

2021



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DUTCH AND ENGLISH SPEAKING CARIBBEAN IFRC COUNTRY CLUSTER

Appeal number
MAA49003

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
7.37 million



Countries

11



Volunteers

1,867



People to be
reached

175,000

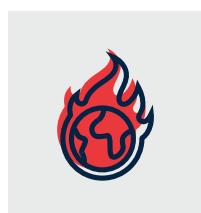
This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this country/cluster plan listed here as funding requirements.

SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

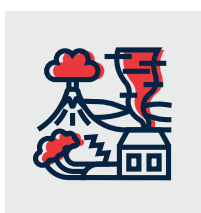
Population

7 million

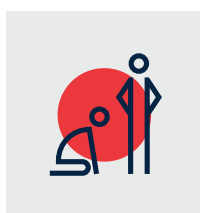
Vulnerabilities



Climate change



Natural disasters



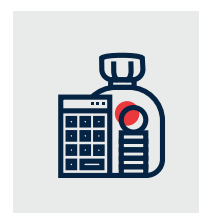
Domestic violence



Non communicable disease



COVID-19



Economic instability

COVID-19 is directly affecting the Caribbean region's economic growth. The decline in the tourism industry will particularly affect the Bahamas, Barbados and Jamaica, and plummeting international commodity prices are having a severe impact in Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. This has caused a loss of income for many people and is set to continue in 2021.

The Caribbean continues to be affected by critical development issues shaped by complex and dynamic social, economic, and environmental processes, including climate change, disaster risks, development, urbanisation, and the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the environmental threats faced by the region are natural hazards and extreme weather events including tropical storms and heavy rainfall. These often lead to floods and landslides. The combination of these issues has potentially devastating effects on lives and livelihoods and can overwhelm the capacity of governments and local institutions.

The depletion of the coastal and marine resources for livelihoods and food security, limited land and water resources, heavy reliance on tourism threatened by sea level rise and climate change heighten the vulnerability of the 70 per cent of the region's population living on coastlines. Of particular concern are the most highly vulnerable groups, such as migrants and displaced persons, who are isolated from mainstream systems and services, and thus most affected by disasters.

Public health also remains a key issue in the region, particularly non-communicable diseases. It is estimated that by 2023, 81 per cent of deaths in the region will be due to non-communicable diseases.

Migration has been increasing in recent years. There is a highly complex environment of mixed migration throughout the Caribbean which is having a negative effect on the social and economic environment of the receiving countries, as well as on the migrants who are subject to migration enforcement measures.

There has been a drastic rise in domestic violence in Trinidad and Tobago. This is part of a worldwide rise in violence within families rooted in gender norms and exacerbated by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and government responses to migrants. Recent studies revealed that one in three people in Trinidad and Tobago is an irregular migrant. One in every three women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence during her life, though women, girls, and men who have sex with men and transgender people are particularly vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence.



Jamaica © Jamaica Red Cross

ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

The IFRC provides, technical and financial support to the Caribbean National Societies to improve the lives of vulnerable people. It coordinates and directs international assistance to National Societies following emergencies non-conflict.

The 11 of the 13 National Societies in the English and Dutch speaking Caribbean countries have identified the following priorities:

1. **Providing** technical support for income generation and financial sustainability development business models.
2. **Development** of procedures, policies and strategies in key areas, such as health, environmental management and disaster management.
3. **Scaling-up** auxiliary and advocacy to establish cooperation agreements and Memorandum of Understandings with government agencies, especially Ministries of Health, National Disaster Organisations and Ministries of Social Development.
4. **Solidifying** youth programmes distinguished from volunteers.
5. **Volunteer development** and management.
6. **Climate change**, environmental management, and resilience.
7. **Knowledge management** and learning in key technical areas.



Jamaica © IFRC / Marko Kokic

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Membership coordination

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Canadian Red Cross	✓	✓	✓		✓			
French Red Cross	✓	✓	✓					
Italian Red Cross				✓				

National Societies providing bilateral or multilateral support in the region include **the Canadian, French, and Italian Red Cross Societies**, along with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Because the development indicators of countries in the region are high, there is not a strong presence of bilateral cooperation with the Partner National Societies, although **the American Red Cross** is partnering with the Bahamas Red Cross.

The French Red Cross, through the Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean of the French Red Cross, will work predominantly in the Eastern Caribbean Countries (Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis) on international disaster response law, civil military activities, climate change adaptation and disaster preparedness activities. The Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean of the French Red Cross will work in collaboration with the IFRC to train these National Societies in technical areas, such as national intervention training and to roll out of communication campaign for climate change.

The Director of the Aruba Branch is a member of the **Red Cross Disaster Management Network**, and currently represents the overseas branches of the French, British and Netherlands Red Cross Societies. The Canadian Red Cross is working with Suriname, Belize and St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Societies on building community resilience which it may scale up in 2021. **The Italian Red Cross** work to support youth development and the American Red Cross work with the St. Lucia National Society are expected to continue in 2021. The French Red Cross will expand the reach of the Regional Intervention Platform for the Americas and the Caribbean health and well-being work in Guyana and Suriname in 2021.



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

650,000

People to be reached

20,000



The IFRC Network supports vulnerable people and communities in the Caribbean to organise and prepare for emergencies and crisis, building overall community resilience. Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the work of the National Societies has faced additional challenges, but they are using the opportunity to develop future strategies with green action and sustainability at the forefront of plans. National Societies will be championing ecosystem-based approaches and community-based initiatives that promote climate smart actions with disaster preparedness priorities.

The region is extremely vulnerable to climate change and an all-inclusive approach to climate smart action is needed to build capacity in the Caribbean National Societies so that they can engage, accompany and connect with communities to help them understand the risks they face and cope with changes.

Collaboration with key partners such as The Nature Conservancy, the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the Canadian Red Cross, the RCRC Climate Centre, and the Country Cluster Support Team for Disaster Response is crucial in supporting the National Societies to address the impact of climate change and other environmental management issues.

➔ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Societies to produce stories that raise awareness of the risks and work it is doing to help communities adapt to climate change.
- The IFRC will provide Enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessments training in 40 communities.
- The IFRC will introduce the Caribbean National Societies to its Environmental Policy and support them to integrate environmental considerations into their plans and programmes.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to build their narrative and messaging around climate change and its impact in their communities.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to fully participate in the Americas Regional Office Climate Change Champion programme.
- The IFRC will work with the Red Cross Red Crescent Green Response Working group and the Association of American States Administration for Children's Services to develop a programme with National Societies to facilitate Green Response in the Region.

EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

2.2 million

People to be reached

100,000



The IFRC and the Caribbean National Societies are working with more than fifty communities to improve preparedness, access to early warning and response to crises and disasters. There is a need to target vulnerable and at-risk communities beyond geographical boundaries due to the additional vulnerabilities caused by COVID-19. Local partner communities are able to prioritise actions and plans to strengthen resilience from information gathered from surveys and risk assessments. Information collected from local communities will help guide the expansion of this programme. The community resilience program will focus on making communities economically stronger while preparing for and reducing disaster risk. Livelihood strengthening actions will be integrated via the ecosystem-based adaptation and safer shelters as these are essential aspects of a comprehensive community resilience programme.

In 2021, the IFRC Caribbean Resilience Strategy will be evaluated by the IFRC and modified to align with Strategy 2030. Caribbean cities and communities will develop resilience action plans using the modified roadmap to resilience and the enhanced surveys and risk assessments. Risk information will be integrated into sector planning.

Capacities will be further strengthened by the National Societies through livelihood assessments and action. Follow up activities, including training and awareness, will address disaster risk reduction in ecosystem and climate change degradation and create safer and more resilient environments.

Information Communication and Technology options and apprenticeship partnerships will be sought by the IFRC to strengthen livelihood sustainability. Community early warning systems will be enhanced to trigger actions to protect livelihoods and shelters and reduce direct economic disaster.

It is also crucial to prepare for eventual hazards. Essential data, documents and assessment forms will be integrated and tested with emergency plans by the National Societies. Forecast based financing will be developed and implemented within two National Societies. Information gathered will assist in the advocacy for improved Disaster Risk Management and response laws in two countries.

Pre-positioned stocks require replenishment to ensure adequate readiness for response to disasters and other events. Branches in each district are well positioned to service each of the six administrative districts. They require restocking to be able to assist at least 100 families in the emergency phase of a crises event.

ACTIVITIES

- The National Societies will engage communities and support disaster risk reduction activities by supporting training for enhanced Vulnerability Capacity Assessments
- The National Societies will provide risk communications to communities around actions they can take to increase their resilience.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to build community disaster preparedness.
- The IFRC will develop a Preparedness for Effective Response toolkit for the National Societies, and conduct a sub-regional training workshop on the use of the toolkit.
- The IFRC will develop and integrate a community-based monitoring tool with existing IFRC databases to allow the IFRC and the National Societies to effectively record training.
- The IFRC will train National Societies' staff on legislative advocacy so they can better advocate for climate-smart disaster laws and position themselves as partners of first choice for Disaster Risk Management policy frameworks.



Grenada © Grenada Red Cross / IFRC

GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

587,500

People to be reached

15,000



In 2000, HIV was the fourth leading cause of death, but rates have now declined, and hypertensive diseases are now the fourth leading cause. However, infectious diseases remain a threat. The COVID-19 pandemic and vector borne diseases remain a threat and are among the top causes of death among children and the elderly. People in areas with inadequate sanitation or water supply are especially vulnerable to both these diseases.

International travel and climate change exacerbates the vulnerability of Caribbean people to vector borne disease. Warmer temperatures accelerate mosquito reproduction, and floods increase the sites where they can breed. Mosquitoes account for the majority of vector borne disease infections in the region, including chikungunya, dengue, yellow fever and Zika.

All National Societies under this plan were involved in the Caribbean Zika Response and Prevention project which built capacity to respond and for epidemic control, psychosocial support, and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The enhanced Community Based Health and First Aid programme was also rolled out throughout the region to strengthen community health through community volunteers. National Societies will be supported to continue to use primary prevention modules and other e-Community Based First Aid tools to address their community's health priorities which include both communicable disease and non-communicable diseases.



5.3%

decrease in
communicable
diseases between
2000 and 2014



3%

Increase in non-
communicable
diseases between
2000 and 2014

➔ ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will create a plan for integrating community engagement activities into health programming to support 13 National Societies.
- The IFRC will provide technical support to 11 National Societies to develop a plan of action to expand their First Aid activities.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to deliver mental health and psychosocial services to communities by trained volunteers.
- The IFRC will develop a preparedness plan to guide and support vector control activities within all 13 National Societies.
- The IFRC will Improve the capacity of the WASH programme throughout the region. The National Societies of Guyana, Suriname, Belize and Grenada will be prioritised in 2021.
- The IFRC will support the St. Lucia National Society to create a health desk that will focus on non-communicable diseases and other health related concerns.

MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

400,000

People to be reached

15,000



Migrants and displaced populations in the Dutch and English-speaking Caribbean come predominantly from Venezuela and Haiti, but there are also from the Dominican Republic, Cuba, Africa, Syria and China. The migrants require initial support to acquire shelter, food, health services, and education for children. These needs are made more difficult by language barriers, xenophobia, an unfamiliar civic system and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic. Caribbean countries are also trying to close the gap on policies and laws to manage migrant populations.

Migrant populations tend to settle on marginal land in vulnerable structures exposing them to greater disaster risk. Community stress and exposure to risks increase with the arrival of new settlers and can result in confrontational relations with host populations. Therefore, the needs of the host and adjacent communities as well migrants need to be addressed.

The IFRC has been working with migrants and displaced people through its Population Movement Appeal. It is expected that their needs will continue as the socio-economic and political difficulties of neighbouring territories persist and even deteriorate as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The pandemic has prompted changes related to international movement and border management and risks affecting attitudes towards non-nationals. Entry restrictions coupled with the earlier introduction of visa requirements for Venezuelans has affected the ability of refugees and migrants to regularly enter and stay in Caribbean countries. This has led to increased irregular border crossings and greater risks at sea.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will provide technical support to the National Societies to develop programmes and implement activities involving migrants and displaced people
- The IFRC will work with the National Societies to develop an advocacy strategy that addresses migrants and displaced people, a migration strategy and action plan
- The IFRC will support the National Societies in creating feedback mechanisms for migrant communities
- The IFRC will conduct training for staff and volunteers working with migrants on cross-cultural efforts in community engagement and accountability
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to develop Standard Operational Procedures for migrants
- The IFRC will address xenophobia, discrimination, and negative perceptions towards migrants through advocacy and raising awareness, including bi-lingual communication and developing of key messages



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VALUES, POWER, AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

300,000

People to be reached

25,000



A recent UNESCO report indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in unprecedented educational disruption in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States. Most governments in the English and Dutch Caribbean sub-region temporarily closed educational institutions to contain the spread of the pandemic.

School closures left 7 million learners and over 90 000 teachers across 23 countries and territories in the Caribbean sub-region grappling with a new reality of distance-learning. National Societies can now explore opportunities to contribute to addressing these impacts on the education sector.

COVID-19 has caused a dramatic surge in cases of violence against girls and women during lockdown in the Caribbean and is threatening to turn into a catastrophe. While lockdown measures are vital to halt the spread of COVID-19, being confined to home puts girls and women at heightened risk of violence and cuts them off from education, protection services and social networks.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support National Societies in youth programming that targets future leaders.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to conduct evidence-based research, data collection and analysis to guide and strengthen multidisciplinary approaches and the effectiveness of education.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to raise awareness and develop effective advocacy about humanitarian consequences of the disruption of education, and the importance of ensuring safe, equitable and continuous access to education.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to produce stories that raise awareness of the work of the Red Cross supporting children, for example returning to schools after crisis or disasters.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to create a Protection and Gender Inclusion online course adapted to the Caribbean for all National Societies in the region and support the Belize Red Cross' gender strategy across all levels of the National Society.
- The IFRC will support National Societies to train focal points in every branch and headquarters to monitor Protection and Gender Inclusion in all programmes, projects and activities.

7 million

Children left without direct access to education during the COVID-19 pandemic



St. Vincent and the Grenadines © IFRC / Marc Belanger

ENABLER 1

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

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1 million

The National Society and the IFRC have strengthened their engagement with partners to work collectively on the key challenges facing communities. The National Society and the IFRC have a strong public profile and are effective advocates, influencing both public behaviour and policy change at the domestic, regional and global levels. The main representatives of humanitarian and development agencies and of relevant ministries in each country are well informed about the role and activities of the National Societies and the IFRC.

The IFRC is also prioritising digital transformation in 2021. The National Society and the IFRC have the foundational IT digital systems to efficiently run and ensure accountability in their daily operations and are data ready for engagement with their staff and volunteers, operational decision-making and business intelligence. Leaders use and understand data in their work, drawing on evidence and research to guide humanitarian action.

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will support the National Societies with technical advice and capacity building to share the IFRC Network work on community engagement and accountability to increase trust and understanding and to ensure communities have a role in their own resilience building.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies with humanitarian diplomacy and advocacy to strategically position themselves and strengthen their relationships with key government partners.
- The IFRC will develop a leadership competency framework that includes learning, coaching, experiential opportunities and innovation.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies with the adoption of community engagement activity approaches and introduce community monitoring tools.
- The IFRC will convert face to face courses to online self-paced/facilitated courses on the IFRC learning platform.
- The IFRC will create a blended first aid course with an online component and face to face testing.



Dominica © Finnish Red Cross / Nina Svahn

ENABLER 2

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

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

700,000

ACTIVITIES

- The IFRC will provide technical advice and support to the Trinidad and Tobago National Society for completion of their audited reports and expand the process to at least one additional National Society.
- The IFRC will support the reactivation of and provide guidance for the reactivation of Caribbean networks.
- The IFRC will support The Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Cell of Excellence to become self-sufficient and to develop new partnerships with academia.
- The IFRC will provide technical support for the identification of global fundraising business insights, and the development of proposals to the National Society Investment Alliance, the European Social Fund and other National Settlement Depository funding mechanisms.
- The IFRC will support the National Societies to utilise and benefit from the global digital fundraising platform.
- The IFRC will provide an enabling environment within National Societies for the incubation of ideas to further diversify income generating activities.



Dominica © Dominica Red Cross

ENABLER 3

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

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1.5 million

The IFRC supports the National Societies to become the trusted humanitarian partner of choice for local action, with the capacity to act in the global network. The National Societies are assessing their development needs, revising their legal base and planning through strategic and development plans to better address service sustainability. They will improve their financial sustainability through investment in the three pillars: accountability and systems development, resources mobilisation and vision and mandate. They will adopt guidelines, tools and mechanisms, including fraud and corruption policy, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse policy, non-discrimination, harassment, child safeguarding policy to prevent, manage and address integrity and reputational risks.

The IFRC and the National Societies understand that youth and volunteer engagement is crucial in gaining successful communication with communities. They will prioritise volunteering development and youth action as critical catalysts of behavioural change and local action, ensuring access and nurturing trust in all contexts. This will allow young people to contribute to decision making, innovation and strengthening the national networks to gain a better understanding of the backgrounds and needs of young people to participate in discussions and decision-making processes at the local level.

Empowering people in communities will be extended beyond the youth and volunteers to include others affected by disaster and crises. Community engagement allows people to build trust in the National Societies, to serve their best interests and represent them at higher levels.

To strengthen this empowerment, the National Societies will protect volunteers, promote psychosocial wellbeing and provide greater support to those killed or injured in the line of duty, and their families.

The IFRC will scale up support to the National Societies in strengthening and setting up mechanisms within programmes and operations to generate quality social data to inform action and actively collect, analyse and respond to community feedback, perceptions, concerns and insights.

ACTIVITIES

- The ICRC and the IFRC will support the National Societies to establish a roadmap for statute revision.
- The IFRC will implement branch organisational capacity assessment processes, assessment of virtual alternatives and promote the implementation of trainer-of-trainers branch organisational capacity assessments in Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname. It will support the implementation of branch organisational capacity assessments recommendations in all other National Societies, prioritising Belize and St Kitts and Nevis.
- The IFRC will advise and support the National Societies to establish fundraising mechanisms including donations, grants and contributions, from governments, the general public, high net worth individuals, corporations, foundations, trusts, multilateral institutions, donations in kind, pro-bono work or shared resources.
- The IFRC will implement the Youth Engagement Strategy across the region and support the completion of the IFRC implementation toolkit for National Societies.
- The IFRC will support the development of inclusive volunteer recruitment policies and procedures and support training in protection, gender and inclusion among the volunteer management network.



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.

Contact Information

Ariel Kestens

Head of Delegation
Dutch and English speaking Caribbean

T +1 868 622 4700

M +1 868 684 0101

ariel.kestens@ifrc.org

T'Nasha La Roche

Partnerships and Resource Development

T + 1 868 622 4700

M +1 868 495 8512

tnasha.laroche@ifrc.org
