

**Project Proposal**

Emergency Prepared and Response Plan	
EPRP last updated	Yes
Do you have a Contingency Plan for this response?	No
EPRP link on the online platform (or attach hard copy with proposal)	N/A

Please submit this form to the Regional Humanitarian Programme Officer in your region with a copy to the Regional Representative

Date submitted to ACT Secretariat

16/03/2025

**Section 1 Project Data**

**Project Information**

Project Name	Humanitarian Response to the affected population by the floods in Bahía Blanca (Argentina)
Project Code	03/2025
Country Forum	Foro ACT Argentina
ACT Requesting Member (if there are more than one member, please use ALT+<Enter> to add another member)	CREAS - Centro Regional Ecuménico de Asesoría y Servicio
Name of person leading the project	Jorge Fernández
Job Title	Project coordinator
Email	<a href="mailto:jorge@creas.org">jorge@creas.org</a>
Tel no./Whatsapp/Skype	+5491168461668
Location(s) of project (city / province)	Bahía Blanca, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina
Project start date (dd/mm/yyyy)	17/03/2025
Project end date (dd/mm/yyyy)	17/05/2025

which sectors your response activities most relate to

(please indicate number of planned beneficiaries per organisation in each sector where you plan to give assistance)

Sectors	CREAS	
	Male	Female
Cash/ Vouchers		
Camp Management		
Education		
Food/Nutrition		
Health		
Household items		
Livelihood		
Psychosocial	50	150
Shelter		
Wash	550	950

## Section 2 Project Description

### 2.1 Context

#### 1. CHS Commitment 1. Summarize the crisis event and how it is likely to develop over the duration of the project (maximum 5 bullet points)

- \* On March 7, 2025, a hydrometeorological event in Bahía Blanca, located in the southern region of Buenos Aires Province, Argentina, triggered severe flooding, with nearly 350 millimeters of rainfall recorded in just a few hours. According to the municipal mayor, the resulting water mass affected over 70% of the territory.
- \* Approximately 2 million hectares of agricultural and livestock land are now underwater, with considerable losses expected for rural producers. The Bahía Blanca district, which includes the localities of Bahía Blanca, General Cerri, Coronel Rosales, Punta Alta, and Ingeniero White, has a total population of 334,505 inhabitants. It is estimated that nearly 70% of the population—approximately 234,154 people—has been affected by the flooding, with around 90,000 homes directly impacted by the rising waters.
- \* The floodwaters have also caused extensive damage to infrastructure, destroying multiple bridges and inundating fields, homes, businesses, churches, and enterprises, even reaching the city center. The agricultural and livestock sector, local commerce, and industries have all been severely impacted.
- \* Currently, around 1,500 people have been evacuated, with 1,296 housed in designated evacuation centers. Rescue efforts are ongoing, carried out by national armed forces, police, volunteer firefighters, and local rescue groups. To date, 16 fatalities and 94 missing persons have been reported. The estimated cost of damages is projected to reach \$400 million.
- \* As Argentina enters the autumn season, falling temperatures and the potential for additional winter rainfall raise concerns over an increase in respiratory illnesses. Given the country's complex economic situation, the potential for increased social tensions, mental health challenges, and rising conflict among the affected population is a growing concern.
- \* The economic impact on local livelihoods is expected to significantly disrupt daily life and further strain the local economy. Protection risks related to gender-based violence and limited healthcare access for migrants—an issue highlighted by the director of the city's main hospital—require close monitoring. Additionally, due to difficulties in cooking, the price of gas cylinders has risen, driven by speculation among local vendors. Food prices have also surged, and access to the city remains challenging due to disruptions on peripheral roads. If the situation persists, shortages of essential goods and raw materials could occur, further driving up prices.

#### 2. CHS Commitment 1,2,3,4. Explain the impact of the crisis specific to the people you want to help (maximum 5 bullet points)

- \* The flooding has severely impacted the most vulnerable sectors of the neighborhoods in Bahía Blanca, General Cerri, and Ingeniero White, resulting in 16 deaths and nearly 100 missing persons. Businesses, healthcare services, education, and both public and private activities have been significantly affected, with over 234,314 people impacted—equivalent to 70% of Bahía Blanca's population.
- \* Penna Hospital, one of the city's main healthcare facilities, had to be evacuated, particularly its neonatal unit, while other medical centers have shut down. Educational services have been suspended, mainly at the primary and secondary levels, and the National University of the South is expected to reopen at the end of the month, although its infrastructure has sustained damage.
- \* Food prices have risen due to both nationwide inflation and supply shortages, further exacerbated by the impact on the region's agricultural and livestock sectors. Additionally, health and mental health risks have escalated due to the emotional toll of the disaster. Protection risks, particularly related to gender-based violence (GBV) and child abuse, also require careful monitoring.
- \* Local response capacities have been overwhelmed, leading the municipal government to request support from the Buenos Aires Provincial Government and the National Government to address the significant challenges of reconstruction. The impact on institutions remains critical.

#### 3. CHS Commitment 9. Explain the availability of funding each of your organisation can access for this crisis. (maximum 3 bullet points)

CREAS, as a member of the ACT Argentina Forum, does not have funds to address the needs of the populations affected by the flooding in the disaster area. In order to provide emergency assistance, the requesting members are submitting a proposal to the Rapid Response Fund (RRF) to meet the needs of vulnerable populations identified during the initial needs assessment. The objective of the RRF proposal is to ensure the provision of urgent humanitarian assistance to the populations affected by the flooding, delivering a swift and effective response.

### 2.2 Activity Summary

**1. CHS Commitment 1, 2, 4. Explain your proposed project and why you have selected this particular response to the crisis. If multiple members are responding, please explain the role of each member in the coordinated response as indicated in your EPRP Contingency Plan**

The project aims to address the humanitarian needs of communities in Bahía Blanca affected by the flooding, with a primary focus on the most impacted areas—General Cerri and Ingeniero White. Within this framework, the most affected neighborhoods have been identified. Key needs include psychosocial support (including GBV prevention), and WASH interventions (distribution of hygiene and cleaning kits), complementing donations received from the general public across the country. The project will run for two months, supporting 300 families (1,500 people) with household hygiene kits and providing psychosocial support to 100 individuals.

The **Household Cleaning Kit** is designed to provide essential supplies for maintaining a clean and sanitary living environment. It includes one 5-liter bottle of bleach for disinfecting surfaces, two buckets (10-20 liters), one broom, one scrubbing brush, and three broom handles. To facilitate cleaning, the kit also contains a plastic dustpan, a rubber floor squeegee, three floor cloths, and five absorbent cleaning cloths. For personal protection and waste management, the kit provides two pairs of rubber gloves, one pack of large trash bags (10 units), and one pack of small trash bags (10 units). Additionally, it includes a handheld scrubbing brush, one pack of 10 disposable face masks, a 10-meter clothesline, and one set of 12 clothespins.

The **psychosocial strategy** will be implemented by a specialized professional who will provide direct support to individuals in need while also training volunteer teams following the Community-Based Psychosocial Support (CBPS) approach. Additionally, the professional will oversee and monitor the overall process to ensure its effectiveness. A referral mechanism will be established for cases requiring specialized psychological care, connecting individuals with government mental health services available in Bahía Blanca.

**2. CHS Commitment 2. Explain how you will start your activities promptly. Project implementation should start within two weeks. The project should be a maximum of 6 months.**

The project will begin with the formation of the working team, including recruitment and onboarding, as well as the activation of procurement and logistics processes. This will involve identifying and selecting suppliers, defining technical specifications for acquisitions, conducting price comparisons, and organizing logistics. Additionally, cooperation and coordination processes will be established among humanitarian actors, authorities, members of the ACT Forum, and FAIE (Argentine Federation of Evangelical Churches).

A field visit will take place during the week to further refine the EDAN (Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis in Spanish), verify affected sectors and communities, and rapidly identify beneficiaries based on vulnerability criteria, while also engaging with local leaders and key stakeholders. These initial actions will be carried out within the first two weeks.

A structured coordination framework will also be established between the ACT Forum, CREAS, FAIE, and its local churches to advance the planned response. In collaboration with the Ecumenical Emergency Table, specific activities will be agreed upon to set up an operations center, a storage space for goods, and a packaging and distribution area. Volunteer mobilization will be organized, including fast-track training on protocols and codes of conduct, and alignment with the social services provided by the churches (diaconal work). Following the field visit, the project timeline and action plan will be updated accordingly.

Simultaneously, psychosocial support mechanisms will be developed. To ensure a prompt project launch, a detailed action plan will be implemented to commence activities within a maximum of two weeks, ensuring a swift and effective response to the needs of the flood-affected population. The initial phase will focus on logistics, beneficiary selection, and resource preparation. After the first two weeks, hygiene kits will be distributed to address the immediate needs of affected families. The project will prioritize establishing operational foundations to ensure an effective and efficient response that reaches those most in need. Activities will be fully operational from the outset, with continuous monitoring to maintain service quality and adherence to the project timeline.

The project is expected to last three months, with distribution activities and capacity-building workshops (Psychosocial Support, Disaster Risk Reduction, and Humanitarian Action) taking place within this period. The final month will be dedicated to collecting verification sources and preparing narrative and financial reports.

The project will ensure that all activities, from training to psychosocial support and kit distribution, are carried out in a timely manner and with the highest possible impact in the context of the humanitarian response.

**3. CHS Commitment 6. How are you co-ordinating and with whom? Coordination ensures complementarity of interventions within forum members and other humanitarian actors to maximise the use of our resources and will address all unmet needs**

A mapping of local actors has been conducted, identifying key stakeholders such as the Argentine Red Cross (Bahía Blanca Branch and its National Immediate Response Team), Cáritas Argentina and its local network, Scouts de Argentina, the Municipality of Bahía Blanca, and various departments of the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires.

The ACT Argentina Forum is coordinating efforts with a group of local churches affiliated with FAIE (a guest member of the ACT Forum), including the Evangelical Church of the River Plate (IERP), the Argentine Evangelical Methodist Church (IEMA), The Salvation Army, and the Waldensian Church of Argentina (IVA). Virtual meetings and discussions have been held with these churches to exchange information on the initial emergency assessment, verify needs, and align planned actions. An updated assessment will be conducted during the week to refine the EDAN (Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis in Spanish) and strengthen cooperation efforts.

Additionally, contact has been established with other local churches, such as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, as well as with the central offices of the Argentine Red Cross, Cáritas Argentina, and ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency).

In Bahía Blanca, FAIE-affiliated churches have formed an Ecumenical Emergency Table, which has mapped local actors, identified the most critical needs and vulnerable areas, and appointed a focal point for coordination. Other churches and faith-based organizations may also join these efforts.

**4. CHS Commitment 3, 9. How are you planning to procure your goods or services? (This includes cash transfer methodologies) Please tick boxes that apply. Goods and services procured locally supports and**

Locally or within the affected areas	x	Nationally	x	Regionally or neighbouring countries		Internationally	y
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Do you have a procurement policy? What factors did you consider when you made this decision?

CREAS has its own procurement policy and processes to ensure strict financial monitoring, traceability, and accountability. To support the activation of the local and regional economy in the Province of Buenos Aires, procurement will prioritize local purchases. If local stock is depleted and cannot be replenished from nearby towns around Bahía Blanca, purchases will be made in Buenos Aires City as a last resort, taking into account the additional costs of freight and shipping.

This decision is based on the following factors:

- a) Strengthening the local economy.
- b) Reducing distribution time within the affected areas.
- c) Minimizing freight costs from Buenos Aires City to Bahía Blanca (a distance of 650 km).
- d) Empowering the local community by involving them in distribution and procurement processes.
- e) Assessing and mitigating risks related to insurance policies and security concerns associated with transportation from Buenos Aires City to Bahía Blanca (including potential security incidents).

**2.3 Description of Target Population**

**1. CHS Commitment 1, 9. How do you calculate the beneficiary numbers for this project? For example, food and hygiene kits given to 2500 families, and 1 family = x beneficiaries.**

The calculation of beneficiary families is as follows: 300 families, with an average of 5 individuals per household. A total of 300 households will benefit, representing approximately 1,500 people.

Beneficiary selection criteria: Priority will be given to families affected by the flood who are in situations of heightened vulnerability, based on the following criteria:

- \* Families facing extreme vulnerability, including those living in extreme poverty with limited access to basic resources (such as water, food, and healthcare), those experiencing homelessness, or those residing in informal settlements.
- \* Women, children, and individuals with special needs (such as older adults, persons with disabilities, individuals living with HIV, members of the LGBTIQ+ community, migrants, and refugees), as these groups are among the most vulnerable during disasters. Special priority will be given to female-headed households and homes with elderly members.
- \* Families affected by gender-based violence (GBV) or those at high risk of exploitation or abuse will receive priority assistance. Additionally, individuals with severe psychosocial needs resulting from the flooding will be included in the support program.

**2. CHS Commitment 1, 2, 3, 4. Which vulnerable groups are you specifically targeting? What makes them vulnerable? Please explain.**

The families affected by the flood reside in neighborhoods with high levels of poverty and extreme deprivation. Many are low-income informal workers or depend on social assistance programs, which have been increasingly restricted as social policies were eliminated in 2024, exacerbating vulnerability. Some affected individuals are internal migrants or foreign nationals, primarily from neighboring countries, who lack access to social support programs.

Argentina is experiencing severe economic challenges, with inflation exceeding 118% year-on-year (2024-2025). Additionally, political polarization, rising insecurity, and increasing violence—often originating from online discourse and escalating into real-life attacks—are worsening living conditions. Hate speech and discrimination against LGBTIQ+ individuals, migrants, refugees, Indigenous, and Afro-descendant populations have also intensified, further marginalizing these communities.

The flood has resulted in severe material losses, affecting property, income, and access to basic services, making these families particularly vulnerable.

Women and girls face increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse during disasters. The lack of protection mechanisms, family separation, and absence of support networks further heighten their vulnerability. This project prioritizes their protection by providing psychosocial assistance, hygiene kits, and guidance on GBV-related support.

People with disabilities and older adults are disproportionately affected in disasters due to physical, emotional, and social barriers. Limited access to healthcare, essential resources, and safe living conditions places them at higher risk of health deterioration, malnutrition, and social isolation. The project will ensure personalized support, facilitating their inclusion in distributions and assistance programs.

These communities face multiple layers of exclusion and discrimination, exacerbated by the disaster. The violence, lack of resources, absence of support networks, and precarious living conditions in informal settlements further worsen their situation. Additionally, limited access to basic services, social discrimination, and exposure to physical, sexual, and emotional violence underscore the urgent need for targeted humanitarian assistance.

### **3. CHS Commitment 4. Explain how the target population has been/is involved in the design of the proposed intervention (maximum 5 bullet points)**

The flood-affected population was consulted through in-person and telephone interviews conducted within affected communities. These consultations were carried out by faith-based communities and churches affiliated with FAIE during the initial phases of the project, focusing on assessing the needs of families and communities. This participatory approach made it possible to identify the most urgent needs, including access to food, hygiene, and protection, which has been essential in shaping a response tailored to their realities.

Community involvement is a key component of the beneficiary selection process, ensuring that those most affected receive support based on specific vulnerability criteria. Priority will be given to families facing the greatest hardships, including survivors of gender-based violence, persons with disabilities, and older adults. By participating in this process, community members will have the opportunity to express their concerns and help ensure that the selection criteria reflect their real needs.

In addition to receiving direct assistance, the community will also engage in capacity-building activities. Training sessions on water, sanitation, hygiene, and gender-based violence prevention will be provided through workshops and awareness sessions. Families will play an active role in the distribution of hygiene kits, ensuring that the items provided are used appropriately. To facilitate an efficient and equitable distribution process, community leaders will also be involved in coordinating these efforts, ensuring that supplies reach those who need them most.

As the project is implemented, ongoing community participation will be encouraged through monitoring and feedback mechanisms. Beneficiaries will be invited to share their perspectives on the effectiveness of the interventions and suggest improvements where necessary. An open feedback channel will be established to allow recipients to voice their concerns, provide recommendations, and contribute to enhancing both the activities and the assistance provided.

## 2.4 Expected Results

### 1. What will this project's success look like based on your time frame? Please write your activities milestones including dates.

The project's success will be measured by its ability to provide a rapid, coordinated, and effective response within three months, ensuring access to essential services that support the survival and well-being of those affected by the flood. This will be achieved through the provision of food, hygiene and sanitation supplies, and psychosocial support.

Additionally, success will be determined by the coverage achieved, ensuring that at least 100 families—approximately 500 individuals—receive appropriate assistance within the established timeframe. Furthermore, at least 200 individuals will benefit from community-based psychosocial support. The project will also contribute to building local capacities in disaster risk management and humanitarian action, leaving a lasting impact on the community's resilience.

Activities	Dates	Months			
		March	April	May	June
1. Formation of the response team (recruitment, job descriptions, onboarding)	March 17-25				
2. Activation of Procurement and Logistics Processes (identification of local suppliers, distribution systems, etc.)	March 20-27				
3. Coordination Framework Definition between ACT Forum, FAIE, and the Ecumenical Emergency Committee, including local community engagement	March 17-25				
4. Local Procurement and Logistics Processes	March 25-31				
5. Update of the Initial EDAN (Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis in Spanish) and Identification of Beneficiary Population	March 19-20				
6. Support for Volunteer Organization within the Ecumenical Emergency Committee and development of the communication and visibility strategy	March 25-3 April 1-7				
7. Implementation of Psychosocial Support Actions at the local level, including training and coordination with local service providers	March 25-31 April 1-30 May 1-31				
8. Distribution of Food and Hygiene Kits	April 1-15				
9. Participation in Local/National Coordination Spaces with humanitarian actors and local authorities	March 20-31				
10. Capacity-Building Activities (training on disaster risk reduction, humanitarian action, etc.)	Ongoing				

### 2. Describe the risks to a successful project and how you are managing them.

The project faces several potential risks, along with corresponding mitigation measures. **Inflation** poses a challenge that is difficult to fully mitigate; however, efforts will be made to complete purchases swiftly, securing price agreements with suppliers to minimize cost fluctuations. **Social unrest** is another risk, which will be addressed through coordinated actions with other humanitarian organizations providing assistance, as well as with local municipal and provincial authorities. Additionally, the **risk of infectious disease outbreaks**, particularly dengue—which has been present in Patagonia for the past decade—will be mitigated through the distribution of household cleaning kits and measures to eliminate or reduce standing water, helping to prevent the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

## 2.5 Monitoring, Accountability & Learning

### 1. CHS Commitment 7. Describe how you will monitor the project. What monitoring tools and process will you use? How will you gather lessons from the project?

CREAS will establish a comprehensive monitoring plan aligned with ACT PME principles and standards. This plan will include specific monitoring tools to closely track project progress and ensure the achievement of its objectives. Monitoring activities will involve regular field visits to assess progress, accomplishments, and challenges, ensuring proper implementation of activities and appropriate resource allocation.

The Project Coordinator will be responsible for managing, coordinating, and facilitating project activities, as well as ensuring effective monitoring and reporting on progress. Additionally, the coordinator will promote the project at local and regional levels, fostering networking with key stakeholders.

During project implementation, field professionals will oversee daily activities, conduct periodic analyses, and share findings in scheduled monthly meetings with the CREAS coordination team, the ACT Forum, and FAIE – Ecumenical Emergency Committee. CREAS administration will conduct regular audits and financial reviews to assess budget compliance and ensure transparent financial management.

To promote active participation and transparency, all project reports will be shared with stakeholders, allowing them to stay informed on progress and contribute to collective learning. At the project's outset, informational sessions will be organized with communities to present the project components, policies, and humanitarian and gender standards guiding implementation. This participatory approach will ensure respect for the rights of all involved while fostering trust in a post-disaster context.

**2. CHS Commitment 8. Does your organisation have a Code of Conduct? Have all staff and volunteers signed the Code of Conduct? We may ask you to submit copies of the signed Code of Conduct. You can use ACT Alliance's Code of Conduct if your organisation does not have one.**

CREAS adheres to and has signed the ACT Alliance Code of Conduct.

**3. How will you ensure you and all stakeholders will be accountable to the affected population. How will you share information. How will you collect and use feedback and complaints? CHS 4 and 5**

CREAS complies with Commitment 9 of the CHS, which emphasizes the responsible use of resources for their intended purpose and the achievement of project activities, as outlined both technically and financially, in a legal and ethical manner. Expenses will be incurred in accordance with the costs and expenditures detailed in the budget. The project's technical and financial components will be presented and explained to beneficiaries (focus groups) to assess transparency in fund usage at the end of the project.

Commitment 5, "Communities and people affected by humanitarian crises have access to safe and effective complaint mechanisms," will be shared and discussed with beneficiaries for each activity to ensure timely and appropriate complaint management.



## Rapid Response Fund

### Financial Budget and Report

Project Code

03/2025

Project Name

Humanitarian Response to the affected population by the floods in Bahía Blanca (Argentina)

Budget Exchange rate (1 USD to local currency)

1,087.750000

Exchange rate source in this site:

[http://www.floatrates.com/historical-exchange-rates.html?currency\\_date=2023-01-13&base\\_currency\\_code=PHP&format\\_type=html](http://www.floatrates.com/historical-exchange-rates.html?currency_date=2023-01-13&base_currency_code=PHP&format_type=html)

Description	Type of Unit	No. of Units	Unit Cost local currency	Budget	
				ARS	USD
<b>DIRECT COSTS</b>					
<b>1 PROJECT STAFF</b>					
1.2.1. Project Coordinator	Month	2	800,000	1,600,000	1,471
1.2.2. Logistics Officer	Month	1	460,000	460,000	423
<b>TOTAL PROJECT STAFF</b>				<b>2,060,000</b>	<b>1,894</b>
<b>2 PROJECT ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>2.8. Protection</b>				<b>320,000</b>	<b>570</b>
2.9.1. Psychosocial Support Sessions, including GBV	Sessions	8	40,000	320,000	294
2.9.1. CBPS Session	Sessions	2	150,000	300,000	276
<b>2 WASH</b>				<b>14,325,000</b>	<b>13,169</b>
2.10.1 Delivery of Household Cleaning Kits (One-Time)	Kit	300	47,750	14,325,000	13,169
<b>TOTAL PROJECT ACTIVITIES</b>				<b>14,645,000</b>	<b>13,739</b>
<b>3 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION</b>					
<b>3.2 Capacity Development</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>46</b>
3.2.1 Caapacity development	Workshop	1	50,000	50,000	46
<b>TOTAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION</b>				<b>50,000</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>4 QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY</b>					
4.1 Visibility	Global	1	200,000	200,000	184
4.2 Monitoring and Evaluation	Global	1	1,200,000	1,200,000	1,103
<b>TOTAL QUALITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY</b>				<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,287</b>
<b>5 LOGISTICS</b>					
5.1.2 Vehicle Rental				-	-
5.1.3 Transportation	global	1	2,043,750	2,043,750	1,879
5.2.1 Warehouse rental				-	-
5.2.2 Materials (packaging related)	global	1	190,000	190,000	175
<b>TOTAL LOGISTICS</b>				<b>2,233,750</b>	<b>2,054</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COST</b>				<b>20,388,750</b>	<b>19,020</b>
<b>INDIRECT COSTS: PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION &amp; SUPPORT</b>					
Phone and internet charges	Month	3	230,000	690,000	634
Bank fees - Bank transfer charges	Global	1	400,000	400,000	368
<b>Office Operations</b>				<b>1,090,000</b>	<b>1,002</b>
<b>TOTAL INDIRECT COST: PERSONNEL, ADMIN. &amp; SUPPORT</b>				<b>1,090,000</b>	<b>1,002</b>
Percentage of Indirect Costs against Total Budget				5%	5%
<b>Total Budget</b>				<b>21,478,750</b>	<b>20,022</b>