



FINAL REPORT



Training on safe use of WSB contents, focusing on water purification system handling and maintenance, Honduras Red Cross.

Project: Delivery of Water Survival Box, Emergency Response Floods, Ocotepeque, Honduras

Location: Dolores Merendón Municipality, department of Ocotepeque | Communities: Las Aradas and Rancho Rey

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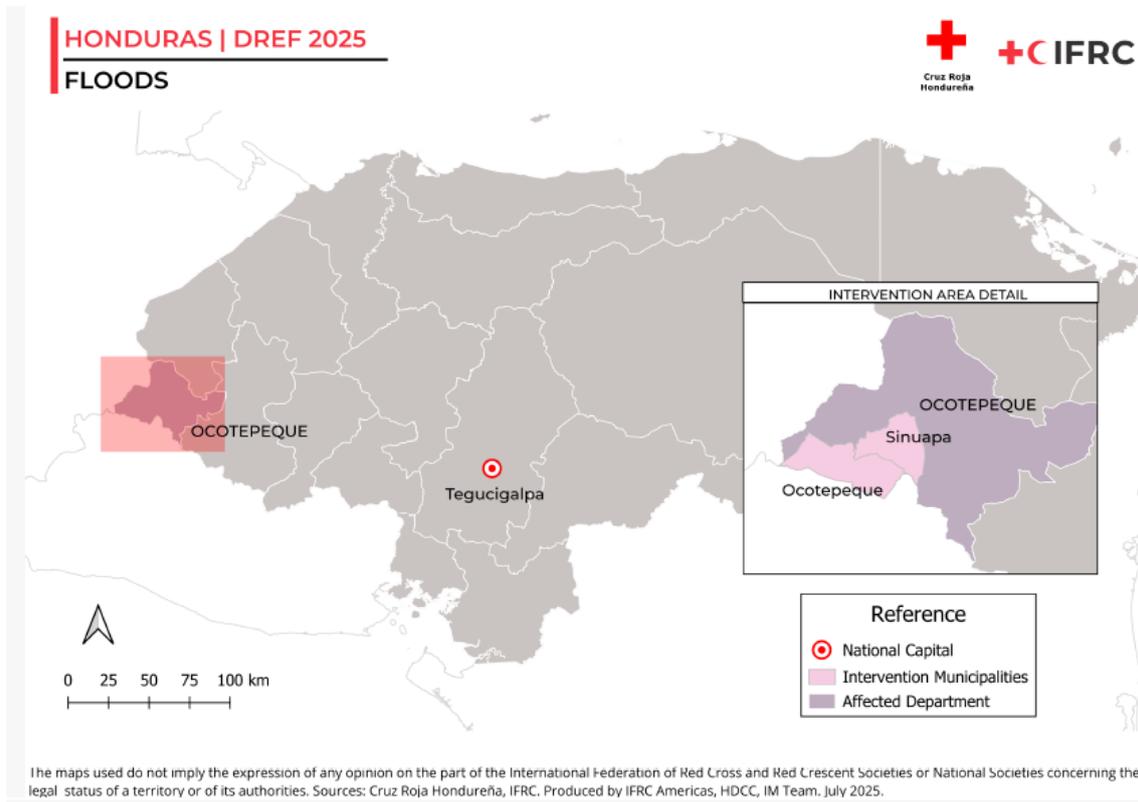
Date of the report: 13th february 2026

Executive summary

In response to the emergency caused by Tropical Wave Erick and continued rains during June 2025, the Honduran Red Cross (CRH) carried out a targeted distribution of "Water Survival Boxes" in the municipality of Dolores Merendon, Ocotepeque department. The assistance was directed to households directly affected by the storm and lacking access to safe water, basic hygiene supplies, and minimal conditions for food preparation. Fifty boxes were distributed to 50 families, prioritizing two communities with the greatest impacts reported by local authorities and on-site assessments.

I. INTRODUCTION

Background to the disaster:



Prioritized intervention areas under this IFRC-DREF. Source: IFRC

On 17 June, 2025, the department of Ocotepique began experiencing heavy rainfall caused by the interaction of a surface trough with Tropical Wave Erick, a hydrometeorological event that entered the country that same day. This combination triggered flooding, landslides, and the collapse of road, sanitation, and water catchment infrastructure, particularly affecting the municipalities of Sinuapa, Ocotepique, Dolores Merendón, and Fraternidad.

In response to the evolving situation, on 18 June, 2025, the State Secretariat for Risk and National Contingency Management (COPECO) issued an official bulletin declaring a Red Alert for the department of Ocotepique and the banks of the Ulúa River in the municipality of El Progreso, department of Yoro (1). This measure was taken due to the intensification of rainfall associated with the system and the sudden rise in the Ulúa River's water level, which caused levee breaches and flooding in vulnerable agricultural areas, including banana fields such as La Duarte, Campo Amapa, Naranjo Chico, Miraflores, Las Cuchillas, and San Isidro.

Additionally, a Yellow Alert was declared for the departments of Copán, Lempira, Intibucá, La Paz, Valle, and Choluteca, as well as lowlying areas in Cortés, Atlántida, and Colón. The rest of the western, central, and northern regions of the country were placed under Green Alert. The weather event was characterized by widespread rainfall, showers of varying intensity, and strong wind gusts, which

increased the risk of flooding, landslides, sinkholes, and damage to critical infrastructure, especially in highly vulnerable areas.

This phenomenon, multi-municipal and progressive in nature, caused cumulative impacts on infrastructure and living conditions, including isolated communities, disruption of basic services, and increased sanitary risk. In this context, on 25th June, 2025, the Municipality of Ocotepeque formally requested support from the Honduran Red Cross in response to the significant damage in several communities, particularly to water supply systems. The request included priority actions such as the provision of safe water, distribution of water purification filters and hygiene kits, as well as the design and implementation of hygiene awareness campaigns, to prevent disease outbreaks due to deteriorating sanitation conditions.

During August and September, heavy rains continued to severely affect the region, in the department of Ocotepeque caused severe impacts, including the flooding of more than 120 homes in the municipality of San Francisco de Ocotepeque, as well as the death of a 14 year old girl in the village of La Labor, who was swept away by a stream while attempting to cross it. According to local media reports, the heavy rainfall associated with the passage of a tropical wave also led to the isolation of several communities in the western region of the country, keeping local authorities and residents on alert due to the risk of further landslides and flooding. At the national level, the rains affected more than 8,000 people were affected, 45 communities were cut off, 60 homes were damaged, and 9 were completely destroyed, caused significant material damage to homes and basic infrastructure. A yellow alert remained in effect until 25 September, when COPECO issued a new green alert for five departments: Ocotepeque, Copán, Santa Bárbara, Lempira, and Intibucá, which lasted until 29 September. This generated the need to extend the IFRC-DREF until January 31st 2026 as critical needs remained in WASH

Donation and origin of the assistance:

Water Survival Box are part of an initiative lead by Water Survival Box Ltd and Rotary Club of Chelwood Bridge. Each box contains hygiene and health supplies, basic shelter elements as well as essential households and a household water purification equipment (aquafilter).

First contact with WSB was through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) on July 14th where an initial offer of 200 boxes was presented. Through the IFRC's Country Cluster Delegation in Central America this offer was channeled to the Honduras Red Cross Secretary General and Disaster Management Unit in charge of the IFRC-DREF Operation. On Tuesday July 29th a meeting was convened between WSB representatives, Honduras RC and IFRC where a discussion was held regarding the nature of donation, requirements and the possibility to preposition the boxes that would not be delivered at community level. On that same date WSB representatives shared materials related to the usage of WSB contents.

Honduras RC accepted the terms and conditions shared by WSB and were shared duly signed on August 8th including contact information for the person in

charge of Strategic Services within Honduras RC. On August 17th WSB requested additional information for the contact person as it was required to secure transportation of consignment. This information was provided through IFRC on August 18th. By August 28th WSB indicated that boxes would be transported the following week. The boxes were picked up from WSB warehouses without informing WSB, delivery to Honduras was completed on September 21st but the ETA could not be shared with Honduras RC with anticipation as the logistic company didn't share the detail until September 24th. WSB informed IFRC and Honduras RC on this matter and information required by customs was shared with WSB on September 26th and WSB provided required documents on October 8th; however, customs required documents with a handwritten signature which required WSB to send the documents via courier. Unfortunately, although WSB posted the documents on October 9th through Royal Mail, they only left Heathrow airport until October 22nd but never reached the Honduras RC. WSB had to post the documents through DHL on November 5th and were delivered to Honduras RC on November 7th.

Due to the delays above-mentioned the 200 WSB had to remained stored in customs for over a month and a half which generated a charge of USD 30,000 to Honduras RC to clear the cargo. Through negotiations as a humanitarian organization and auxiliary to public powers on humanitarian affairs Honduras RC was able to receive a discount to clear the cargo paying USD 10,000.

Needs assessment:

The municipality of Dolores Merendon is highly vulnerable due to its rural nature, dispersed population, mountainous topography, and historical limitations in access to basic services. During June 2025, heavy rains associated with Tropical Wave Erick caused landslides, damage to homes, and disruption to community infrastructure, increasing health risks and reducing households' ability to meet basic needs. In this context, the distribution of Survival Boxes addressed the immediate need to reinforce hygiene practices, ensure access to safe water at home, and provide minimum conditions for safe food preparation.

Through WSB donation Honduras Red Cross will contribute to the reduction of health risks and the strengthening of the coping capacity of vulnerable families in Dolores Merendon by delivering Water Survival Boxes that include hygiene supplies, kitchen utensils, basic shelter materials and a home-level water purification system to 50 families with remaining WASH needs.

Scope, coverage and people reached:

Community	Families reached	Prioritization criteria
Las Aradas	28	Households affected by rain and limited access to safe water and basic supplies.
Rancho Rey	22	Households with vulnerability and gaps in access to basic services, prioritized with local authorities.

Total: 50 families reached with 50 WSB, approximately 250 people (5 per family).

Survival Kit Contents and added value

The kits include a comprehensive early recovery package for families, with safe water as a top priority. Key components include:

- A home water purification system (aquafilter) for immediate treatment of drinking water.
- Health and hygiene supplies (soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, basic first aid supplies, and a women's hygiene kit).
- Basic cooking utensils (pots/pans and cookware).
- Shelter items and essential tools (tarpaulin, rope, and multi-tools).
- Additional household items (sewing materials, a solar lamp, and waterproof ponchos).

Organization of distribution and feedback

1. Verification of kit contents and sampling before distribution completed during January 2026.
2. Safe transport of WSB from Honduras Red Cross warehouse in Comayagua, Tegucigalpa was completed February 9th.
3. Training of staff and volunteers involved in the distribution including a demonstration of use of Grifaid Aquafilter Family (5 volunteers, 2 staff).
4. Delivery of WSB completed between 11th and 12th of February, in coordination with Dolores Merendon City Hall and community leaders, ensuring that delivery was based on needs criteria, as well as traceability and transparency. The process included:
 - Prioritization of communities based on impact and WASH needs gaps remaining, which led to selecting Las Aradas and Rancho Rey
 - Validation of beneficiary list in the field
5. Implementation of distribution:
 - Delivery of 1 WSB per family with control of lists and receipt records validated by community-based organizations (CBOs)
 - Community training on safe use of WSB items, with focus on the use and maintenance of the water purification system.
6. Post distribution monitoring is taking place during the first week of march, further information on community feedback will be available during the second week of march.

Key results:

- 50 families (250 people) have access to water purification system at household level improving water security and reduce exposure to waterborne diseases.
- Training to reenforce hygiene practices at household level contributing to dignity and protection of family health.
- Temporary improvement of their capacity to safely prepare food and basic household protection.
- Delivery completed through local coordination, ensuring transparency with evidence of delivery and feedback from beneficiaries.

Comments from all groups involved, including beneficiaries:

- General reaction to the box from the Honduras Red Cross is positive as the National Society considers it a very comprehensive package for emergencies and even for anticipatory action and it is interested in acquiring additional boxes for 2026.
- Reaction at community level was positive as the targeted communities remained with WASH needs after 2025 hurricane season; a post distribution monitoring will take place first week of march and the report will be available second week of march.

Challenges during implementation and lessons learned:

- The WSB donation was collected by logistics company and dispatched without informing donor and recipient and there was delay in receiving documents required due to courier failure. For future deliveries it will be important to double check with the recipient organization the “green light” before dispatch as there might be changing requirements in customs; this will avoid potential delays in customs leading to increased costs in warehousing.
- The general elections of Honduras took place in November 2025 and the new authorities took office on late January 2026; this lead to additional delays in delivery of WSB at community level as during elections and until January there were episodes of social unrest and political instability limiting the NS presence in some communities due to security reasons. After elections and holidays, coordination with local authorities took place during January to ensure that information on communities with remaining needs was up to date. Risk management and context monitoring is critical to ensure safe delivery of assistance and to reduce potential politization of delivery of aid.

Conclusions and recommendations

- The distribution of WSB in Las Aradas and Rancho Rey was a timely and highly relevant action in the post-event context, addressing critical WASH and hygiene needs in rural households with limited access. It is recommended that this intervention be complemented with community follow-up (effective use of water purifiers and safe storage practices) by the Honduras Red Cross in coordination with community-level safe water initiatives, and hygiene and vector control promotion messages, in collaboration with local authorities.
- The distribution of WSB in Las Aradas and Rancho Rey was a relevant and technically justified action in the post-event context, even though there was a time lag between the initial emergency and the distribution. While access to water was gradually restored through community systems and traditional sources, analyses of sampled sources in the area showed that the available water did not meet potability criteria for human consumption, maintaining health risks associated with microbiological contamination. Therefore, although water was physically available, a critical gap in terms of quality and safety persisted.
- Additionally, the population of Dolores Merendon is characterized by high levels of socioeconomic vulnerability, which limits their ability to acquire household water treatment supplies or implement proper safe storage practices. In this context, the delivery of the 50 boxes not only addressed

a residual post-event need but also strengthened family resilience in the face of ongoing health risks. Although the water service had been restored in terms of infrastructure, the gaps in water quality and the economic capacity of households fully justified the intervention. The delivery remained relevant from a health protection and risk reduction perspective, especially in a rural community with persistent structural limitations.

Annexes

- Lists and receipt records
- Photographic record of activities

Lists and receipt records



ACTA DE ENTREGA

Por medio de la presente, se hace constar que en donación de club rotario internacional y water survival box mediante Cruz Roja Hondureña, se realizó la entrega de 28 cajas de supervivencia

Esta entrega tuvo como objetivo principal contribuir al desarrollo de la comunidad promoviendo la salud y la prevención de enfermedades y el bienestar de las familias beneficiarias además de herramientas e insumos de higiene y cocina.

A continuación se detalle lo que cada comunidad recibieron:

COMUNIDAD BENEFICIARIA	CANTIDAD
Lgs Aradas	28

La entrega se realizó con previa verificación del listado oficial de las comunidades asignados a Cruz Roja Hondureña. Todo el proceso fue supervisado y registrado por el personal responsable, a fin de garantizar la transparencia y correcta distribución de los insumos.

Esta entrega se realizó de manera ordenada, con la verificación correspondiente de los elementos recibidos por cada voluntario.


Municipalidad de Dolores Merendon

Firma


Christian Velasquez

Referente Nacional de WASH



PROYECTO:
ACTIVIDAD:
LUGAR:

Toma Física de Registro de Servicios y Asistencia Humanitaria
Ciudad SuperVivencia
Entre Ciudades SuperVivencia
Los Angeles
 FECHA: _____
 HORA INICIO: _____
 DONANTE: **Robert Chelwood Bridge**
 LINEA PRESUPUESTAL: _____
 MODA INICIO: _____

No.	Nombre	Sexo	Edad	Estatus		Vivienda		Empleo		Agua, Saneamiento e Higiene		Firma
				Comunero	Miembro	Propio	Alquilado	Formal (Ingeniería)	Informal	Acceso	Conexión	
1	Yermy	M	18-19									
2	Maria	F	20-24									
3	Ana R	F	25-29									
4	Lidia	F	30-34									
5	Erredy	M	35-39									
6	Maria	F	40-44									
7	Paula	F	45-49									
8	Bertha	F	50-54									
9	Francisca	F	55-59									
10	Miris	F	60-64									
11	Elsa	F	65-69									
12	Elvira	F	70-74									

ACTA DE ENTREGA

Por medio de la presente, se hace constar que en donación de club rotario internacional y water survival box mediante Cruz Roja Hondureña, se realizó la entrega de 22 cajas de supervivencia

Esta entrega tuvo como objetivo principal contribuir al desarrollo de la comunidad promoviendo la salud y la prevención de enfermedades y el bienestar de las familias beneficiarias además de herramientas e insumos de higiene y cocina.

A continuación se detalle lo que cada comunidad recibieron:

COMUNIDAD BENEFICIARIA	CANTIDAD
Rancho Rey	22

La entrega se realizó con previa verificación del listado oficial de las comunidades asignados a Cruz Roja Hondureña. Todo el proceso fue supervisado y registrado por el personal responsable, a fin de garantizar la transparencia y correcta distribución de los insumos.

Esta entrega se realizó de manera ordenada, con la verificación correspondiente de los elementos recibidos por cada voluntario.

Reinerio Calvio
Representante de comunidad

Firma



Christian Velasquez
Christian Velasquez

Referente Nacional de WASH

Photographic record of activities and coordination with local authorities

Community Las Aradas



Delivery of WSB in Las Aradas



Unloading of WSB in Las Aradas

Community Rancho Rey



Delivery of WSB to community Rancho Rey



Delivery of WSB to beneficiaries in Rancho Rey



Community training on WSB items, safe use and maintenance