

2021



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COLOMBIA

IFRC COUNTRY OFFICE

Appeal number
MAACO002

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
7.76 million



National
Society
Branches

32



National
Society
Staff

2,500



National
Society
Volunteers

31,400

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

50,882,891

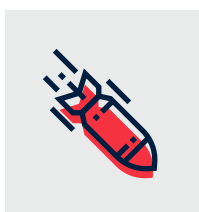
2019 Human Development Index Ranking

79

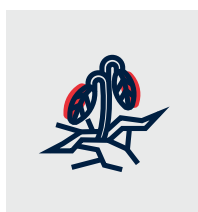
Vulnerabilities



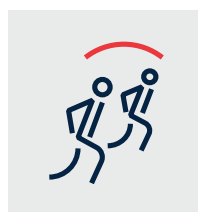
Floods



Armed conflict



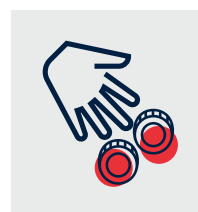
Drought



Migration & displacement



COVID-19



Poverty

Around 8.5 million people in Colombia will be in need of humanitarian assistance by 2021, and 5.1 million people will have cross-sectoral humanitarian needs, according to a prediction by the UN Colombian Humanitarian Needs Overview. The main contributors to these humanitarian needs are the impact of **seasonal emergencies** caused by natural and man-made events, an **influx of huge numbers of Venezuelan nationals**, and ongoing **armed conflict**. Population movements and armed conflict combined are affecting an estimated 3.5 million people in Colombia, of which 1.1 million people are members of host communities and more than 530,000 people are internally displaced.

An additional 3.5 million internally displaced and migrant people need humanitarian assistance. These people live mainly in rural areas with long standing structural gaps, high exposure to protection risks, disrupted living standards, limited access to basic goods and services, unstable livelihoods, and a low capacity for income generation which can result in adverse coping strategies. Deteriorating conditions in Venezuela combined with the COVID-19 pandemic will create further challenges and threats to the wellbeing of the most vulnerable groups in Colombia.



ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY



Cruz Roja Colombiana

Established

1915

The Colombian Red Cross Society was first established more than 100 years ago to save lives and prevent and alleviate human suffering in all circumstances. It aims to achieve this by strengthening communities, and providing support in education, disaster risk management, human rights and international humanitarian law. It also promotes a culture of peace and social inclusion. With 250 local units including 32 branches, subcommittees, and facilities, along with a network of 31,420 highly qualified and trained volunteers, the National Society has responded to a wide range of adverse social situations at local, regional, and national levels.

In 2020, the National Society continued to implement the Emergency Appeal Operation Colombia: Population Movement, which focussed on shelter, livelihood and basic needs, health, water, sanitation and hygiene, protection, gender and inclusion, migration, and disaster risk reduction.¹ Shortly after completing its operation to combat the Dengue outbreak in the country, the National Society responded to the COVID-19 pandemic as part of the IFRC Emergency Appeal global operation.

For 2021, the National Society has prioritised the stabilisation of a long-term humanitarian programme to address population movement. This will involve the continuation and consolidation of organisation development, with particular emphasis on enhancing logistics capabilities and business continuity. The National Society aims to instil a culture of community engagement and accountability throughout all of its programmes. It will implement a protection, gender and inclusion approach across all sectors, and strengthen operation capabilities such as information management, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, and project management. The operational plan is underpinned by these targets and interventions have been designed with consideration of these goals.

¹ <https://reliefweb.int/report/colombia/colombia-population-movement-revised-emergency-appeal-revision-4-mdrco014>

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Movement coordination

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
American Red Cross				✓				
German Red Cross		✓	✓	✓				
Spanish Red Cross			✓	✓				
Netherlands Red Cross					✓			
Norwegian Red Cross		✓			✓			
ICRC		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓

The National Society in Colombia collaborates with the American, German, Spanish, and Norwegian National Societies, and works with the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), on specific programmes that seek to reach migrants with support for their health and livelihoods, and to prevent suffering.

The American Red Cross provides technical support in cash transfer programming and health. It has been finalising a health programme for migrants that builds on some of the capacities developed through the Emergency Appeal Population Movement. The German Red Cross gives assistance focussed specifically on the Guainía, Vichada, Norte de Santander, Santander and Nariño departments, with a strong emphasis on primary health care assistance to migrant populations. The Spanish Red Cross helps with early recovery interventions, adding cash transfer programming and livelihoods support to the standard health care assistance. The Norwegian Red Cross is funding a project on peacebuilding and is supporting the “Quick Response Teams” mechanism.

Supported by the ICRC, The National Society in Colombia is running 15 initiatives in the areas of restoring family links, income generation, water, sanitation, and hygiene, weapon contamination, health, telecommunications infrastructure, urban and sexual violence, and COVID-19 testing. The National Society also has partners that support its humanitarian operations and actions from academia, the private sector, the national government, cooperation agencies of foreign governments, non-governmental organisations, as well as United Nations agencies, including The World Food Program, UNICEF, The Pan American Health Organization, The United Nations Refugee Agency and The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

132,000

People to be reached

530,000

Colombia is one of the countries most severely affected by climate change, with humanitarian needs reaching high levels due to factors such as poverty and conflict. Climate change is causing intermittent seasonal disasters such as flooding and landslides and it has a negative impact on health, increasing the likelihood of epidemics. It also increases pressure on violent and unstable areas of the country, which further contributes to forced displacement and migration.

Drought-and flood-related disasters, that correspond to the **El Niño Southern Oscillation and the La Niña phenomena** respectively, are routinely experienced in Colombia. In the past, heavy rains have damaged crops and infrastructure, causing major human displacements and high rates of morbidity and mortality.

As the normal weather conditions in the Pacific Ocean continue to be disrupted, La Niña conditions strengthen further. The IFRC prediction models estimate high probabilities of occurrence of the La Niña event with a peak in December 2020 and February 2021. Precipitation forecasts indicate greater probabilities of rainfall than normal in the northern region of South America. Urgent action is required to adapt to these changes. .

TARGET 1

Communities are better prepared to address the impacts of climate change

ACTIVITIES

- **Adapt** to rising and evolving risks
- **Mobilise** positive and large-scale action
- **Promote** more sustainable environmental practices
- **Contribute** to climate change mitigation.



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EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
210,000

People to be reached
70,000



Thanks to its proven and successful experience in crises and disaster response combined with a long-lasting relationship with the Colombian state, the National Society is well positioned to respond to evolving crises and disasters. However, to continue developing this capacity and sustaining its relationship with the government, a permanent process of updating methodologies, frameworks, deployment and IT capabilities is required.

The National Society faces technological challenges which, if resolved, will significantly improve its readiness to respond to crises and disasters. In addition, the combined strength of the National Society's human resource capabilities will form targeted response teams that can be deployed across the country and made available for needs assessments and responses at the international level in the Americas and other regions. .

● TARGET 1

Adequate access to assistance and support available

● TARGET 2

Timely cash and voucher assistance provided

● TARGET 3

Increased capacity to analyse and address people's needs

● TARGET 4

Improved preparation for responding to crises and disasters



GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
2,490,000

People to be reached
220,000



Health and wellbeing in Colombia are broadly characterized by a continuous growth of morbidity and mortality caused by **chronic non-communicable diseases** associated with lifestyle, urbanisation, economic growth, declines in fertility and birth rates, longer life expectancy and an ageing population. While there have been notable achievements in the reduction of infectious diseases, pre-natal, child and maternal mortality, these improvements in health and wellbeing have not equally reached all people in Colombia.

Infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria, HIV, and malnutrition disproportionately affect those in the most impoverished regions. This includes people in isolated rural areas and urban settings who are permanently affected by climate-related or anthropic disasters and ongoing armed conflict, as well as indigenous and afro-descendant communities, women, children, and people with disabilities. The levels of **unmet mental health needs** of these people whose resilience capacities are constantly being challenged by adversity, remain insufficiently addressed by the health system and international aid organizations.

In 2021, the **Venezuelan migratory crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic** will have a strong impact on overall health, escalating the numbers of population requiring medical attention, and potentially exhausting the capacity of the health system. In this context, the National Society will attempt to alleviate the human suffering produced by disease, distress and violence.

TARGET 1

Health and wellbeing of communities are protected and improved

TARGET 2

Locally-led solutions address unmet health needs

TARGET 3

Referral services are provided to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence

ACTIVITIES

- **Strengthen** health systems and human resources
- **Improve** access to sustainable, affordable, appropriate, quality health services
- **Increase** access to sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services



2.1 million

people need humanitarian assistance in health



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MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1,110,000

People to be reached
230,000



As a result of the **COVID-19 outbreak** and consequent movement restrictions by national authorities, migratory dynamics have changed dramatically since March 2020. Thousands of Venezuelan migrants have been attempting to return to their home country due to the loss of their livelihoods and housing in Colombia. Extra-regional migrants from Cuba and Haiti, as well as from countries in Africa and Asia, commonly enter Colombia from Ecuador and Brazil. The majority of these migrants are seeking to cross the country to the border with Panama to continue their migratory route to the United States via Central America and Mexico. In addition to language barriers, these migrants are in danger due to their unfamiliarity with the specific route risks that include jungles, dangerous rivers, climate events, and the presence of illicit groups among many others.

Migrants in Colombia are vulnerable to unmet basic needs, coercion, exploitation and abuse, and other challenges that are compounded by inadequate support and limited access to essential services. They often have high numbers of respiratory infections, dermatitis, high risk pregnancies, stress and parasitosis. Medical teams working along the migratory route within the country have identified events of malnutrition in children and pregnant women, which are of particular concern due to the potential long-term effects on development and overall wellbeing. Many are also being pushed into negative coping strategies as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns and quarantines, such as survival sex.



1.8 million
Venezuelan migrants in Colombia
(September 2020)

TARGET 1

Access to humanitarian assistance provided at key points along migratory routes

TARGET 2

Protection services provided through engagement with local and national authorities

TARGET 3

Improved access to essential services

TARGET 4

Effective assessment and response to migrant priority needs



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VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1,110,000

People to be reached

255,000

Protection risks are high in Colombia. The main threats are caused by forced **displacement, forced recruitment by non-state armed actors, forced labour and sexual violence** in the context of the armed conflict, urban violence and drug trafficking. Furthermore, xenophobia, transphobia and stigma, and discrimination based on nationality, ethnicity, gender identity and other diversity characteristics are also causing problems in the country.

The COVID-19 pandemic has involved a series of factors leading to **increased risks of human trafficking**. The measures adopted by governments have had a detrimental impact on the economic situation of many people, especially those who were already vulnerable. Unemployment has reached historical figures and thousands have been left without a livelihood. Many became desperate in their search for ways to generate income to support their families, leading them to accept money in exchange for servitude, transactional sex and other forms of exploitation.

Important challenges remain to adequately protect children and adolescents from different forms of physical, sexual, and psychological violence inside their households, schools, and communities. Gender-based violence, especially sexual violence against children, remains a critical threat.

ACTIVITIES

- **Adopt** a comprehensive Protection, Gender and Inclusion approach across operations and programmes
- **Systematic application** of minimum standards for protection, gender and inclusion in emergencies
- **Collect** and analyse age, gender, and disability disaggregated data for programme design
- **Support** the integration of marginalised or discriminated groups
- **Improve** access to assistance and protection for sexual and gender-based violence survivors
- **Implement** the new Gender and Diversity policy



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ENABLER 1

ENGAGED WITH RENEWED INFLUENCE, INNOVATIVE AND DIGITALLY TRANSFORMED WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1,930,000

The National Society will work with partners within and outside the network to strengthen engagement and work collectively on the most important challenges facing communities. The IFRC will continue to provide advice, technical support, and innovative tools that help build a comprehensive planning process, integrate programmatic priorities with budgets, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning milestones.

For example, a training programme is will be finalised for staff and volunteers to deepen their digital and technological capabilities for project management, monitoring, and accountability. The training programme will emphasise the use of user-friendly software, suitable for humanitarian operations and centred on information technology. The IFRC will also support the National Society to finalise the design and implementation phases of a new remote data collection and information system, which will focus on providing data for decision-making and learning purposes and serve as an essential tool for enhancing managerial capabilities.

A national-level collaborative plan to support peer-to-peer collaboration between National Societies will help to better apply policies that facilitate group learning and information sharing, provide structure and accountability, lend credibility to the work of National Societies and prepare for challenges and opportunities. The IFRC aims to work with teams from neighbouring countries, such as Venezuela, on training, reimbursement and sustainability, ethical considerations, stocking and supply, outreach, partnerships, data, monitoring and evaluation, lessons learned and barriers to implementation.

Strengthening the National Society's Civil-Military Relations will allow for the continuity of the relationship with civil and military entities in the humanitarian sector, leading to the development of strategic allies, part of the risk management systems exchange of experiences between the humanitarian sector and the military.

TARGET 1

Strengthened engagement with partners within and outside the network

TARGET 2

Increased training and peer support in influencing skills, data literacy, and strategy development

TARGET 3

Upgraded tools to improve communication aimed at public behaviour change

TARGET 4

Leaders have the capacity to drive agility, innovation and transformation

ACTIVITIES

- Influence public behaviour and policy change
- Greater collaboration with partners and communities



ENABLER 2

ACCOUNTABLE WITH AN AGILE MANAGEMENT AND A RENEWED FINANCING MODEL WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

350,000

The IFRC will support the National Society to increase understanding of accountability as a standard with concrete impacts, such as with the securing of long-term relationships with donors, communities, and other partners, while safeguarding and managing financial resources. Increased exchange with organizations outside the Movement will also contribute to the National Society's ability to incorporate new knowledge and proactive actions to develop efficiency and transparency in services, programmes and communication.

In collaboration with the Swiss Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross, American Red Cross, and the IFRC team, the experiences achieved with the Partners programme will be capitalized on. The National Society will promote meetings between partners and allies in order to consolidate and promote the Friends of the Colombian Red Cross programme (Amigos Cruz Roja Colombiana).

The National Society will diversify its sources of income and continue to implement the resource mobilisation strategy with partners and allies in the country in accordance with an agreed planning matrix that unites and complements efforts and avoid the dispersion of resources.

Technical financial guidance will be provided by the IFRC, along with a revision of narrative and financial reports, periodic activity reports, and audited financial statements. The IFRC will also continue to deliver its courses on fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse for National Society governance authorities, management, staff and volunteers.

● TARGET 1

The IFRC will work as one organisation globally

● TARGET 2

A new financing architecture to increase financial resources

● TARGET 3

Expanded provision of resources to invest in National Society Development

● TARGET 4

A global platform for fundraising knowledge sharing



ENABLER 3

TRUSTED BY COMMUNITIES, OWNED AND VALUED BY THE MEMBERSHIP WITH GREATER EMPHASIS ON NATIONAL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

430,000

A multi-annual National Society Development plan will be developed with to establish financial and technical bases that help increase organisational efficacy. The project requires collaboration between the IFRC, the National Society, and other Movement partners in Colombia. Greater integration between the members of the Movement is also a priority, to allow the optimisation of human, technical, logistical and financial resources in the country.

Measures that strengthen priority sectors and establish better positioning in Colombia for the National Society, will be identified by the IFRC using the regional and local network. The National Society will also be supported by the IFRC to improve its level of advocacy for improved response actions and increased levels of implementation, which will lead to more credibility for humanitarian action. All programmes and operations will have specific activities targeted at long-term organisational and infrastructural National Society development.

In 2021, the IFRC will disseminate security procedures and tools for the National Society to enhance its current security protocol, as well as share information on security in order to strengthen and expand the security network. Security procedures and protocols allow for greater access to community action. Faced with the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, a comprehensive financial sustainability strategy will be designed and launched to strengthen capacities in resource mobilisation, financial risk management, decision making, assessment, accountability, auditing, and financial leadership capacities.

In the area of disaster management, the IFRC will support technical development actions in local disaster response capacity, complemented by the provision of essential response equipment and materials, coordination with disaster response and risk management stakeholders. In terms of protection and inclusion, the IFRC will support the National Society to assess gender approaches employed in programme design, along with contributions that aim to generate and subsequently implement a cross-cutting protection strategy. This strategy will address child protection, sexual and gender-based violence, migration and protection, and can include contributions from other key humanitarian stakeholders.

TARGET 1

The National Society is the trusted partner of choice for local humanitarian action

TARGET 2

External support is aligned with National Society priorities and development plans

TARGET 3

Trust is strengthened and personnel carrying out humanitarian work are protected



The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) is the world's largest humanitarian network, with **192 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies** and around **14 million volunteers**. Our volunteers are present in communities before, during and after a crisis or disaster. We work in the most hard to reach and complex settings in the world, saving lives and promoting human dignity. We support communities to become stronger and more resilient places where people can live safe and healthy lives, and have opportunities to thrive.

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