



VENEZUELA

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 9.4M**

Appeal number **MAAVE003**

In support of the Venezuelan Red Cross Society



42

National Society branches



1,600

National Society staff



4,768

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



15,000

Climate and environment



20,000

Disasters and crises



60,000

Health and wellbeing



25,000

Migration and displacement



10,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Longer term needs

- health
- livelihoods
- disaster risk reduction

Capacity development

- communication
- planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting
- resource mobilization

Key country data

Population **29M**

INFORM severity rating **high**

Climate ND-GAIN Index rank **119**

Human Development Index rank **113**

Population below poverty level **33.1%**

Hazards



Rains



Floods



Landslides



Earthquakes



Migration

Funding requirements

Total 9.4M CHF

Through the IFRC

9.4M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

Longer term needs

1M CHF

Climate and environment

500,000 CHF

Disasters and crises

5M CHF

Health and wellbeing

1.5M CHF

Migration and displacement

450,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

900,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

Participating National Societies

Argentine Red Cross*

British Red Cross*

German Red Cross

Italian Red Cross

The Netherlands Red Cross

Swedish Red Cross

NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Venezuelan Red Cross has fulfilled its humanitarian mandate in the country for more than 127 years, and it has approximately 4,700 volunteers and more than 1,600 employees. It is the largest private health network in Venezuela, operating eight hospitals and 34 outpatient clinics across the country. In addition to running the largest non-state health system in Venezuela, the National Society plays a crucial role in the communities it serves, providing first response in disasters and crises, and assisting in community resilience building.

The National Society's mission is to provide life-saving humanitarian aid to those in need, promoting the integral well-being and resilience of vulnerable communities so that they can better anticipate and react to disasters and crises. As an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, the Venezuelan Red Cross coordinates its activities with different state bodies while maintaining respect for the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles.

The National Society aims to be a solid, dependable, efficient, valued and appreciated humanitarian actor in Venezuela, with a clear vision to be recognized nationally and internationally as such. Due to its sustained and principled humanitarian actions, the National Society in Venezuela has earned the trust of both the population and local authorities. With its permanent presence at the local level, it has access to anybody who requires humanitarian aid in crisis situations.

In alignment with its National Strategic Plan 2021–2026, National Society develops programmes and projects that contribute to improving the quality of life for

vulnerable people in Venezuela. The National Society in Venezuela provides primary health care, first aid, community resilience initiatives, ambulance services, water, sanitation and hygiene promotion, restoring family links services, risk management and emergency response. To improve community resilience, the National Society works with local communities to design and implement participatory resilience actions across several key areas: food security and livelihoods, community-based disaster risk reduction, community-based health, and water, sanitation and hygiene.

The Venezuelan Red Cross also has significant experience in providing emergency health responses. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, it implemented an IFRC Appeal for health emergency in the country from 2019 to mid-2021. The Appeal supplied electrical generators, medicines and essential medical supplies to the National Society's health network, to support primary health care services. It also funded the provision of free community health days, including psychosocial support services.

At the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, the National Society began implementing a three-year emergency operation, responding to health needs and socio-economic impacts in Venezuela, while also supporting National Society development. Although this global IFRC Emergency Appeal operation ends in December 2022, the National Society has integrated pandemic and epidemic prevention and mitigation into its health actions during this period, building on previous work to combat the Zika virus.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Despite a slow emergence from years of economic contraction, humanitarian needs in Venezuela remain significant. A lack of access to international credit, economic sanctions, and an extremely slow increase in oil prices have reduced access to essential services for the most vulnerable communities, particularly health care, food and education. The deterioration of these vital services has negatively affected household economies, forcing many to increase their expenditure at great sacrifice to their livelihoods.

The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent quarantine measures also affected the livelihoods of people in Venezuela, with economic activities significantly reduced during this period. The decrease in production and trade in turn decreased formal employment opportunities across the country.

Hyperinflation between 2018 and 2021 and high inflation in 2022 have reduced household incomes, savings and purchasing power. By August 2022, a one-month supply of basic goods was estimated to cost \$US470, while the minimum monthly wage is currently registered

at approximately US\$30. An estimated 75 per cent of the population live in multi-dimensional poverty, and the domestic use of US dollars has widened the inequality gap. Although there have been periodic adjustments to the minimum wage, they are not sufficient for families to cover their basic needs, especially for those who do not have access to foreign currency.

As food prices increase, more children are facing food insecurity, and this threatens their development and growth. Armed violence in some areas further limits the proper functioning of, and access to, the health, education and criminal justice systems, which are already highly precarious. Insecurity has also increased for certain populations, due to the circulation of the US dollar.

Migration is the prevailing strategy to cope with both the ongoing socio-economic crisis in Venezuela, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the [Inter-Agency Coordination Platform for Refugees and Migrants from Venezuela](#), as of 5 August 2022, there

are an estimated 6.8 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants around the world, 5.7 million of whom are residing in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Migratory trends and flows generate situations of vulnerability, such as missing persons, loss of family contact, and physical and mental health conditions. They also have a critical impact on sending, transit and receiving communities.

The re-establishment of legal border crossings and commercial flights, as well as the opening of borders such as neighbouring Colombia in September 2022, could reduce some of the risks to those emigrating from the country. Depending on the evolving economic situation in Venezuela and the financial panorama in neighbouring countries, there is a possibility of an upswing in return migration, generating additional humanitarian needs.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environment

Venezuela ranks 145 out of 180 countries on an analysis of historic data from 2000 to 2009 on the human and economic impacts of weather-related events. The diverse and varied geography of Venezuela means that it is exposed to a broad array of hydrometeorological and geophysical environmental hazards. These are directly exacerbated by the impacts of climate change across the country. Venezuela's share of the Amazon rainforest, lakes and coastline, constituting a rich biodiverse environment, are impacted by increasing levels of pollution and degradation in recent years.

In Venezuela, climate change continues to accentuate social inequalities and challenges for the most vulnerable communities. People living there face multiple risks from climate-related extreme weather events, and extreme precipitation in the May to November rainy season causes floods and landslides in mountainous areas. During the most recent floods in 2021, 79 overflowing rivers and 40 large-scale landslides affected 54,600 people across 10 states.

Coastal communities along Venezuela's 2,800 kilometres of coastline are vulnerable to maritime and riverine floods, as well as the El Niño and La Niña Southern Oscillation. La Niña is forecast to continue to the end of 2022 and persist for the first few months of

2023. Sea level rise will increase the risk of flooding. The country is also prone to droughts in arid areas, affecting agriculture and aggravating the ongoing water crisis.

The National Society in Venezuela coordinates with the state institutions involved in disaster prevention and response, whose underdeveloped and underarticulated disaster risk management policies hinder disaster prevention and mitigation activities.

Main actions and areas of support

The Venezuelan Red Cross will focus on reducing the current and future humanitarian impact of climate and environmental crises by supporting people in adapting and thriving in the face of these disasters. It will also integrate climate risk management into all its programmes and operations. To support this, the Venezuelan Red Cross national youth programme will identify and document the activities that the National Society has conducted to mitigate the effects of the climate and environmental crisis.

Training staff and volunteers on climate change as a cross-cutting theme across all activities will also be a priority for the National Society, including the generalities of global and local agreements such as IFRC Strategy 2030, the Sendai Framework, sustainable development goals and the Paris Agreement. Once staff and volunteers have the necessary knowledge, the National

Society will aim to produce a disaster risk reduction strategy focused on climate and environmental crises mitigation.

The Venezuelan Red Cross has prioritized several high-level activities that it will implement with support from the IFRC, the German Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross. These activities include:

- Identifying and documenting activities that other National Societies have conducted to mitigate the effects of the climate and environmental crisis
- Training staff and volunteers on climate change as a cross-cutting topic in all activities, including the general aspects of global and local agreements
- Disseminating key messages at institutional and community level
- Creating good practice guidelines on carbon footprint reduction, both in office and field activities
- Developing a disaster risk reduction strategy with a focus on climate and environmental crises mitigation
- Creating and promoting a climate change programme through the Venezuelan Red Cross national youth programme

Disasters and crises

For real-time information on emergencies, see [IFRC GO page Venezuela](#)

Communities in Venezuela continue to face a prolonged and complex socio-economic situation, with large sections of the population in need of sustained humanitarian assistance due to a lack of access to basic goods and services. The ongoing deficit of livelihood opportunities that provide a living wage has deepened inequalities and weakened household and community resilience. As a result of the ongoing wave of emigration, many households are surviving on remittances from those living abroad. Some research indicates that remittances are the second source of income, behind oil, in Venezuela. The economic status of host countries, including employment stability or instability, has an impact on the survival of many households in Venezuela.

Venezuela is prone to heavy precipitation that can cause devastating floods and landslides. The country also experiences hurricanes and earthquakes. A lack of essential medicines, non-perishable foods, safe water, first aid materials and spare parts for rescue teams

limits the National Society's current response capacity to cope with the devastation caused by small- and large-scale disasters.

Main actions and areas of support

The Venezuelan Red Cross will focus on strengthening its preparedness and readiness to respond to people affected by evolving crises and disasters in Venezuela.

The National Society and its volunteers will work with communities to enhance risk reduction and community resilience. This will include early warning systems, as well as immediate action and anticipation to reduce risks that affect livelihoods, homes and living conditions in the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach communities.

The Venezuelan Red Cross, with support from IFRC, will continue to provide an effective and efficient response to crises and disasters. Based on regular contextual monitoring, the IFRC will support the National Society with various tools, including the Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal mechanisms, if required. Additionally, within the framework of strengthening the National Society, volunteers and staff will be trained in the necessary skills and knowledge to respond adequately to these events.

The Venezuelan Red Cross has prioritized several high-level activities that it will implement with the support of the IFRC, the German Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross:

- Implementing the use of the virtual dashboard for continuous evaluation of the preparedness and response capacity of each of the National Society's regional and sectional branches
- Developing and updating local, regional and national response and contingency plans
- Designing a standardized nationwide relief training plan with the purpose of expanding the Venezuelan Red Cross action network within communities
- Providing equipment and pre-positioned items to the five regions
- Integrating programmes with an early recovery approach and community resilience as a cross-cutting area
- Creating and training community brigades on risk management issues
- Strengthening storage practices at local, regional and national branch levels with basic disaster response elements, enabling the National Society to respond quickly and achieve sustainability

- Disseminating the Red Cross principles and rules of humanitarian assistance to maintain credibility and access to local authorities and communities
- Strengthening the situation room for the monitoring of adverse events
- Strengthening coordination with other local organizations, including the governmental risk management system (VEN911, Civil Protection, Fire Brigade and local, regional and national response bodies) to reinforce the auxiliary role of the National Society in humanitarian action in Venezuela

Health and wellbeing

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated health needs which, due to the socio-economic crisis in the country, were already escalating. According to the Humanitarian Response Plan published by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), an estimated 7.1 million people will require primary health care in 2022. Based on a humanitarian trend analysis, which includes health data, these numbers are likely to remain the same or increase in 2023.

Due to the economic situation in Venezuela, state-sponsored disease prevention programmes have been reduced, increasing the prevalence of tuberculosis, malaria, and other vaccine-preventable, water- and vector-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever. Although much has been achieved in recent years, it is still necessary to strengthen surveillance of unusual outbreaks of respiratory diseases and severe pneumonia.

By the end of 2022, it is estimated that 73 per cent of the population will not have the financial capacity to afford quality health services, further escalating the vulnerability of people in Venezuela and threatening access to vital gynaecological and obstetric medical care for women. As a result, pregnant women might not attend their consultations or seek prenatal care and health care during childbirth, increasing the risk of maternal mortality.

A lack of access to basic goods and services is also aggravating the mental health of the population, causing higher levels of acute stress, anxiety and episodes of distress and suicidal tendencies among people, particularly young people, in Venezuela.

People in Venezuela are facing a rapidly decreasing supply of safe water, primarily due to lack of investment in, and maintenance of, vital water systems such as aqueducts, pipelines and treatment plants. In many

rural and urban communities, water is available once or twice a week at most. It is often untreated and unsafe for consumption, leading to an increased risk in water-borne diseases.

Main actions and areas of support

The Venezuelan Red Cross will continue to focus on reducing the population's vulnerability to communicable and non-communicable diseases and mental health conditions, promoting access to essential health goods and services to improve overall health and well-being. This will include access to safe water, sanitation and mental health and psychosocial support services through the National Society's health network, both nationally and within the communities that it serves. The National Society will also improve living conditions for the most vulnerable communities, integrating gender and diversity approaches into its activities to ensure that no one is left behind.

Based on its strong health outreach, the Venezuelan Red Cross has prioritized several high-level activities that it will implement with the support of the IFRC, German Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross. These activities will include the continued provision of primary health care services through community health days, implementing community programmes covering maternal, child and other types of community health care, supporting sexual and reproductive health care for remote populations, training health committees and community brigades using the community-based health and first aid approach, and implementing awareness campaigns for communicable diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis.

The National Society will conduct continued assessment of needs (equipment, medical furniture) of Red Cross hospital centres to provide quality health care to patients requesting their services. It will implement safe hospital water diagnostics, collection, storage, treatment and distribution. The IFRC and partner National Societies will support the procurement of medical equipment, consumables, medical furniture and other items for the maternal and child health services of the Venezuelan Red Cross hospital network.

The IFRC and participating National Societies will also support a rollout of community-based surveillance and the development of a contingency plan in case of epidemics. It will undertake epidemiological surveillance activities and reporting within communities and at hospitals, and deliver improvements to community water systems and deep wells in urban and rural areas. There will be participatory hygiene and sanitation

transformation in communities, and children's hygiene and sanitation transformation in schools. Water treatment plants (including the OX-LMS and SETA water purification units) will be pre-positioned in priority regions and branches.

Other activities led by the National Society, with support from the IFRC and partner National Societies, will include implementing control and prevention groups for non-communicable diseases in the private sector, universities and National Society branches. The National Society will implement robust strategies across health, mental health, and water, sanitation and hygiene, improve its national health situation room, and strengthen its operational partnership with the Ministry of People's Power for Health.

The IFRC will also provide training on mental health, emergency psychosocial support and psychological first aid to the National Society's mental health and psychosocial support response teams, as well as supporting the National Society to expand its mental health call centre service nationwide.

Statistics

By the end of 2022, it is estimated that **73 per cent of the population** will not have the financial capacity to afford quality health services

Migration and displacement

Venezuelan migration continues to be a key humanitarian concern in the Americas region, where 85 per cent of Venezuelan migrants live. Mixed migratory flows continue to occur in and out of the country, including people who intend to leave, returnees, and people who make cross-border pendulum movements. It is increasingly common to see women, unaccompanied children and young people on the migration route, often in extremely vulnerable states. By the end of 2022, it is estimated that up to eight million Venezuelan people will have emigrated.

Main actions and areas of support

The Venezuelan Red Cross will focus on ensuring that migrants have self-care messages for a safe route on their journeys, including information about protection risks, humane and dignified care, and effective and efficient humanitarian assistance when needed. Additionally, the IFRC will support the National Society in monitoring migration dynamics and using this data to deliver the appropriate humanitarian services, in conjunction with other local, national and international

organizations. The National Society will continue to offer integrated humanitarian services to migrants, internally displaced persons, returnees and the population of Venezuela as a whole.

The Venezuelan Red Cross is part of the three-year [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points, (2) strengthening National Society capacities, and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

The National Society has prioritized several high-level activities that it will implement with the support of the IFRC and the Swedish Red Cross:

- The comprehensive delivery of primary health care activities, such as mental health and psychosocial support, restoring family links services, and water, sanitation and hygiene promotion
- The dissemination of key messages to migrants on the safe route and migrant protection risks
- Context analysis and diagnostics in border states, with the National Directorate of Migration monitoring migration routes and flows
- Campaigns to promote the rights of people on the move
- An update to the response and contingency plan for population movements
- A communications plan focused on migration

Statistics

By the end of 2022, it is estimated that up to **eight million Venezuelan people will have emigrated.**

Values, power and inclusion

A decline in the availability, access and quality of specialized protection services in Venezuela has exacerbated protection risks for vulnerable populations. This includes people who are survivors of gender-based violence, at-risk children, pregnant women, indigenous people, people living with disabilities, the LGBTQI+ community, displaced populations, migrants, people living with HIV and chronic diseases, and the elderly.

According to data from [UN Women](#), in a 2018 study of adolescent girls and adult women aged 15 to 49 years, 8.5 per cent of the participants reported that they had experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by a current or former partner in the previous 12 months.

A 2020 [Help Age International rapid needs assessment](#), conducted in Miranda, Lara and Bolivar, found that 77 per cent of elderly people in Venezuela do not have access to sufficient food supplies. Furthermore, 31 per cent of older adults living with a disability depend on their family and friends to receive basic goods.

Almost three per cent of the population in Venezuela identifies as indigenous. While indigenous rights are recognized in the country's constitution, this population faces socio-environmental challenges to their territories and way of living. The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) has reported that indigenous people in Venezuela experience health problems due to the prevalence of malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis, and gastrointestinal and respiratory diseases in the country ([IWGIA](#), 2021). Migratory flows also affect indigenous populations and territories.

People living with HIV face challenges in accessing life-saving anti-retroviral therapy. While the Global Fund provides this medication to the Ministry of Health, local organizations have reported a lack of stock in state health centres in 2022.

Main actions and areas of support

Throughout its work, the Venezuelan Red Cross protects and promotes the Red Cross Red Crescent Fundamental Principles and humanitarian values to effect positive change within the Venezuelan population. The Venezuelan Red Cross focuses on youth empowerment both within its own organization structure, and in its action in favour of people affected by multiple challenges. The National Youth Department brings together children and young people from eight years of age until adulthood. With support from the National Society, the young people involved form children's brigades and youth groups, and even work as coordinators of various programmes. The department aims to assist children and young people in situations of vulnerability, with activities to strengthen their development and encourage them to become drivers of change. The National Society aims to continue supporting and developing this department to better implement its work into hospitals, as well as improving first aid and disaster preparedness in schools, promoting voluntary blood donation and HIV/AIDS prevention, and working with senior citizens.

The IFRC will continue to strengthen the capacities of the Venezuelan Red Cross, involving young people in protection, gender and inclusion issues to expand their knowledge and ensure that the National Society remains accountable to the communities it serves. It will support the National Society in monitoring data management in protection, gender and inclusion, and community engagement and accountability, across all its branches, ensuring that no one is left behind, protecting people and their dignity, and nurturing resilience and safe environments in Venezuela.

The Venezuelan Red Cross has prioritized several high-level activities to be implemented into its programmes:

- Ensuring dignity, access, participation and safety in all its programming
- Establishing a continuous training process aimed at promoting minimum standards of protection, gender and inclusion, including people living with disabilities, young people and members of the LGBTQI+ community
- Disseminating information on sexual and gender-based violence prevention in emergency and disaster situations
- Implementing child safeguarding standards to protect children and prevent sexual exploitation and abuse
- Generating a joint strategy with the National Youth Department to establish a series of training on the Movement, strengthening the programme throughout schools and other educational centres
- Holding bi-annual meetings or training sessions with the Colombian Red Cross, to strengthen the principles, values and youth programmes, and obtain management improvement tools
- Monitoring and supporting branches as they collect and manage data

Statistics

77 per cent of elderly people in Venezuela do not have access to sufficient food supplies

Enabling local actors

The Venezuelan Red Cross is committed to National Society development, having completed the self-assessment part of the Organisational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2014. The self-assessment section of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Venezuelan Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process and is currently at the prioritization and analysis phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyze the strengths and gaps in their preparedness and response mechanism, and take the necessary action to improve it.

The National Society is facing a number of challenges, including financial sustainability, complying with IFRC standards in health, finance and logistics, high logistical costs incurred by customs and transportation, and insufficient local production. This all leads to a dependence on imports, with long delivery times. The National Society's accountability mechanisms that support communications, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, finance, and the digital divide require strengthening. Additionally, the National Society must strengthen its resource mobilization strategy and develop stronger partnerships at the local level.

Main areas of support

The National Society has prioritized a number of high-level activities that it will implement with the support of the IFRC and the Italian Red Cross, with coordination with the ICRC as appropriate.

Engaged

Based on the Fundamental Principles, and with the aim of better positioning the Red Cross in Venezuela, the IFRC will provide support to facilitate public understanding of the National Society's role.

The IFRC will support the National Society in establishing a communication strategy to disseminate its mandate in the country. This work will include the establishment of a network of humanitarian diplomacy focal points, ensuring that the National Society is respected and recognized as a neutral, independent and impartial humanitarian institution with a strong network of volunteers to support the needs of vulnerable communities. The IFRC will also support the National Society

in achieving a better understanding of the organization as an auxiliary to public authorities in the humanitarian field, considering the complex context of the country.

To strengthen logistical planning within the Venezuelan Red Cross, the IFRC will train volunteers and staff in supply management, storage and distribution. It will support the National Society in reinforcing its network of logistical focal points and encourage the implementation of inventory management systems.

Digital innovation will enable the National Society to increase its use of digital tools, improving and streamlining established processes, and promoting resilience against any risks associated with digital transformation. The IFRC will support the National Society in developing good practices in this area, providing training to volunteers and staff in cybersecurity so they can manage potential data risks, as well as anti-hacking ethics and protection needs in a digital world.

To ensure compliance with its objectives, the IFRC and the Italian Red Cross will also support the National Society in revising its Strategic Plan 2021–2026 and strengthening strategic planning skills of directorates for cooperation and project management. Finally, the IFRC will support the National Society in disseminating tools, standard formats, processes, protocols and procedures, and developing self-management mechanisms for mobilization and training, particularly for technical teams.

Accountable

The IFRC will support the Venezuelan Red Cross in ensuring the safeguarding and proper management of financial resources through regular monitoring and control of its programmes and operations, as well as high-quality financial and technical reporting. In addition, the IFRC will provide a strategic perspective to help the National Society to better understand accountability as a norm, with concrete impacts that will help ensure long-term relationships with donors, communities and other stakeholders.

The IFRC will continue to support the National Society in monitoring its activities and programmes. Its planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting, and finance teams will support and strengthen the quality of information and timely delivery of narrative and financial reports, while the information management team will provide support in the collection, systematization and

analysis of data to provide timely responses tailored to the focus areas of each project.

The IFRC will support the National Society to apply for innovative funds to strengthen its development, including the National Society Investment Alliance, Virtual Fundraising Centre, Capacity Building Fund and the Empress Shôken Fund.

The IFRC and the Italian Red Cross will support the National Society in promoting inclusion and diversity in leadership through training governance and management bodies at all levels.

Trusted

The possibilities for growth and development are a key factor for the Venezuelan Red Cross to continue strengthening local capacities and expanding its interventions in Venezuela. Priority will be given to strengthening volunteer management processes and improving the capacity of the youth programme. This will contribute to an increased level of volunteer commitment and motivate new generations to get involved in humanitarian work, helping to cement longer-term action.

In coordination with the ICRC, the IFRC will ensure that volunteers and staff receive adequate protective equipment, and accident and death insurance, as well

as health care services to protect their physical and mental well-being.

The IFRC will support the National Society in the management of its human resources, through the development of a national curriculum. It will support the National Society in training personnel in a number of policies, including fraud and corruption, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, and non-discrimination, and protection from harassment and protection of children. At the community level, the IFRC will support the National Society to adopt community engagement and accountability approaches in all programmes and projects.

The IFRC will support the National Society in following up on the implementation of the Branch Organisational Capacity Assessment (BOCA), developing manuals and standard operating procedures for finance and administration support in five regional branches of the National Society.

The IFRC will support the Venezuelan Red Cross in developing strategies to achieve long-term sustainability and resource mobilization, as well as raising awareness of the income generation policy.

It will also continue to ensure membership coordination, and support the Venezuelan Red Cross in Movement coordination, including adapting to the revised [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Venezuelan Red Cross in becoming a stronger organization, with a greater and more relevant impact on people in need in the country. The IFRC provides strategic guidance and technical support to the National Society, as well as membership services to IFRC network members. It also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme. Following the signature of the Legal Status Agreement with the Government of Venezuela on 31 January 2020, the country delegation was consolidated with six international delegates, comprising the head of delegation and 22 local staff. The team also includes the project manager and staff members from the German Red Cross.

In recent years, IFRC supported the Venezuelan Red Cross through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Emergency Appeal

[operations](#) in relation to floods and health emergencies. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its global Appeal, has supported the National Society for its COVID-19 response.

In support of the National Society, the IFRC engages in humanitarian diplomacy, to help maintain public awareness, ensure continued access to populations, and facilitate the entry of humanitarian items into the country.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space, mobilizing funding and other

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
German Red Cross			●	●				●	
Italian Red Cross				●				●	
Netherlands Red Cross			●	●				●	
Swedish Red Cross			●		●	●		●	

resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, development assistance, and the auxiliary role efforts to reinforce the role of National Societies in their respective countries.

The Venezuelan Red Cross is part of the IFRC network New Way of Working initiative, which is piloted in 14 countries. It aims at establishing a new model of membership coordination, working over multiple years to instill a thorough change management in the ways the IFRC network works together and placing the National Society of the country at the centre. This includes prioritizing effective coordination for much greater gains, optimizing the power of working as one IFRC network by sharing resources, learnings, and common standards, and to ultimately achieve greater impact. Particular attention is given to collective planning to ensure that National Society partners present in country participate in one multi-year country plan, which will ensure that the resources and expertise of the network in country are used in a complementary and efficient way.

Strategic and operational coordination is channelled through the Country Coordination Team. This team

brings together all the network partners that support the National Society: German Red Cross (with an in-country presence), as well as partners from the Italian Red Cross, Netherlands Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross.

German Red Cross has given bilateral and multilateral support to the Venezuelan Red Cross since 2019, delivering primary and emergency health care. Following an integration agreement with the IFRC, signed in 2022, the German Red Cross has also maintained an in-country presence. It supports health activities and an ECHO-funded project in the states of Apure, Táchira and Zulia.

Italian Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross actively support the Venezuelan Red Cross and participate in the Country Coordination Team, although they are not present in the country.

The IFRC will continue to promote shared leadership models with the Venezuelan Red Cross and participating National Societies to leverage the value and potential of the IFRC network. This approach will also support the implementation of cooperation plans that respond to the priorities established in the National Society's Strategic Plan 2021–2026.

Movement coordination

In Venezuela, there is regular Movement coordination between the National Society, the IFRC and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), based on a tripartite agreement signed at the end of 2018. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement's priorities in Venezuela focus on adopting a coordinated approach to strengthen the institutional development of the National Society. This also aims to increase the

National Society's technical and operational capacity to deliver emergency response and humanitarian programming, covering areas such as migration, restoring family links, relief and health. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC has been present in Venezuela since 2001. With more than 210 staff members, it maintains a delegation in Caracas and two field offices in San Cristobal and Bolivar. Its work focuses on protection and armed violence prevention, health interventions related to population movement (mainly first aid services and referrals to health centres and public hospitals),

restoring family links services, and supporting people deprived of their liberty.

The ICRC also supports the National Society in improving in areas such as logistics, visibility and communications, as well as providing training courses on the secure access framework and other areas of expertise.

Coordination with other actors

The Venezuelan Red Cross engages in strategic coordination and information sharing with other local humanitarian organizations. To support its risk reduction activities, it works with the state's risk management system, including VEN911, civil protection, the fire brigade, and local, regional and national response bodies operating in the country.

The National Society and the IFRC share observer status within Venezuela's Humanitarian Country Team. As the central in-country body that integrates UN agencies and international NGOs, the information sharing

and coordination in this space helps to strengthen cooperation actions focused on the most vulnerable communities.

Both the Venezuelan Red Cross and the IFRC maintain contact with current external partners, including traditional and emerging donors, to maintain the IFRC's accountability. The IFRC and the National Society also actively identify and secure funds that respond to evolving humanitarian needs in the country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\) data](#)
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



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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