

# 2022



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# CENTRAL AMERICA

## IFRC CLUSTER PLAN

2022 funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**7.8 million**

As part of a total Federation-wide funding requirement in Swiss franc **26.1 million\***



National Societies

**6**



National Society Staff

**2,381**



National Society Volunteers

**14,880**



People to be reached

**80,000**

This document details the IFRC's support in areas agreed upon with the relevant National Society. The IFRC seeks resources to carry out this plan, listed here as funding requirements. For information on the IFRC's emergency operations, please visit [ifrc.org/appeals](https://www.ifrc.org/appeals).

\* Total for IFRC and National Societies working internationally. Not including the country National Society's funding requirements.



El Salvador © Cruz Roja Salvadoreña

## SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

### Population

**50 million**

### Human Development Index Ranking

<b>Guatemala – 127</b>	<b>Honduras – 132</b>	<b>Costa Rica – 62</b>
<b>El Salvador – 124</b>	<b>Nicaragua – 128</b>	<b>Panama – 57</b>

### Vulnerability to disasters

<b>Poverty</b>	<b>Climate change</b>	<b>Violence</b>	<b>Migration</b>	<b>Floods</b>	<b>Droughts</b>

Central American countries are affected by a series of humanitarian challenges, exacerbated by vulnerabilities including high rates of poverty and gender-based violence, unemployment, recurrent climate crises, limited access to health and education services, and increased population movement.

In Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, tropical storms, hurricanes, and flooding contribute to an increase in acute food insecurity for people who have experienced prolonged droughts in preceding years. In November 2020, category 4 Hurricanes Eta and Iota affected more than 8.3 million people in northern and eastern Guatemala, northern Honduras, and north-eastern Nicaragua. The hurricanes caused large-scale crop and infrastructure damage, destroyed food reserves and raised food prices in households in these areas had already suffering from several years of low rainfall and reduced incomes due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Drought, poverty, and a deteriorating security environment have driven around 470,000 people from Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras to seek refuge abroad. A further 319,000 people in El Salvador and Honduras are internally displaced as of July 2020. Since April 2018, more than 102,000 Nicaraguans have also sought refuge internationally.



Guatemala © Guatemalan Red Cross

## ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES

### Guatemalan Red Cross Society

The Guatemalan Red Cross Society implements actions in disaster management, health in emergencies, WASH, disaster risk reduction, climate change and environmental degradation, social inclusion, violence prevention, and migration. It continues to implement an Organizational Development Improvement Plan based on the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) executed in 2019. The National Society has also executed Branch Organizational Capacity Assessments (BOCA) in 20 delegations and is designing an action plan based on these findings.

### Salvadoran Red Cross Society

The Salvadoran Red Cross Society social inclusion programme plays a vital role in helping staff and volunteers to raise awareness of violence and find ways to prevent it. In 2020, the National Society designed a migration strategy with support from the IFRC, Partner National Societies, and the ICRC.

The Salvadoran Red Cross Society implements initiatives to safeguard the security and safety of its volunteers and strengthen branch development, leadership, and sustainability.

### Honduran Red Cross Society

The Honduran Red Cross Society has made significant efforts to strengthen its leadership and expand its programme portfolio. It implements community-based programmes related to social inclusion, violence prevention, community-based health and first aid, migration, and disaster risk reduction. Honduran Red Cross Society is currently engaged in developing its environmental sustainability strategy and has committed to the Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations.

### Nicaraguan Red Cross Society

The Nicaraguan Red Cross has completed its initial OCAC and is currently preparing for the second phase. In addition, it has also improved the financial systems and procedures that support its the implementation of its programme implementation. The National Society's capacities in disaster risk reduction, disaster management, and health provide good opportunities to strengthen humanitarian aid at a national level.

### Costa Rican Red Cross Society

The Costa Rican Red Cross Society delivers activities on social inclusion, migration, disaster risk reduction and disaster management, mental health and psychosocial support, and climate change. Costa Rican Red Cross has made significant advances towards implementing environmental sustainability in its operations.

### Red Cross Society of Panama

The Red Cross Society of Panama has undergone several reforms to improve its disaster risk management while diversifying its humanitarian action. In the last year, it has responded to emergencies with an integrated approach, providing humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people, focusing on the humanitarian situation in Darien, communities affected by disasters triggered by natural hazards, and the ongoing COVID-19 response.



Honduras © Cruz Roja Hondureña

## MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Enablers
American Red Cross	✓	✓		✓		✓
Canadian Red Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
German Red Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Italian Red Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Norwegian Red Cross			✓			✓
Spanish Red Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Swedish Red Cross				✓		
Swiss Red Cross	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

The ICRC provides support to National Societies to deliver activities related to the Safer Access Framework, operational communication, and restoring family links services for migrants and people on the move. Tripartite Coordination Agreements are currently in place in El Salvador, Panama, and Honduras.



Guatemala © Maynor Mijangos / Guatemalan Red Cross

## GLOBAL FLAGSHIPS

### **Local action – stronger National Societies**

The IFRC will support National Societies to strengthen their capacities and deliver relevant and sustainable programmes and services to the most vulnerable and hard to reach people.

### **Going to scale on humanitarian action and risk reduction**

In 2022, the IFRC will enhance its support to National Societies by using the preparedness for effective response common approach to strengthen national and regional response systems. This will also contribute to scaling up humanitarian action and risk reduction within these National Societies and their communities.

### **DREF including anticipatory funding to triple by 2025**

The IFRC will support National Societies to increase their response to small and medium scale disasters and crises through disaster relief emergency funds. This includes support for applications to DREF to enhance learning and improvements for future applications.

### **Global cash leadership**

In 2022, National Societies will set a basis for cash readiness and increase the use of cash and voucher assistance in their responses to disasters and crises. This will help National Societies in Central America position themselves as essential responders in their countries and more broadly in the region.

### **Global health security – epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response**

Response to the COVID-19 pandemic, will continue to include vaccination programmes, mental health and psychosocial support services, risk communication, community engagement and livelihood support.



Guatemala © IFRC

# CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**930,000**

People to be reached

**10,180**



Central America is vulnerable to severe weather events and natural hazards caused by climate change, including rising temperatures and sea levels that lead to increased risk of coastal flooding and erosion and more extreme tropical storms and rainfall. These risks pose unique adaptation and risk management challenges for National Societies in Central America.

Communities are also vulnerable to multiple socio-economic challenges that limit their ability to cope with natural hazards and disease outbreaks. In 2022, the IFRC will support National Societies to strengthen their community adaptation and resilience in emergencies. It will also support National Societies to improve the environmental outcomes of operations, ensuring that precious natural resources are used sustainably.

The IFRC will continue to bridge the gap between disaster planning and environmental management in 2022 by supporting National Societies to raise awareness and understanding of climate change and its impact. This work will contribute to the IFRC's Strategy 2030, which will address the climate and environmental crisis as one of five main global humanitarian challenges. The IFRC will support National Societies to increase knowledge and advocacy, undergo a green transformation, and generate community resilience.

The IFRC has also developed the Regional Roadmap on Climate Change and Environment-Oriented Actions for Latin America and the Caribbean (2021–2023), a three-year plan that summarizes the objectives, milestones, and actions that the IFRC and National Societies will undertake in the next two years. It is a systematic strategy to reach a more sustainable, resilient future through urgent action to address the climate crisis.

## TARGETS

- 6 National Societies actively contribute to global commitments on climate and environmental crises.
- 6 National Societies create awareness and understanding of the climate and environmental crises.



**2nd**

most vulnerable region in the world  
to climate risks is Central America

## SUPPORT

- Scale up early action and forecast-based financing.
- Develop a resource mobilization strategy to scale up environmental initiatives.
- Integrate climate and environmental factors in emergency operations.



Costa Rica © IFRC

## EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**1.2 million**

People to be reached

**32,000**



Storms affecting Central America are becoming increasingly powerful, producing heavier rainfall and higher storm surges due to climate change. The more frequent and intense the storms are in the region, the less time for recovery between them. Droughts are also prevalent natural disasters in the region, affecting the largest number of people in Central America than in the previous 20 years.

Central America is situated within the 'Ring of Fire' characterized by active volcanoes and earthquakes. The region is one of the highest risk areas for earthquakes due to its location within five tectonic boundaries.

Additionally, crises related to socio-political tensions and civil unrest are an ongoing threat for countries in Central America.

In 2022, the IFRC will support National Societies to integrate multi-hazard preparedness, climate-smart programming, and community-based resilience across their operations. It will focus on enhancing the capacities of National Societies to respond to emergencies and mitigating the adverse environmental impact of such activities. The IFRC will support National Societies to integrate environmental considerations into their preparedness and response plans.

The IFRC will also support the scale-up of early warning and forecast-based financing models within National Societies in Central America and the development of National Early Action Protocols to be submitted for disaster relief emergency fund approval.



**1.5 million**

people displaced in Central America by disasters including Hurricanes Eta and Iota in 2020



**3.5 million** people are food insecure in Guatemala

**3.3 million** people are food insecure in Honduras

### TARGETS

- 6 National Societies will increase their preparedness and response.
- 2 National Societies will set up community feedback systems.
- 1 National Society will deliver cash and voucher assistance.

### SUPPORT

- Organize drills that include an early warning mechanism.
- Support initiatives to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts caused by humanitarian response.
- Analyse the progress made within the preparedness for effective response roadmap.



# GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**980,000**

People to be reached  
**18,000**



People in Central America face several socio-economic, political, and climate-related challenges that affect their mental health. High rates of violence increase stress and fear in vulnerable communities. Social exclusion is also an issue, particularly for indigenous populations which often struggle to access the health services they need.

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the prevalence of mental health conditions in Central America, primarily due to the effects of prolonged isolation and pandemic fatigue. In countries where vaccination rates are low and COVID-19 cases fluctuate, overworked and exhausted health workers are facing significant physical and emotional burdens. Limited accessibility to vaccines for vulnerable communities continues to halt progress, particularly in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nicaragua.

In 2022, the IFRC will support National Societies to develop mental health and psychosocial support strategies in line with the 2020-2023 roadmap, including facilitating peer-to-peer learning on remote mental health services for COVID-19 response. The IFRC will also support National Societies to develop a mental health and psychosocial support care system for their volunteers and staff.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of promoting good hygiene practices in households, schools, and healthcare facilities. To continue this vital work in 2022, the IFRC will support National Societies to strengthen their water, sanitation and hygiene activities through resource mobilization and water safety plans.

## TARGETS

- 3 National Societies will develop mental health and psychosocial support strategies.
- 1 National Society will implement perception surveys on COVID 19.
- 3 National Societies will strengthen their WASH programming.



**18.7%**

of water in Honduras is reported as free from contaminants



**87.2%**

access to piped water in Central America

## SUPPORT

- Strengthen health promotion, community engagement, and social mobilization to tackle vaccine hesitancy.
- Develop and include mental health and psychosocial support in National Society emergency response plans.
- Develop a behaviour change communication approach for water, sanitation, and hygiene.





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## MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**3.1 million**

People to be reached  
**18,000**



Migratory flows in Central America vary according to political, socio-economic, and environmental factors.

Migrant needs are changing, particularly as the numbers include more children, either alone or in family groups. The protection of children is a major priority for the IFRC network, as are the provision of healthcare for pregnant and lactating women and basic WASH services for all migrants.

In 2022, the IFRC will support National Societies to provide effective assistance to migrants in transit, including health and WASH services, first aid, psychosocial support, and COVID-19 prevention and vaccination awareness. Three National Societies in the region will also establish new Humanitarian Service Points to deliver essential services to people on the move, with support from the IFRC. Additionally, the IFRC will support National Societies to expand the coverage of their migration programmes to the North Triangle in Central America, following the Humanitarian Service Points model.

### 🎯 TARGETS

- 3 National Societies supported to establish mobile Humanitarian Service Points.
- 60% of people served through Humanitarian Service Points in Guatemala and Panama are consulted through CEA tools.



**99,894**

people have, as of October 2021, been returned from the United States to their countries of origin, 18% of them children

### ➡ SUPPORT

- Expand coverage of services for migrants following the Humanitarian Service Point model.
- Enhance information management and data collection to understand migrant needs.
- Roll out the Migration Action Plan for the Americas.



**118,037**

people (23% children) traveled irregularly across the Darien area (January–October 2021), according to Panamanian authorities



Guatemala © Marko Kocic / IFRC

## VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs  
**160,000**

People to be reached  
**1,850**



Countries in Central America have some of the highest rates of violence and the lowest rates of social inclusion, triggering mass unemployment, displacement, exclusion, and migration in many areas. Gender-based violence has increased in Central America, despite a decrease in other forms of violence across the region. Interpersonal violence has also affected school settings, triggering protection risks for children and young people.

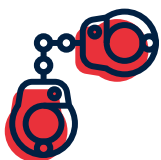
The responses to the COVID-19 crisis and Hurricanes Eta and Iota have prompted National Societies to increase their focus on protection and inclusion, highlighting the need for the IFRC to ensure that National Societies are committed to the values, protection, gender, and inclusion approach in all areas of their programming. Population movement programmes and operations in the Northern Triangle and Panama have provided a clearer picture of the need to maintain inclusion and protection approaches in National Society activities.

The IFRC will also provide National Societies with technical and strategic support in 2022. This will enable National Societies to engage indigenous populations, people with disabilities, and displaced and migrant communities in their work.



**32%**

of heads of household are female in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama and Nicaragua and 20.7% in Guatemala (Inter-American Development Bank, 2016)



**3,496**

homicides, an average of approximately 10 murders per day



**35%**

of people murdered in Honduras in 2020 were women

### TARGETS

- 3 microprojects with a focus on protection, social inclusion and violence prevention implemented in 3 countries.
- 3 National Societies have socialization sessions on Anticipatory Action and Child Protection.
- 6 National Societies have virtual trainings on SGBV and human trafficking for emergency personnel.

### SUPPORT

- Develop and implement youth-led initiatives.
- Mainstream protection, gender, and inclusion in all Emergency appeals, DREFs and emergency plans of action.
- Ensure inclusive feedback mechanisms.



Guatemala © IFRC

## ENABLER 1 – ENGAGED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**310,000**

The IFRC 2022 volunteering and youth development plan will mobilize new approaches to strengthen youth development, engagement, participation and recognition of volunteers. With IFRC support, National Societies in Central America will continue to improve and evolve volunteering management and youth engagement as the needs of communities change. This involves the implementation of the Volunteering Development Framework and the use of the services provided by the Interamerican Centre for Volunteering Development (ICVD).

The IFRC continues to strengthen its migration work in coordination with the ICRC and other Partner National Societies, including the Spanish Red Cross and Swiss Red Cross Societies. Alongside its efforts to achieve a Federation-wide approach to migration by 2023, the IFRC will also lead the development of a coordinated response in Central America, establishing strong communication mechanisms between National Societies in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia.

The IFRC will strengthen its partnership with the Coordination Centre for Disaster Prevention in Central America and the Dominican Republic in 2022, to enhance regional coordination and learning through training and knowledge sharing. It will also continue to participate in National Humanitarian Networks and Sectorial Platforms to convey the IFRC perspective on humanitarian issues.

The IFRC will also strengthen its relationship with all UN emergency clusters in 2022. The IFRC will support the National Society in Honduras to implement the pilot country-level partnering guide developed by the IFRC and UNICEF to increase the collective impact of humanitarian assistance to meet the needs of vulnerable communities.

### TARGETS

- 4 National Societies develop and/or implement a strategy for strengthening their auxiliary role.
- At least 2 National Societies show progression on digital transformation according to the IFRC digital transformation strategy.
- All 6 National Societies offer a digital volunteering platform and have volunteers linked through a digital system.

### SUPPORT

- Implement the Volunteering Development Framework in all National Societies.
- All National Societies may benefit from the services of the Interamerican Centre for Volunteering Development (ICVD).
- Strengthen the auxiliary role of National Societies in laws and policies.
- Develop a baseline study on volunteering and youth development.
- Strengthen the Digital Transformation team in Central America to support National Society digital projects.



## ENABLER 2 – ACCOUNTABLE

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**440,000**

In 2022, the IFRC will support National Societies to strengthen their internal capacities for the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and community engagement and accountability (CEA). The IFRC will also provide technical support to National Societies to develop their PSEA frameworks.

The IFRC will provide staff training to mitigate fraud and corruption, sexual harassment, exploitation, and abuse, and design a crisis response protocol in 2022.

A “fund transfer” modality (Working with Project Partners (WWPP) has been implemented in Costa Rican Red Cross and Salvadoran Red Cross. This is a risk-based modality to improve speed and effectiveness of programme implementation. Honduran Red Cross and Guatemalan Red Cross are in the evaluation process to transit to this modality of work.

The IFRC will continue to develop communication materials and disseminate them among donors and partners to strengthen accountability and increase the visibility of its work. The IFRC will also provide regular technical support to National Societies to strengthen resource mobilization, financial sustainability, and accountability processes.

The IFRC will support National Societies to establish monitoring and evaluation mechanisms and develop adequate tools to collect information and evaluate their operations. The IFRC will encourage National Societies to comply with Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System (FDRS) and the use of the GO platform.

### **TARGETS**

- 3 National Societies staff and volunteer capacities in PMER strengthened.
- 2 National Societies develop or implement PSEA policies.
- 2 more National Societies of Central America move to a Cash Transfer working modality (WWPP) with IFRC.

### **SUPPORT**

- IFRC management donor partnership and engagement with partners.
- Provide technical support to develop PSEA frameworks.
- Strengthen accountability and increase the visibility of National Society.
- Strengthen National Society capacities in planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting (PMER).



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## ENABLER 3 – TRUSTED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

**730,000**

National Society Development continues to be a priority for the IFRC in Central America. It will work with National Societies to review and evaluate their strategic and operational plans in 2022, identifying best practices and implementing actions to support their development as humanitarian agencies. The IFRC will continue to coordinate with Movement partners to achieve the priorities outlined in National Society strategic plans.

To ensure the financial sustainability of National Societies, the IFRC will support the development of National Society capacities for resource mobilization, business model planning and financial management.

In 2022, the IFRC will strengthen its coordination mechanism based on successful emergency responses to Hurricanes Eta and Iota and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following its global standards, the IFRC will support all six National Societies to design and implement the CEA Minimum Commitments roadmap. It will also provide technical advice and support to the National Society in Nicaragua.

### 🎯 TARGETS

- 4 National Societies integrate CEA into policy documents, guidance, tools, and plans.
- 3 National Societies achieve greater financial sustainability.
- 2 National Societies strengthen volunteer management system.

### ➡ SUPPORT

- Implement regional and national strategies for strengthening volunteering and youth development.
- Develop leadership skills and leadership programmes across the region.
- Provide technical support and promote peer to peer exchanges to increase National Society capacities on financial sustainability.
- Expand and strengthen the CEA community of practice and capacity-building initiatives.



**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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