



The Nassau Accord

2023

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THE NASSAU ACCORD

The leaders of the Red Cross Societies of the Americas, gathered in Nassau, Bahamas, for the XXII InterAmerican Conference on June 5th through the 8th, 2023, under the theme “Leadership and Sustainability: Local Solutions to Global Challenges” to enhance the Red Cross leadership, strengthen the auxiliary role and legal framework and scale up the impact of our individual and collective work during the next four years and therefore making commitments in key areas:

01 Climate Change

02 Disaster and Crises

03 Health

04 Migration, Population Movement, and Identity

05 Values, Power, and Inclusion

06 Support, Develop, and Protect the National Societies
as Strong and Effective Local Actors

07 Women in Leadership

08 A Distributed Network

09 A Trusted Organization

10 Volunteering and Youth Development

11 Influencing Humanitarian Action

12 Digital Transformation

13 Financing the Future

CLIMATE CHANGE

We agree to reduce the impact of disasters by actively participating in community-based approaches that use scientific information to adapt to climate change and environmental threats and harness the power of nature, ancestral knowledge, and technological advances to reach those at risk. We will improve ecosystem services through locally-led initiatives, while: reducing our greenhouse gas emissions to reduce vulnerabilities in our interventions, strengthening local capacities while promoting anticipatory action, and building climate-smart livelihoods to enhance resilience, reduce risks, and foster social and environmental efforts for the benefit of the communities that we serve.

We will increase efforts to:

- Empower communities to increase their ambitions towards climate and environmental action, to transform initiatives with local incidence towards best practices with global impact, led by climate and environment champions that influence and support our joint aspirations to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and global Commitments in the Americas.
- Support communities and work with other stakeholders to use the best available traditional and scientific information to anticipate threats, and adapt to climate change and environmental challenges, ensuring that the information that saves lives reaches those that need it most.
- Reduce the vulnerabilities of communities, strengthening their capacities to take appropriate actions against climate and environmental change, harnessing the power of nature whenever possible, and recovering ancestral knowledge.
- Mitigate our greenhouse carbon emission and motivate other humanitarian actors to set joint sustainable goals in line with the Climate and Environment Charter, ratifying our commitment to “do no harm” that allows for the conservation and recovery of the ecosystems on which the communities that we serve depend.



DISASTERS AND CRISES

We agree to prioritize the implementation of early warning systems and anticipatory action to improve disaster risk management, be better prepared, and reduce the impact of disasters, emergencies, and crises on populations that are affected by such events in the Americas, whilst building more resilience and social cohesion in communities, guaranteeing the quality, efficiency, opportunity, and adequate accountability of our humanitarian actions.

We will increase efforts to:

- Strengthen our level of preparedness for emergencies, disasters, and crises by applying approaches such as Preparedness for Effective Response (PER).
- Strengthen disaster risk management capacities of communities and families living in high-risk areas through the implementation of early warning systems and anticipatory actions before disasters strike or before acute impacts are felt.
- Ensure in all emergency and response operations, compliance with International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) policies, procedures, and standards to guarantee the quality and proper accountability of our humanitarian actions.
- Incorporate recovery actions in all disaster and crisis response operations, with the aim of restoring or improving livelihoods, well-being, household and community assets, and social cohesion so that the lives of affected individuals and communities are not only restored but are more resilient to future crises.
- Continue efforts for effective coordination in an impartial manner at all levels and with different humanitarian actors within and outside the Movement, including national civil protection systems, the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations, private sector, and academia for harmonized management that meets national and global standards to address the most urgent needs of people affected by disasters and crises.
- Increase effectiveness in all response operations by developing flexible standards and processes for emergency and support services.
- Strengthen local capacities on anticipatory action as an approach across disaster risk management and climate change adaptation frameworks to enable vulnerable people in at-risk communities to protect their lives and livelihoods.



HEALTH

We agree to adopt strategic health programs, ensuring access to essential services for all, incorporating innovation amidst challenges, and implementing monitoring and evaluation frameworks for growth and excellent service delivery. Together, we will strengthen our auxiliary role to make a lasting impact on community well-being.

We will increase efforts to:

- Facilitate the right of access to health through the provision of essential health services for all people, regardless of their legal status. This must include a comprehensive approach to health that considers increasing mental health needs and access to adequate and dignified water, sanitation, and hygiene services.
- Harmonize actions and intersectoral and cross-border coordination in addressing epidemic and pandemic risks contributing to global Health Security through collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approaches, working at the local, national, regional, and global levels to achieve optimal health outcomes (“OneHealth”).
- Incorporate innovative practices amidst growing challenges to ensure the provision of quality, consistent, and continuous services to those affected by adverse climatic events or migration. This includes the adoption of the digitalization of healthcare or health actions based on forecasts.
- Implement health monitoring and evaluation frameworks based on crises, such as COVID-19, to encourage growth, strategic relevance, and excellence in service delivery, thereby enabling advocacy policies that position the IFRC network, i.e., the IFRC Secretariat and Red Cross societies, with the bargaining advantage to attract and access resources.



MIGRATION, POPULATION MOVEMENT, AND IDENTITY

We agree to have a significant role in migration response aligned with the strategies of the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, recognizing that the Americas is a region of mixed migration flows and constant change.

We will increase efforts to:

- Strengthen our collective response along migratory routes through transit, host, and return communities and ensure the assistance, protection, integration, and resilience of migrants and communities impacted by the migration phenomenon.
- Promote program and operational standards with regional coherence including the use of Humanitarian Service Points, enhancing network coordination, and cross-border collaboration between National Societies according to their own context.
- Promote efficiency in data protection and collection processes along regional migratory routes, based on policies and resolutions of the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. Improve the analysis of emerging and life-threatening situations that force people to migrate, especially those arising from socio-economic crises, disasters, climate change, and other forms of violence, which increase vulnerability, integrating such analysis into our collective action, to strengthen the social service support systems in the region and participation at local levels to address the root causes of dangerous migration.
- Strengthen the effective use of evidence-based humanitarian diplomacy as an outreach mechanism with decision-makers to raise awareness of the needs of migrants and the importance of respecting their rights, while at the same time ensuring access to humanitarian assistance in accordance with humanitarian principles, reinforcing the role of the Red Cross Societies as a key neutral partner.



VALUES, POWER AND INCLUSION

We agree to cooperate with the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement globally, establishing common protocols for protection, and increasing efforts to promote gender equity, inclusion, respect for diversity, and comprehensive support for those in need, considering the diversities related to age, disability, ethnicity and any other dimension that can increase vulnerabilities.

We will increase efforts to:

- Promote, develop, and implement targeted approaches in governance, operations, and programs to enhance respect for diversity, gender equity, protection, inclusion, and support to people with disabilities while reducing access barriers.
- Develop and strengthen internal regulations, policies, strategies, mechanisms, and programs to guarantee the protection, gender equity, and inclusion in all actions of National Societies, focusing on the respect of people's rights with dignity and guaranteeing the accompaniment and protection of the surviving victims.
- Design multi-sectoral approaches in our response efforts that put people at the center, catering to needs according to the contexts and direct consultations with those in need, recognizing education and peace promotion as transformational instruments.
- Strengthen the Restoring Family Links (RFL) services, recognizing the need of affected people to have contact with their families and loved ones during disasters, along the migration route in America and other complex situations, reducing the impact on mental health and security risks while ensuring the preservation of personal data.



SUPPORT, DEVELOP AND PROTECT THE NATIONAL SOCIETIES AS STRONG AND EFFECTIVE LOCAL ACTORS

We agree to enhance our understanding of global challenges, mobilize joint actions, and maximize our collective impact to address local needs and vulnerabilities, promoting our auxiliary role to ensure it reflects sectoral laws, policies, plans, and agreements, strengthening the capabilities of our branches and local actors and reinforcing our actions in the humanitarian field.

We will increase efforts to:

- Reinforce assessments and capacity building in our branches and for our volunteer groups in support of the ongoing development of our National Societies through mechanisms such as OCAC (Organizational Capacity Assessment Certification) and BOCA (Branch Organizational Certification Assessment).
- Establish communication with academia, the private sector, and local governments to better understand needs and set priorities.
- Make relevant information accessible in a timely, credible, and comprehensive manner to the diverse communities we serve to ensure communities are part of the decision-making processes and that governmental decisions are co-created with communities to reflect their needs, concerns, and ideas.



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

We agree to build and implement internal mechanisms that are diverse and promote women's leadership, allocating specific financial resources. We will improve our understanding of gender and diversity approaches, integrate them within our societies, and incorporate clear lines of action and clear policies that support the promotion of women's leadership at all levels.

We will increase efforts to:

- Establish comprehensive communication strategies and mechanisms, as well as binding policies to boost the gender and diversity approach and integrate this within our own societies, generating organizational culture change through actions that encourage dialogue, reflection and the promotion of humanitarian attitudes oriented towards gender equity, protection, respect for diversity, integrity, and security.
- Incorporate into Red Cross society strategic plans clear and effective lines of action to promote women's leadership, adopting measures that promote representation and diverse, balanced, and equitable participation in leadership at strategic (Governance), technical (Management), and operational (Operations) levels.



A DISTRIBUTED NETWORK

We agree to strengthen the Red Cross's positioning and engagement with national, regional, and global actors, emphasizing accountability and transparency to facilitate successful negotiation processes and new strategic alliances, as well as to improve existing alliances.

We will increase efforts to:

- Seek new strategic partnership opportunities with national, regional, and global actors to expand collaboration alternatives that contribute to the fulfillment of our institutional mission.
- Strengthen partnership skills through specialized staff and volunteers who will achieve greater levels of collaboration and guarantee successful alliances.
- Leverage the experience and good practices built in the region through the Reference Centers and Humanitarian Hubs to promote knowledge-sharing processes that increase our network response.



A TRUSTED ORGANIZATION

We agree to abide by our Fundamental Principles and the IFRC Integrity Protection Policy to uphold the highest integrity standards, ensuring that our National Societies' mandates, objectives, policies, and overall actions promote a culture of transparency and ethical behavior so that they remain credible partners in always providing fit for purpose and quality assistance to the most vulnerable. As leaders, we do not set ourselves above the scope of transparency and accountability.

National Societies will increase efforts to:

- Incorporate the right people, adequate structures, and sufficient procedures to place integrity protection at the heart of National Society transformation.
- Upon receiving evidence of integrity breaches of National Society individuals, leadership takes decisive action to remove them. Not all are fit for the Red Cross; our Fundamental Principles and standards must not be compromised.
- Decisively raise awareness of integrity protection and capacities in our National Societies based on confidentiality, safety, and support to whistleblowers, through the use and promotion of existing tools and mechanisms such as the IFRC Integrity Line.
- Implement Integrity Protection preventive measures and ensure that the National Society's day-to-day decision-making strongly considers the integrity perspective



VOLUNTEERING AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

We agree to actively engage and empower volunteers and youth in the development and growth of National Societies. We will prioritize their well-being, safety, and security while guaranteeing their recognition and motivation.

By improving internal structures, investing in volunteer data management and research systems, and developing flexible approaches, we will create a supportive environment for active volunteer participation and adapt to emerging forms of volunteering.

National Societies will increase efforts to:

- Promote binding policies and regulatory frameworks within National Societies that guarantee the well-being and development of volunteers in the Americas.
- Prioritize the well-being, safety, and protection of volunteers and improve internal volunteer and youth structures, creating a solid foundation for their active participation in all levels of the National Societies by implementing the Volunteering Development Framework of the Americas.
- Recognize and measure the contributions of volunteers with a strong emphasis on motivation, acknowledging the invaluable role they play through transparent mechanisms by investing in volunteer data management systems that allow for efficient tracking and evaluation of their work.
- Guarantee equity in volunteer commitments, ensuring inclusive and culturally appropriate volunteer service.
- Ensure the involvement of young people at all levels of National Societies by implementing the IFRC Global Youth Engagement Strategy.
- Develop flexible approaches that can adapt to emerging forms of volunteering as the humanitarian landscape continues to evolve.



INFLUENCING HUMANITARIAN ACTION

We agree to strengthen our humanitarian diplomacy capacities and our role as auxiliaries to public authorities in the humanitarian field with full respect for our Fundamental Principles and national legal frameworks. We will undertake awareness-raising and advocacy for greater recognition of the auxiliary status of our National Societies, both in Red Cross constitutive laws and sectoral laws and we will continue to advocate for disaster law. In addition, recognizing health as central to our humanitarian role, we will undertake humanitarian diplomacy efforts to advocate for the inclusion of first aid in public policy.

National Societies will increase efforts to:

- Invest in advocacy actions that promote the development of effective climate smart disaster-related laws and policies that: expressly recognize and respect the auxiliary role of National Societies in disaster risk management mechanisms; strengthen partnerships with Governments, donor agencies, and other humanitarian actors; and contribute to building resilience within the most vulnerable communities.
- Collaborate on peer-to-peer work to share best practices and create alliances for engaging with key actors on issues related to international disaster response law.
- Design and implement evidence-based advocacy strategies for the inclusion of first aid in public policy.
- Continue strengthening our auxiliary role to public authorities in the humanitarian field by engaging in actions that raise awareness and build knowledge of the special auxiliary status of National Societies.
- Engage with public authorities to build trust, influence humanitarian actions, and promote policy change at the local, national, and international levels that positively impact communities and the lives of those made vulnerable by disasters.
- Advocate at community, national, and international levels for greater recognition of the auxiliary status of our National Societies by raising awareness among public authorities and the general population about what the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is about and why we do what we do.
- Engage in legal assessments of our auxiliary role and, when needed, in reforms of our constitutive Red Cross laws to increase security and respect for our Fundamental Principles.



DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

We agree to reduce the digital gaps and increase access to new technologies within the membership and branches of National Societies, as well as the communities we serve, fostering a connection to networks for the generation and transmission of knowledge, ideas, and alliances with others.

National Societies will increase efforts to:

- Strengthen the National Society's digital processes and tools by investing in technology to develop people's capacities in alignment with the digital transformation plans stated in the National Society's strategy.
- Invest in new technology and innovations at all levels for the management and protection of data to inform decision-making, internally and with our strategic partners, to improve the quality of services that we provide.
- Enable the use of technological solutions to improve our accountability aligned with national legislation and Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement policies on data protection



FINANCING THE FUTURE

We agree to invest in the financial sustainability of our National Societies by implementing strategies for resource allocation, diversifying income sources, strengthening strategic resource mobilization alliances, and enhancing accountability and transparency in financial management.

We will increase efforts to:

- Promote sustainability strategies for a solid implementation structure and resource allocation for Red Cross society capacity building.
- Diversify income sources at headquarters and branches, emphasizing attracting long-term funding. Ensure that continuous screening for emerging opportunities in local markets is always in alignment with our Fundamental Principles.
- Strengthen and expand strategic alliances with partners and the private and public sectors to secure regular financial support, whilst reinforcing mechanisms and procedures aimed at increasing National Societies' accountability and transparency by implementing comprehensive and unified financial management.

