with soap. This is in line with the needs of the situation, in working towards safer and healthier communities.

Q6: Risk management

Due to the pandemic situation, several planned activities had to be delayed. More consistent discussions were organized between the IFRC APRO with the WASH focal points within the NSs and IFRC delegations. Having more frequent discussions facilitated better understanding of the situation, enabling better planning and decision-making, especially when technical support to the NSs was carried out completely remotely.

Q7: Exit strategy and sustainability

Maintenance and troubleshooting of WASH assets, particularly the Man-packs which have been handed over to the NSs, continued to be a primary focus of IFRC APRO support to the targeted NSs. Regular checks and maintenance are carried out by appointed staff and/or volunteers, where the needed spare parts are locally sourced (including identifying local repairers). With these appointed persons and procedures in place, this contributes towards the sustainability and longevity of these units.

As elaborated earlier, the IFRC APRO has finalized and circulated the all-in-one guide on operating and maintaining the Man-pack. This guide serves as a key reference document in improving the operability of the Man-pack and quality assurance of the produced water. Translation into several local languages has been carried out, enabling wider dissemination to the users. To date, the guide has been translated into the languages of Bangla, Khmer and Lao.

In the case of Cambodia, a debriefing and lessons learned workshop was carried out, as part of the exit strategy process, where key staff and volunteers whom had been involved in the activities, were invited to come together and share their experiences. It is hoped that the lessons learned from this workshop will serve the NS well in continuing their efforts in delivering quality and effective emergency WASH interventions in the future.

Q8: Constraints, challenges and lessons learned

There were delays across the board due to the constraints and challenges resulting from the pandemic. Several planned activities at the country level had to be postponed due to the closure of national borders (e.g., no/limited cross-district travels). Activities were also postponed to give more time for the NS teams to better prepare for the activities.

One of the lessons learned is the importance of having consistent discussions with the NS teams to ensure a healthy exchange of information and to come together to re-group and re-think the planned activities to adapt to the evolving situation. As a result of these discussions, work plans were revised accordingly and a three-month extension was requested. This was to enable the NSs to re-plan and carry out its remaining activities. Due to this extension, all planned activities was able to be fully implemented.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Q9: Visibility

IEC materials (including training banners) developed and printed using the JRCS funding bears the logos of the concerned NS, JRCS and IFRC, when and where relevant.

Q10: Coordination and working with partners

The NSs worked closely with their respective IFRC offices. These NSs also coordinated with government authorities at local and central levels and national and local non-governmental organizations to achieve more effective coordination, technical collaboration, information exchange and more efficient resource mobilization.

Remote technical support was provided by the IFRC APRO to the concerned NSs, particularly in training preparation, procurement of key WASH assets and materials, and development of WASH-related materials.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

Detailed expenditure is outlined in the final financial report, as seen at the end of this narrative report.

Original pledge amount	Amount and % of funds spent of the total pledge
214,255 CHF	214,255 CHF, 100%

Contact information

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

In the Asia Pacific Regional Office

- **Senior Officer, Emergency WASH:** Wendy Neoh, email: wendy.neoh@ifrc.org
- **Partnership and Resource Development:** Rachna Narang, email, rachna.narang@ifrc.org

A. Pledge Details

Pledge status as of 28-Aug-2022

Pledge	M2103084		CHF
Donor	Japanese Red Cross Society	Pledged amount	214,255.00
Pledge Date	26-Mar-2021	Received	214,255.00
Pledge Time Frame	from 01-Apr-2021 to 30-Jun-2022	Outstanding	0.00
Reporting Period	2021/4-2022/8	Contingent Assets	-
In response to	MAA50001 - Asia Pacific regional programmes		

B. Income

Account groups	Actual (CHF)
Voluntary Income Cash	214,255
Voluntary Income Pledges	-214,255
Total Income	0

C. Expenditure

Output	Actual (CHF)
AP029 - WASH knowledge and best practice	323
AP110 - WASH	2,907
AP111 - WASH in emergencies	211,153
total AOF5 Water, sanitation and hygiene	214,383
Total Expenditure	214,383

D. Balance

Account types	Actual (CHF)
Income	0
Expenditure	-214,383
Pledge Balance Clearance	128
Deferred Income	214,255
Pledge Balance	0

Reporting Currency (CHF). Exchange Rate used to convert foreign currency to CHF is the Federation's official exchange rate of the day of the transaction.

Report validated by:	Papa Ibrahima SENE	Head of Finance and Administration	Electronic	28-Aug-2022
	<i>Name Surname</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>

E. Expenditure Breakdown

Account groups	Actual (CHF)
Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	16,417
Medical & First Aid	1,200
Total Relief items, Construction, Supplies	17,617
Storage	1,876
Distribution & Monitoring	5,762
Transport & Vehicles Costs	1,574
Logistics Services	2,910
Total Logistics, Transport & Storage	12,122
National Staff	28,757
National Society Staff	28,358
Total Personnel	57,115
Consultants	6,247
Professional Fees	496
Total Consultants & Professional Fees	6,743
Workshops & Training	74,751
Total Workshops & Training	74,751
Travel	1,868
Information & Public Relations	2,335
Office Costs	8,542
Communications	4,888
Financial Charges	519
Other General Expenses	541
Shared Office and Services Costs	10,397
Total General Expenditure	29,089
Operational Provisions	0
Total Operational Provisions	0
Programme & Services Support Recover	12,842
Total Indirect Costs	12,842
Pledge Earmarking Fee	1,976
Pledge Reporting Fees	2,000
Total Pledge Specific Costs	3,976
Total Expenditure	214,255



Standard Pledge Financial Report (CHF)

Final Report

Pledge #

M2103084

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Exchange Rate used to convert expenditure from CHF to pledge currency is the exchange rate of the pledge income

Report validated by:

Papa Ibrahima SENE

Name Surname

Head of Finance and Administration

Position

Electronic

Signature

28-Aug-2022

Date

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