

2022



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VENEZUELA

IFRC COUNTRY PLAN

2022 funding requirement in Swiss francs

15 million



National Society
branches

24



National Society
staff

1,600



National Society
volunteers

4,000



People to be reached

330,000

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).



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SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

Population

28 million

Human Development Index Ranking

113

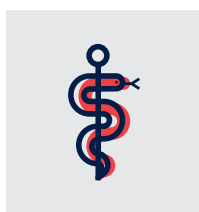
Vulnerability to disasters



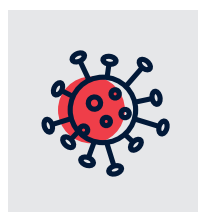
Migration



Poverty



Health



COVID-19

Deterioration in different sectors, and prolonged socio-economic instability have exacerbated humanitarian needs in Venezuela, especially in the public and private health system due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Confinement measures have negatively impacted the economy, employment, and education. These measures have increased the inequality gap resulted in fuel shortages, and reduced peoples' ability to satisfy basic needs.

Venezuela has experienced hyperinflation for three consecutive years and a reduction in employment rates since 2017. The Gross Domestic Product has declined by more than 74 per cent since 2014 and the poverty rate is 94.2 per cent.

By the last quarter of 2021, approximately 5.6 million people had emigrated from Venezuela. Migration flows from Venezuela continue, while the number of people returning has decreased as quarantine measures were lifted in other countries. Migratory conditions have deteriorated, especially for women and children who are exposed to increasing protection risks with land borders closures during the pandemic forcing them to use informal routes.



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ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY

The Venezuelan Red Cross has fulfilled its humanitarian mandate for 126 years. After the public health system, it is considered the largest health network in Venezuela, with eight hospitals and 34 outpatient clinics. The National Society has 4,000 volunteers and over 1,600 staff, including medical personnel and people specially trained in psychosocial support, livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, social inclusion, water, sanitation, and hygiene. The National Society is known throughout the country for providing health care and emergency response to the most vulnerable communities, despite the country's unique challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic impacts.

The National Society works with communities to design and implement participatory community resilience actions. It also plays a vital role as a first responder to assist communities in disasters and emergency response in coordination with local disaster management authorities. It has earned the trust of communities, enabling its access to vulnerable people who require humanitarian assistance. The National Society works with local authorities and other humanitarian partners in line with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement Fundamental Principles, emphasizing neutrality, impartiality, and independence.

In addition to various humanitarian programmes and operations, the National Society, with IFRC support, has implemented two emergency operations: the Health Emergency Appeal that ended in July 2021 and the current COVID-19 Emergency Appeal operation as part of the Americas COVID-19 operation and the IFRC global emergency appeal operation.

As an auxiliary to public authorities, the National Society coordinates its activities with different State bodies. It also works closely with United Nations agencies, as well as other international and non-profit organizations. This Operational Plan 2022 is aligned with the strategic objectives in the National Strategic Plan 2021–2026, which establishes the main goals for the next five years.

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATION AND MOVEMENT FOOTPRINT

Name of Partner National Society	Climate	Crises	Health	Migration	Inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
ICRC		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

The Movement Coordination jointly supports the National Society to implement actions in the field, avoid duplication of efforts, and maintain complementarity to maximize resources and Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation measures in large emergencies and preparedness. The Seville Agreement and Supplementary measures continue to be promoted within Venezuela.

Following the signature of the Legal Status Agreement with the Government of Venezuela on 31 January 2020, the IFRC has consolidated its Country Delegation, which has ten international delegates, including the Head of Delegation, and fifteen national staff. IFRC activities are focused on supporting National Society-led interventions and facilitating Movement Coordination.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has been present in the country since 2001 following its Headquarters Agreement with the Government of Venezuela. With more than 140 staff, including mobile and permanent, the ICRC has a delegation in Caracas and two offices in the field at San Cristóbal and Bolívar. Its work has been focused on protection and prevention approaches to armed violence, health and sanitation interventions about the population movement (mainly first aid services and referrals to health centres and hospitals), restoring family links services and detainees. The ICRC supports the National Society in logistics, visibility, and communication and provides training in the Safer Access Framework and other areas of expertise.

Since 2019, the German Red Cross has provided multilateral and bilateral support to the National Society in primary health care and health in emergencies. Negotiations are currently underway for its establishment in the country.

The IFRC and the National Society are currently implementing an ECHO-funded project, in coordination with the German Red Cross, to improve health and protection services in Apure, Táchira and Zulia.

The IFRC in Venezuela coordinates with the Humanitarian Country Team, which is comprised of United Nations agencies and international Non-Governmental Organizations. The role of the IFRC contributes to strengthening the actions focused on the humanitarian needs present in the country. Additionally, its participation in different clusters, particularly the health cluster, has improved the coordination spaces to advocate and respond to the most vulnerable. The IFRC in Venezuela will continue working with important stakeholders and donors to implement actions aligned to the Movement's Fundamental Principles and Strategy 2030.



GLOBAL FLAGSHIPS

Local action – stronger National Societies

In line with Strategy 2030, the IFRC will continue supporting the National Society Development through various programmes and operations, empowering its Governing Board, Management Team, volunteers and staff. A specific Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) will be developed to ensure that the Renewal Agenda is aligned at the country level.

Going to scale on humanitarian action and risk reduction

The IFRC will prioritize strengthening the National Society's volunteers and staff through their programmes and operations, increasing response capacities, and promoting community resilience.

Reduce cholera related deaths by 50%

The IFRC and the National Society will carry out activities in hygiene promotion, water-borne disease prevention, and improve access to safe water.

Global health security – epidemic-pandemic preparedness and response

The IFRC and the National Society will continue to respond to the impact of COVID-19 in Venezuela. Emphasizing the development of contingency plans for possible events that may affect the country, including activities that facilitate the recovery of the most at-risk populations.



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CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CRISES

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
0

People to be reached
10,000



Venezuela has a high probability of being affected by natural disasters that have become more intense over the last few years. In 2021, there were heavy rains in the states of Mérida, Táchira, Bolívar, Apure, Zulia, Delta Amacuro, Carabobo, Yaracuy, Portuguesa, and Sucre and tropical waves hit the country, affecting approximately 54,000 people. According to the Venezuelan Meteorological Institute, the “La Niña” phenomenon will impact the country by the end of 2021 and the beginning of 2022, implying that living conditions could be severely affected. This phenomenon could disrupt the cycles of agricultural activity, damage people’s livelihoods, and diminish access to safe water due to the contamination of water sources during and after heavy rains.

Therefore, the IFRC will support the National Society to revise contingency plans and strengthen capacities, involving all branches nationwide to ensure coordinated planning and response. It will conduct awareness-raising actions at the community level to increase knowledge on climate change and build resilience in communities, focusing on the most vulnerable. The IFRC will also promote the adoption of the community engagement and accountability approach in all interventions and assessments and the creation of a behavioural change strategy regarding the climate crisis.



54,000
people affected by heavy rains
and tropical waves in 2021

➔ SUPPORT

- Raise awareness and increase knowledge of climate and environmental crises in communities.
- Create a behavioural change strategy regarding the climate crisis.



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EVOLVING CRISES AND DISASTERS

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
1.5 million

People to be reached
30,000



Venezuela's complex context has impacted the most vulnerable people, making it impossible for them to satisfy their basic needs. The inequality gaps have increased after eight years of economic contraction, high levels of informal employment, loss of purchasing power, scarcity, three years of hyperinflation, and the inability to generate fair incomes. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country in 2020. After several months of preventative actions to reduce the risks of the virus spreading, income levels and livelihoods have been severely affected especially in rural areas. These factors have contributed to reducing community resilience.

Venezuela is threatened by recurring natural hazards that exacerbate other existing difficulties. For this reason, the IFRC will continue supporting the National Society to provide humanitarian assistance to vulnerable people affected by crises and disasters, involving communities in determining the appropriate response actions for their survival and resilience. It will intensify its efforts to increase community resilience against food insecurity by strengthening livelihoods, improving nutrition levels in rural and peri-urban areas, and providing early recovery assistance to meet basic needs.

Improving the National Society's response mechanisms remains a priority for the IFRC. In 2022, the IFRC will support the National Society to implement updated Standard Operational Procedures ensuring that volunteers and staff have the necessary skills and knowledge to take appropriate actions in emergencies. It will also encourage the National Society to leverage information for decision making through timely needs assessments and support National Society staff and volunteers to be trained in damage assessments and needs analysis to promote and standardize the use of these tools.



3,621

vulnerable areas identified by the
National Risk Management System

➔ SUPPORT

- Increase the National Society's capacity to analyze and address the needs of people affected by crises and disasters.
- Implement updated Standard Operational Procedures to ensure National Society volunteers and staff have the necessary skills and knowledge to take appropriate actions in emergencies.



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GROWING GAPS IN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Funding requirement in Swiss francs
11 million

People to be reached
250,000



The response capacity of the public health system in Venezuela has been reduced by limitations to the procurement of supplies and maintenance of equipment, low health personnel salaries, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. These factors have led to a massive emigration of professionals and technical health staff and increased difficulties in accessing basic services for hospitals to operate, such as safe water and electricity. For these reasons, the IFRC will strengthen the capacities of the National Society hospitals and outpatient clinics, including the procurement of medical equipment, supplies, and medicines. It will ensure the implementation of the Hospital Safety Index, which will be applied in National Society hospitals and outpatient clinics.

Mental health issues have become more visible and critical due to the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly for people with pre-existing mental illnesses. Mental exhaustion is reported due to the uncertainty of the pandemic. Suicide rates have also increased since 2017, mostly associated with stress and depression. The IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen local mental health and psychological support capacities, including the development of psychological first aid and non-violent communication workshops. Additionally, the IFRC will offer National Society medical and nursing staff training in the use of the mental health GAP (mhGAP) intervention guidelines.

Access to water supplies has been affected by the deterioration of infrastructure, a lack of maintenance and supplies, loss of qualified personnel, and constant failure of pumping systems due to frequent power outages. In rural areas, people use wells and latrines as toilets connected to septic tanks which, in many cases, are not cleaned or maintained. Low levels of access to safe water in some communities makes adopting basic hygiene measures at home, such as handwashing and household cleaning, difficult. The IFRC will continue providing technical support for WASH related topics focusing on the National Society's hospitals and outpatient clinics and the most vulnerable communities. It will provide constant support to the National Society to improve access to safe water.



3 million
people with chronic diseases do not have access to medical treatment

➔ SUPPORT

- Deliver primary health care through community health days in vulnerable areas.
- Provide psychosocial care and psychological first aid in communities and strengthen the National Society mental health and psychosocial support capacity.
- Train communities and National Society staff in hygiene promotion and solid waste management.



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MIGRATION AND IDENTITY

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

250,000

People to be reached

30,000



Migration has had a tremendous impact on Venezuela and neighbouring countries.

Due to the economic and social effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, migration tendencies changed as Venezuelans began returning to the country. However, as most land borders closed, many migrants were forced to travel through informal routes, increasing their vulnerabilities and exposing them to additional risks, including trafficking and sexual and labour exploitation.

Migrant women are one of the most vulnerable groups as they usually lack adequate care in medical centres, including access to sexual and reproductive health and other healthcare services directly related to women, such as pregnancy care and psychosocial support. The lack of accurate information regarding the risks of travelling, especially on foot, is still a challenge. In this context, IFRC will prioritize the strengthening of the response capacities of the National Society to assist people on the move through the provision of different services and the dissemination of relevant information for migrants.

Following the Border Comprehensive Strategy the IFRC interventions will focus on providing primary health care, protection, mental health and psychological support, and water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion to the migrant population. The IFRC will also provide technical assistance to integrate migration and displacement approaches into humanitarian activities. All actions will be aligned with the IFRC Monarch Butterfly Regional Programme, the IFRC Global Migration Strategy 2018–2022, and the Migration Action Plan of the Red Cross Movement in the Americas 2021–2024.

5.6 million
people emigrated from Venezuela
by the last quarter of 2021

50%
of people who left Venezuela were
between 15 and 29 years old

➔ SUPPORT

- Gather and exchange relevant information regarding migration flows, changes in trends, and the impact among countries.
- Engage with local and national authorities, host communities and affected people to provide and promote assistance and protection services to migrants, displaced people and their families.
- Provide technical support to the National Society to integrate migration and displacement approaches into humanitarian activities.



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VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

250,000

People to be reached

10,000



In recent years, in Venezuela the availability, quality, and access to specialized protection services has decreased. Resulting in the need for more attention and support to guarantee the physical and mental wellbeing of those at risk. The IFRC will prioritize protection, gender, and inclusion actions to ensure that no one is left behind.

Migrants are frequently exposed to different protection risks, including human trafficking, sexual violence, and labour exploitation. Other vulnerable groups in Venezuela include survivors of gender-based violence, children, pregnant women, indigenous people, the LGTBQ+ community, displaced groups, people living with HIV, the elderly, and people with disabilities. In 2022, the IFRC will support the National Society to disseminate information on the prevention of violence, domestic violence and sexual and gender-based violence.

The IFRC will train volunteers and staff on protection, gender, inclusion in emergencies, human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence. It will also support the National Society to create its Prevention and Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse policy.



7 million
people require
humanitarian assistance

➔ SUPPORT

- Implement the protection, gender, and inclusion approach in all programmes and operations.
- Disseminate the National Society's sexual and gender-based violence pocket guide to reinforce knowledge and better implement actions on the field.
- Train volunteers and staff in the IFRC Minimum Standards for protection, gender, and inclusion in emergencies in accordance with the IFRC PGI in Emergencies Toolkit.



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ENABLER 1 – ENGAGED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

150,000

In 2022, the IFRC will support the National Society to establish a communications strategy to ensure that it is respected and recognized as a neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian actor and can mobilize volunteers and support the needs of vulnerable communities. The IFRC will continue to support the National Society as a humanitarian auxiliary to the public authorities, reducing reputational risks in the country's complex context.

In addition, the IFRC will support the National Society to strengthen the five national regions with innovative logistics approaches. This will include establishing a network of logistics focal points by training volunteers and staff on pre-positioned materials management and programme inventories distribution. The IFRC will also encourage the inventory management systems implementation and staff and volunteers trainings in inventory management.

The IFRC will continue increasing the National Society's capacities to become more effective in decision making, and improve and speed up processes with digital tools, establishing information flows and standardized data collection systems. It will promote good practices, and train staff and volunteers in cybersecurity to manage potential digital and data risks, ethical issues and protection needs.

SUPPORT

- Implement a strategy for strengthening the National Society's auxiliary role.
- Adopt data protection best practices and information security measures in ongoing and new operations.
- Become 'data ready' for engagement with staff and volunteers, operational decision-making and business intelligence.



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ENABLER 2 – ACCOUNTABLE

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

300,000

The IFRC will improve financial and reporting systems to enable more agile relationships with partners and ensure safeguarding and appropriate management of financial resources. It will provide the National Society with a strategic perspective of accountability to secure long-term relationships with donors, communities, and other stakeholders and support the National Society to increase its capacity to prevent fraud and corruption.

The IFRC will support the National Society to ensure the timely delivery of its commitments to donors and partners by providing technical guidance for narrative and financial reports and by strengthening the National Society's Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting (PMER) capacities. It will also identify focal points to contribute to a more efficient consolidation of actions and enhance information flows to ensure appropriate accountability along all stages of reporting and monitoring.

SUPPORT

- Increase accountability within the National Society internal processes to contribute to securing long-term relationships with donor.
- Promote trainings on prevention and response to sexual harassment, protection against sexual exploitation and abuse for IFRC and National Society staff and volunteers.
- Improve quality and timely financial and reporting systems to enable more agile relationships with donors .



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ENABLER 3 – TRUSTED

Funding requirement in Swiss francs

1.5 million

The IFRC will strengthen the National Society's capacities with tools to improve its financial and administrative systems, and support the development of business continuity plans for National Society operations sustainability.

The IFRC will strengthen National Society volunteer management processes and improve the capacities of the National Society Youth Programme to increase volunteer engagement and motivate new generations to engage in humanitarian action. The IFRC will ensure that volunteers and staff receive appropriate protection equipment and accident and death insurance and services that guarantee their physical and mental wellbeing.

Due to the high rotation rate of staff and volunteers, the IFRC will continue working with the National Society to adapt and launch innovative training opportunities for new volunteers. The induction process will include age and gender equality, diversity and cultural and geographic considerations.

Finally, the IFRC will create a Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) toolbox for the National Society that will contain feedback instruments according to types of community. The CEA approach will be promoted among all programmes and operations implemented by the National Society to systematically identify needs in the communities.

TARGETS

- The National Society statutes are revised according to *Guidance for National Society Statutes*.

SUPPORT

- Strengthen the volunteer management processes and improve the capacities of the National Society Youth Program.
- Support the development of Business Continuity Plans for National Society operations.
- Promote the CEA approach through all programmes and operations and create a CEA toolbox for the National Society.



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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