

AMERICAS IFRC REGIONAL OFFICE PLAN

2022 funding requirement in Swiss francs

13 million





National Societies

35



Country Cluster support delegations

5



Country delegations

1

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

Vulnerability to disasters













Migration

Hurricanes

Storms

Earthquakes

Floods

Disease

Latin America and the Caribbean have long been afflicted by humanitarian challenges, including disasters caused by natural hazards, poverty, extreme violence, food insecurity, and widespread displacement. The region is the second most disaster-prone in the world. These challenges provided a foothold for the COVID-19 pandemic for much of 2020. The region's well-documented climate vulnerabilities, especially in many small nation states in the Caribbean, also reached historical levels in 2020, which included the most active hurricane season ever. Furthermore, the Caribbean is specially vulnerable to coastal hazards, and its resources are threaened by sea level rise, ocean heat and acidification..

The northern countries of Central America are vulnerable to food insecurity and feature chronic violence, inequality, weak institutions, and socio-political volatility that continue to drive mass displacement within borders. The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre cites more than 940,000 violence-related internally displaced people collectively within the region and across borders. In South America the increase of extreme weather events is impacting livelihoods and increasing risk.

Migration is a priority in the IFRC Americas region. Increases in migration flows have been reported¹ throughout the region. The ongoing socio-economic crisis in Venezuela is one of the causes, but not the only factor. The COVID-19 pandemic, recent disaster events such as Hurricanes Eta and Iota, the La Soufrière volcanic eruption in St. Lucia, an earthquake in Haiti, and other vulnerabilities are combining with climate change, forcing people to move.

The direct and indirect consequences of storms, hurricanes, floods and landslides are major drivers of displacement in the region. It is estimated that the Central American region experienced more than one and a half million new displacements in 2020 because of disasters. During the 2020 Hurricane Season, there were 30 named storms, making it the most active hurricane season ever. In November 2020, Category 4 Hurricanes Eta and lota struck Central America within days of each other, resulting in widespread flooding across a nine-country span between southeast Mexico and northern Colombia, affecting the livelihoods of more than 4.5 million people.

The spread of the COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbating the current health crises in the Americas. There remains inequality in access to basic health care services for vulnerable groups, including indigenous people. Refugees and migrants in the region are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 and other diseases due to high levels of mobility, instability, informal or precarious income, overcrowding, lack of sanitation, language barriers, and lack of access to health care or vaccination programs. According to the Pan American Health Organization, as of September 2021, three-quarters of people in Latin

https://www.r4v.info/en/document/rmrp-2022



EMERGENCIES

America and the Caribbean have not been vaccinated against COVID-19. Fragile health systems and political challenges in Haiti and Venezuela have further delayed immunizations.

The Americas Region suffers from frequent crises and disasters, with an increase in the last five years, including protracted crises related to large population movements in Central America, South America, and the Caribbean.

The socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 have affected all countries. Impacts have been more acute in those countries with less capacity to implement social assistance programs and those that depend mainly on tourism, and exports of raw materials, among others. The deepening of this socioeconomic crisis from COVID-19 could generate conditions for greater social conflict in the region and with effects on people's ability to meet their basic needs, on people's ability to cope with shocks and crises, on the ability of governments to respond to the needs of the population and on the most vulnerable people having to follow negative or irreversible coping strategies.

Disasters combined with natural hazards can have a catastrophic impact in vulnerable countries, affecting livelihoods, economic security, education and health services, and this scenario will be more common in the comings years as the climate crisis worsens.

Hurricane/Tropical Storms, floods, and outbreaks continue to be the most prominent natural disasters responses. In 2021, 14 DREF operations and two Emergency Appeals were launched in the region. On the 19 of April 2021, IFRC launched the Emergency Appeal for St Vincent & Grenadines La Soufriere Volcano Eruption to support 5,400 people affected by the La Soufrière volcanic eruption for 18 months. On 14 August 2021, a major 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti and IFRC launched an Emergency Appeal to deliver emergency assistance and support the early recovery of 25,000 people affected by the Earthquake for 18 months.

The migration crisis in the Americas is a protracted one, with long-term affects setting in, while at the same time, migration flows are continuing and changing.

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to challenge the Americas region as access to vaccines continues to be a major factor.

Lastly, the climate crisis is already hitting Latin America and the Caribbean in critical ways, predominantely the smaller nation states in the Caribbean through economic impacts, stronger hurricanes and loss of livelihoods.

For more information on the IFRC's emergency operations in this region, please visit ifrc.org/appeals.



ROLE OF THE REGIONAL OFFICE

The IFRC's Americas Regional Office works in support of 35 National Red Cross. Through its Country Cluster Support Teams and its technical units, iprovides coordination, financial and technical support for disaster operations and longer-term development programmes throughout the region.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
American Red Cross	√	✓	√	√	✓	✓		✓
Italian Red Cross					✓		✓	✓
Norwegian Red Cross			√					√
Spanish Red Cross		✓			√			✓
Canadian Red Cross	-	✓	√	-	✓			√

The IFRC maintains close relations with the National Societies in the Americas region and the regional representatives of the American Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, French Red Cross, German Red Cross, Italian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Spanish Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross, among others. There has been an integrated response to emergencies in 2021 with the deployment of Emergency Response Units and emergency response personnel in hurricane and earthquake responses.

In 2022 the Americas region will engage in a pilot exercise with 3 National Societies to operationalize the IFRC's Agenda For Renewal at the country level. Colombia, Venezuela, and Honduras will be the first pilot countries for this new coordination initiative. The program strives to work with all National Society members to combine collective actions, in a methodology that promotes IFRC-wide predictability and coherence.

The IFRC engages with National Societies to explore opportunities of working together for their benefit and for local communities. The IFRC recently pioneered the first Movement Resource Mobilization Campaign with Direct TV to support the Regional COVID-19 Emergency Appeal in the Americas region. It developed a Movement Migration Regional Action Plan covering 17 countries.

Close coordination with European National Societies has allowed the IFRC to sign an agreement with the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) for the innovative Pilot Programmatic Partnership funding tool that will allow National Societies in the Americas to have a more significant impact in their communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic created a desire for new partners, particularly businesses, to support humanitarian efforts in the Americas. The IFRC will continue to coordinate key partnerships with multilateral donor organizations, government agencies and the private sector, which consider National Societies and the IFRC to be the partners of choice.



GLOBAL FLAGSHIPS

Local action - stronger National Societies

Promotion of the National Society Preparedness Framework and Preparedness for Effective Response will be the standard approach for disaster preparedness.

Going to scale on humanitarian action and risk reduction

Increase efficient and effective response to the accelerated increase of disasters and crises in the region. Strengthen capacity, knowledge, and resources to scale humanitarian operations for those impacted by crises. The IFRC will promote a better understanding of predictable situations and slow-onset crises such as population movements to support durable solutions developed together with communities.

Global cash leadership

The IFRC will support National Societies to ensure their cash and voucher assistance (CVA) responses are systematic, structured, and aligned with other regions. In 2022, between 12 and 15 National Societies will be supported to develop their cash approach.

Reducing cholera related deaths by 50 per cent

The IFRC will increase access to safe drinking water, improve water supply and basic sanitation and hygiene promotion, and establish community-based cholera surveillance. Preparedness and response teams will be active in programmes and operations, mainly in Haiti and the Dominican Republic and operational migration sites.

Global health security - epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response

Community-based programming involves working with governments to make it possible to reach those most in need with activities that include providing educational material, PPEs, and psychosocial support, and transport for communities to reach mobile clinics and vaccination centres. Communication materials will be developed to support community needs and the work of National Societies in the region.

CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs **740.000**

People to be reached **267,573**



The Americas region is experiencing an increase in extreme climate events, including heatwaves, heavy rainfall, droughts, more frequent and intense hurricanes, ocean acidification and sea level rises.

It has become urgent for the IFRC to escalate actions to increase joint efforts to build resilience to climate change's ever-growing and unavoidable impacts. It has identified three areas for priority action in the Americas. These include improving knowledge and advocacy, undergoing an internal green transformation, and generating community resilience.

Multiple hazards affect communities in the region simultaneously, such as the Hurricanes Eta and lota in Central America, the recent Eruption of La Soufriere in the Caribbean overlapping with the impact of the 2021 Hurricane Season, and the earthquake in Haiti that was soon followed by tropical storms. The IFRC's primary focus is to reduce the humanitarian impact of climate and environmental crises and support National Societies with climate adaptation and mitigation.

Information saves lives. Science-based decision-making processes have the potential to multiply the positive effects of preparedness actions by increasing the capacity to respond and making our resources readily available where they are needed the most. In 2022, with the support of programmes and operations climate-smart by 2025. It will co-lead new capacity strengthening initiatives across the Americas for climate and environmental actions that are simple, smart, inclusive, and scalable. This includes mainstreaming nature-based solutions into the network's activities.

⇔ SUPPORT

- Identify and participate in localized climate change risk mitigation initiatives and utilize community intelligence to inform appropriate activities.
- Promote regional initiatives aimed at bridging the gap between disaster planning and environmental management to develop community resilience.
- Integrate multi-hazard preparedness, climate-smart programming, community-based resilience considerations across emergency operations and programmes.



9,691,101

people in the Americas affected by severe weather events from start of COVID-19 pandemic to August 2021



57%

of world's remaining primary forests in Latin America and Caribbean, containing 40-50% of world's biodiversity.



>27%

of Latin America and the Caribbean people live in coastal areas, with an estimated 6–8% living in areas that are at high or very high risk of being affected by coastal hazards.

EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs **3.5 million**

People to be reached **1,110,000**



The effects of the socio-economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic reached all countries and income groups in the Americas. However, the detrimental consequences have been most acute where there is the lowest capacity to implement social assistance programs and in areas that depend on tourism or the export of raw materials.

The breadth of crises in the region means that no one organization can respond alone. The COVID-19 pandemic has affirmed the importance of strategic alliances at local and regional levels. The IFRC will secure interagency agreements to strengthen National Societies preparedness and local response capacity. It will pay particular attention to integrating National Society development activities in Central and South America and the Caribbean.

The region's livelihoods support will focus on developing micro-enterprises and seed capital funds to prevent the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the livelihoods of the most vulnerable people. For this reason, an online business plan course and an online tutorial for using the *Atlas Ready for Business* app are currently being developed.

To prepare for the hurricane season, the IFRC will work with National Societies to revise contingency plans and align response strategies. It will support the pre-positioning of household items in National Societies and offer them staff and volunteer training to increase preparedness and response times. The IFRC will develop National Societies' shelter and settlement emergency response, recovery and resilience capacities by supporting the implementation of the 2021–2025 Shelter & Settlements Roadmap and the integration of shelter considerations into national plans.

The IFRC will focus on supporting anticipatory action in Latin America. Seven countries have at least one Early Action Protocol (EAP) financed and approved by the Forecast-based Action (FbA) financial mechanism, with support from the Climate Centre.

⇔ SUPPORT

- Develop interagency agreements to strengthen National Society preparedness and local response capacity.
- Implement the 2021–2025 Shelter & Settlements Roadmap in the Americas so that National Societies can develop a substantial shelter and settlement capacity.



289 million

people affected by 2,031 disasters in Latin America and the Caribbean between 2000 and 2020



4.5 million

people affected by Category 4 Hurricanes Eta and lota in Central America in 2020



1.5 million

new displacements driven by disasters in the Central American region in 2020

GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

2.4 million

People to be reached 1,169,400



The COVID-19 pandemic has claimed more than 2.2 million lives in the Americas region where it has also exposed and increased inequalities. It has been particularly challenging to implement COVID-19 prevention measures due to the lack of health information, reduced access to healthcare, and living or working conditions that make it difficult to maintain distance or isolate suspected cases. Children and young people have also suffered from the pandemic, which has strongly influenced the three leading causes of death among adolescents and young people in the Americas: interpersonal violence, road injuries, and self-harm. The IFRC is responding through its Global Emergency Appeal.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the IFRC will prioritize preparing for future health crises. It will support National Societies in engaging in public health emergency and epidemic and pandemic preparedness platforms and responding at national and local levels. To ensure adequate response to future health crises, the IFRC will support the training of National Society staff in preparedness and response planning for public health and pandemics and epidemic emergencies.

There are persistent difficulties for some communities to access antiretroviral (ARV) treatments in the Americas region and, for some communities, tuberculosis is also prevalent. Vector-borne diseases, especially Dengue, Chikungunya and Zika, continue to pose a threat, despite advances in improving clinical and laboratory diagnosis, epidemiological surveillance, and control of mosquito populations to prevent disease transmission. Today, these three diseases are present in all countries in the region, while up to eight other vector-borne diseases, including malaria, Chagas disease, leishmaniasis and yellow fever, are present in some countries.

The IFRC will prioritize health, water, sanitation and adequate living conditions in 2022 by supporting National Societies to expand the scale and quality of their services at the community level in emergency and non-emergency settings.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, mental health disorders are a significant public health problem. Substance use, neurological disorders, and suicide are among the leading causes of disability and death. In 2022, the IFRC will increase access to mental health and psychosocial support services, following the *International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement policy on addressing mental health and psychosocial needs* through task-shifting and further development of scalable and evidence-based interventions.



3/4

people in Latin America and the Caribbean had not been vaccinated against COVID-19 as of September 2021

- Increase integrated community-based health, care and first aid.
- Expand water, sanitation, and hygiene programmes.
- Invest in epidemic and pandemic preparedness.
- Empower local actors, networks and volunteers as community-based responders.



MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs 800,000

People to be reached 222,500



The Americas region has diverse and complex migratory flows. The COVID-19 pandemic and recent disaster events have all increased the movement of people in the region. Lack of access to essential services and protection, poor livelihoods and health, and continuous internal political changes in transit, origin, and destination countries have also been factors.

Central America is currently recognized as one of the migratory corridors for transcontinental migrants, who enter the Americas through South America and travel through the Darien jungle in Panama, through Central American countries, to Mexico and the United States. This corridor is full of risks to migrants, making them even more vulnerable.

Migrating people are exposed to high health and protection risks. They face coercion, exploitation, abuse, challenges compounded by inadequate support and limited access to essential services at all stages of their journey. To meet the immediate needs of everyone exposed to physical or psychological danger during their journey and identify people with specific needs, the IFRC will promote the standardization and expansion of Humanitarian Service Points, develop guidance, and support resource mobilization. It will assist National Societies to create new services and strengthen existing ones, including establishing mechanisms to safeguard and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse.

It is a priority for the IFRC to ensure that all people who migrate and are displaced are safe, treated humanely and with dignity, and have the assistance and protection support they need. To achieve this, the IFRC will dedicate resources to enhancing the capacity of National Societies to understand migration dynamics in their contexts. It will also support them to deliver appropriate humanitarian services to migrants, displaced people and those impacted by migration and displacement, including families who stay behind.



4.5 million

people displaced bv disasters in the Americas in 2020



people internally displaced because of violence within the northern countries of **Central America**

- Provide technical assistance to National Societies that provide shelter assistance and services explicitly targeting migrants.
- Develop a regional communication strategy for the Movement's advocacy in support of migrants' and displaced persons' access to essential public services.
- Research and pilot a new Early Warning mechanism to identify and trigger early action.
- Collect and analyse community perceptions and concerns relating to migrants, displaced persons, and host communities.



VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs **420,000**

People to be reached **96,650**



The latest global study on homicide conducted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) showed that the Americas region has the highest homicide rate among victims aged 0–19 years old, and that male adolescents aged 18–19 years old and girls aged 0–9 years old are at greater risk. There is also a femicide emergency in the region, aggravated by lockdown measures, physical distancing, and mobility restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Prevention measures to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus left women more isolated from their support networks and created additional barriers to accessing essential services.

Trafficking is a priority protection need in the Americas. According to the last Global Report on Trafficking, most Latin American and Caribbean victims are women, while one in four detected victims are men. In Central America and the Caribbean, females are identified primarily as offenders, while in South America, men represent two-thirds of those investigated, arrested, prosecuted, and convicted as traffickers. Most detected victims are trafficked for sexual exploitation, while more than one third are trafficked for forced labour.

The IFRC's work in the region in 2022 will focus on the capacity development of National Societies to scale-up actions related to the prevention and response of gender-based violence and trafficking. It will focus on integrating work on shelter, disaster risk reduction, community engagement and accountability and WASH. Its technical support will focus on internal safeguarding, such as preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and child safeguarding.

The IFRC encourages gender equity in its leadership of emergency operations. Thanks to the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), the Gender Equity program brings transformative change to the IFRC and its members in the Americas. It will also support the implementation of child-friendly spaces in emergencies and provide training opportunities for child protection standards.



4,640

cases of femicide in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in 2019²

2 ECLAC's Gender Equality Observatory for Latin America and the Caribbean

- Strengthen the capacities of youth volunteers as Protection, Gender, and Inclusion Champions.
- Develop and implement systems for Protection, Gender, and Inclusion data collection and analysis.
- Roll-out the IFRC's Child Safeguarding Policy and implement Child-Friendly Spaces in emergencies.
- Establish a regional roadmap for education in emergencies.
- Implement the "Gender-based Violence basic Course".



ENABLER 1 - ENGAGED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1,470,000

As emphasized by the IFRC's Strategy 2030, the IFRC network must rapidly modernize to tackle the most critical humanitarian challenges. It will effectively use its voice and programmes and upgrade its working methods to keep pace. This will involve embracing digital technologies, building on its auxiliary role to become the partner of choice, and working better together as a network.

In 2022, the IFRC will develop an innovation strategy for the Americas region to promote learning and knowledge sharing through research, development and experimentation. It will create a digital innovation hub for the National Societies that supports the use of emerging technologies, creates a network with external partners for research and boosts the exchange of knowledge in the humanitarian tech field to mobilize support for the needs and aspirations of vulnerable communities.

Youth and volunteers are critical to the work of the IFRC and National Societies in the Americas region. The IFRC will provide technical support to National Societies working with governments to develop national volunteering or youth policies to empower their work. Results from the Interamerican Centre for Volunteering Development's (ICVD) Volunteering Labs that test new initiatives on volunteering will also be shared with all National Societies on an online platform to improve their learning and outcomes.

TARGETS

- National Societies show progress in digital transformation according to the digital maturity model outlined in the IFRC Digital Transformation Strategy.
- National Societies increase their engagement in government-led platforms and thereby actively participate in achieving humanitarian or development goals .

⇔ SUPPORT

- Provide technical support to National Societies that are working with governments to develop national policies related to volunteering or youth.
- Design an Innovation Strategy for the region to promote learning and knowledge sharing.
- Strengthen the National Societies in their Digital Transformation journey.
- Create a digital innovation hub that supports the use of emerging technology.
- National Societies increase their engagement in government-led platforms and thereby actively participate in achieving humanitarian or development goals.



ENABLER 2 – ACCOUNTABLE

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

2,280,000

The IFRC will put a stronger emphasis on eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy, increasing financial resources to reach more people in need, becoming more efficient and accountable, and being the partner of choice.

The IFRC prioritizes the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse across all its work. In 2022, it will support National Societies to develop and implement their policies on the prevention of sexual abuse and child protection and safeguarding policies.

Managing relationships with all types of donors will be a priority for the IFRC. It will maintain, nurture, and expand those relationships to become the partner of choice across the Americas. The IFRC will develop and support resource mobilization strategies and plans to attract new partners and potential new funding sources for National Society programming as a priority.

The IFRC will provide technical support to the National Societies to reinforce their partnerships, resource mobilization, financial sustainability and accountability processes. It has developed a Fundraising Toolkit for Emergencies to support National Societies' fundraising efforts for emergencies. It will continue to facilitate peer-to-peer exchange and support and disseminate the toolkit to National Societies, encouraging them to populate it with valuable materials.

The IFRC will also work with National Societies to ensure feedback mechanisms are linked to clear referral systems and ensure linkages between reporting and feedback mechanisms as part of regular programmes.

TARGETS

- · National Societies have a Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy and action plan to enforce prevention and support survivors.
- National Societies have a functioning data management system.
- National Societies submit an externally audited financial statement to the IFRC.
- National Societies have a feedback mechanism across programmes and services.

SUPPORT

- Communicate relevant information on IFRC response actions in emergencies and long-term programming plans to partners, donors and stakeholders.
- Support National Societies to have an online donation platform ready for fundraising campaigns for future emergencies.
- Develop Resource Mobilization Strategies and Plans to attract new partners and gain access to new sources of funding.
- Support National Societies to develop and implement their policies on the prevention of sexual abuse and exploitation by humanitarian staff and volunteers.



ENABLER 3 – TRUSTED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1,340,000

The IFRC actively listens and responds to the needs of its members while recognizing the collective value of the organization. Leadership teams address humanitarian and development issues at local and national levels through cooperation and coordination.

The IFRC will continue to ensure National Societies have an enabling environment for their work in 2022, including through the development of new or revised statutes. It will identify the latest revision of National Society statutes and work with the ICRC to establish a roadmap for the revision of statutes.

The IFRC will also continue to work closely with National Societies on their financial sustainability. It will coordinate the diversification of income sources and income-generating activities through information sharing. It will hold innovation labs connected to the University of the West Indies to explore complex fundraising issues for Caribbean National Societies.

TARGETS

- · National Societies have revised statutes.
- National Societies have strengthened integrity and reputational risk mechanisms.
- · National Societies have youth engagement strategies.
- National Societies have Community Engagement and Accountability in their policies, operations, and procedures.

- Support National Societies in implementing the recommendations after the revision of the statutes.
- Identify the best practices in resource mobilization in the region to be shared locally, regionally and globally.
- Strengthen finance teams with training that enables them to develop, complement and update their financial management skills and knowledge.
- Advise and support National Societies in establishing fundraising mechanisms.



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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